

M E L I S S A F I R L I T

Director, Educator & Producer

Associate Member SDC

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mjfirlit@gmail.com/917.439.1283

EDUCATION

2009-2012 **Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts**

MFA in Directing

1999-2003 **University of Hartford, The Hartt School**

BA Theatre, Music Minor West Hartford

TRAINING

St. Petersburg State Theatre Arts Academy, Program Intensive, St. Petersburg, Russia Spring 2004

Royal Shakespeare Company, Program Intensive Stratford, England Fall 2003

Institute of Integrative Nutrition, Holistic Health Counselor, New York, NY 2006

National Theater Institute @ The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Semester Intensive Waterford, CT 2001

Royal Shakespeare Company, Program Intensive Stratford, England Fall 2001

DIRECTING WORK

INTERNATIONAL

Misterman

Enda Walsh

Ireland National Tour

Ireland

Granary Theatre, Cork; Balor Arts Center, Balleybofey;
Glor, Ennis; Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Seeds of Change (pre production)

Lojo Simon

Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede, CO

Albert Porter, Boy Explorer

Lojo Simon

Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede, CO

Aida

Elton John & Tim Rice

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

The Trojan Women (Remix)

Charles Mee

Fort Lewis College

Durango, CO

The Secret Garden

Marsha Norman & Lucy Simon

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

25th Annual Putnam County...

Finn & Sheinkin

The Princeton Festival

Princeton, NJ

Futurity

The Lisps

The Zipper Factory

New York, NY

Under Construction

Charles Mee

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

REGIONAL

West Side Story

Laurents, Bernstein, Sondheim

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Proof

David Auburn

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995

Jennifer Faletto

Best Medicine Repertory

Washington, D.C.

Circle Mirror Transformation

Annie Baker

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Tuna Christmas

Williams, Sears, Howard

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Buyer & Cellar

Jonathan Tollins

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Dracula

Jim Helsinger

Mile Square Theatre

Hoboken, NJ

Always...Patsy Cline

Ted Swindley

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

A Funny Thing Happened...Forum

Sondheim, Shevelove, Gelbart

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

A Few Good Men

Aaron Sorkin

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Moon Over Buffalo

Ken Ludwig

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Spring Awakening

Steven Sater & Duncan Sheik

Fort Lewis College

Durango, CO

The Pillowman

Martin McDonagh

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

A Picasso

Jeffrey Hatcher

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Misterman

Enda Walsh

The Dairy Center

Boulder, CO

Misterman

Enda Walsh

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

Red

John Logan

Pagosa Springs Center for Arts

Pagosa Springs, CO

SIDD

Michael Aguirre

New Light Theater Project

Chicago, IL

C-

Eric Jaffe

Orlando Fringe Festival

Orlando, FL

Precious Moments

Erica Silberman

The Crossroads Theatre

New Brunswick, NJ

MELISSA FIRLIT
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<i>Thanksgiving</i>	Sara Farrington	Dragon's Egg Artist Residency	Mystic, CT
<i>The Rise and Fall of Miles and Milo</i>	Sara Farrington	The Pulse Theater	Bedford Hills, NY
<i>Murder Mystery Macbeth</i>	Ean Miles Kessler	Co-Lab Arts	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Murder Mystery Radio Play</i>	Ean Miles Kessler	Co-Lab Arts	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>NJ One Minute Play Festival</i>	Various	Miles Square Theatre	Hoboken, NJ
<i>Big League Chew</i>	Alex Gherardi	7 TH Inning Stretch	Hoboken, NJ
<i>The Rise and Fall of Miles and Milo</i>	Sara Farrington	Connecticut College	New London, CT

NEW YORK

<i>I'm Just Fine</i>	Nina Mozes	The Pit	New York, NY
<i>Bunting or Flags</i>	Frazer Flintman	New Light Theater Project	New York, NY
<i>Steve Got Raped</i>	Sam Gooley	New York International Fringe	New York, NY
<i>A Short History of Weather</i>	Jonathan Yukich	New Light Theater Project	New York, NY
<i>One Drop</i>	Andrea Fulton	Brownsville Centers	New York, NY
<i>5 Women Wearing the Same Dress</i>	William Ball	The Bridge Theatre	New York, NY
<i>Stop Kiss</i>	Diana Son	Wagner College	Staten Island, NY
<i>The Squizzinator</i>	Robert Kerr	Project Y Theatre	New York, NY
<i>Third Ward Scandal</i>	Dano Madden	Project Y Theatre	New York, NY
<i>SIDD</i>	Michael Aguirre	New Light Theater Project	New York, NY
<i>Annabel Lee</i>	Don Nigro	Apothecary Theatre Company	New York, NY
<i>Someone To Buy It</i>	Martyna Majok	EST's Youngblood	New York, NY
<i>Play</i>	Alex Gherardi	Manhattan Repertory	New York, NY
<i>A Nasty Tempered Man</i>	Carolyn Moses	DreamUp Festival	New York, NY
<i>That Stays There</i>	Sara Farrington	Dixon Place	New York, NY
<i>The Death of Evie Avery</i>	Sara Farrington	New York International Fringe	New York, NY
<i>The Death of Evie Avery</i>	Sara Farrington	The Looking Glass Theatre	New York, NY
<i>A Nasty Story</i>	Sara Farrington	New York International Fringe	New York, NY
<i>By The Light Of The Silvery Moon</i>	Sara Farrington	MidTown Int'l Theater Festival	New York, NY
<i>A Nasty Story</i>	Sara Farrington	The Field's Far Space	New York, NY
<i>Svetlana</i>	Meghan Finn	The Tank	New York, NY
<i>The Rise and Fall of Miles and Milo</i>	Sara Farrington	New York International Fringe	New York, NY
<i>Genius Andronicus</i>	Lynda Green	Manhattan Theatre Source	New York, NY
<i>Genius Andronicus</i>	Lynda Green	The Bridge Theatre	New York, NY

NEW WORK DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WRITER

<i>BUBBA</i>	Michael Thomas Walker	New York International Fringe, Theatre Tuscaloosa, United Solo Festival, Miles Square Theatre, Rutgers University, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center	
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EDUCATIONAL-ESTABLISHED WORK

<i>Fabulation, Or The Re-Education of Undine</i>	Lynn Nottage	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Machinal</i>	Sophie Treadwell	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>boom</i>	Peter Sinn Nachtrieb	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Any Place But Here</i>	Caridad Svich	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Lone Star</i>	James McLure	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ

EDUCATIONAL-NEW WORK

<i>Lost Persons</i>	Joshua Levine	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Three Patriotic Acts</i>	Nina Louise Morrison	Columbia University	New York, NY

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<i>Fries with That?</i>	Mike Duffy	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Solitary</i>	Alex Gherardi	Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ

STAGED READINGS

<i>Canfield Drive</i>	Kristen Adele Calhoun & Michael Thomas Walker	TCG Conference	St. Louis, MO
<i>Canfield Drive</i>	Kristen Adele Calhoun & Michael Thomas Walker	Denver Center Performing Arts	Denver, CO
<i>Shiny Objects</i>	Jennifer Faletto	Amphibian Stage Productions	Fort Worth, TX
<i>How to Hide Your Monster</i>	Heidi Kraay	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>The Empty Orchestra</i>	Ben Verschoor	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>In Search of...Sasquatch</i>	Robert Kerr	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Mary/Hunter</i>	Brian Quirk	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, CO
<i>Not Famous Failing Falling</i>	Dano Madden	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>I'm Right Here</i>	John R. Hagan	Voices Inside/Out	New York, NY
<i>Mr. Black</i>	Greg Paul	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Snow</i>	Ashley Griffin	Talent on Tap	New York, NY
<i>Oakwoods</i>	Dano Madden	Project Y Theatre	New York, NY
<i>Bad Husband</i>	Dano Madden	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Wetiko</i>	Greg Paul	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Heathens</i>	Heidi Kraay	id Theater	New York, NY
<i>Oakwoods</i>	Dano Madden	Artful Conspirators	New York, NY
<i>The Way of Water</i>	Caridad Svich	Mile Square Theatre	Hoboken, NJ
<i>That Stays There</i>	Sara Farrington	The Bushwick Starr	Brooklyn, NY
<i>Thanksgiving</i>	Sara Farrington	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Leah C. Gardiner	Rutgers Theatre Company	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>Holiday Jubilee</i>	Marshall Jones	Crossroads Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Artistic Director	Resolve Productions	New York, NY	2014-Present
Coordinated Irish National Tour of 4 venues. Handled travel arrangements for the company to include flights, transportation and housing. Communicated with venues in regards to show's production needs. Collaborated on press and interview copy and delivery while touring. Produced <i>Misterman</i> as headliner for the 2015 Boulder Arts Festival. Facilitated two different successful crowdsourcing campaigns. Led Set Design in pulling found objects to build a world that the play could take place in when produced.			
Master Teaching Artist	McCarter Theatre Center	Princeton, NJ	2011-Present
Lead 2 to 12 week classes focused in Musical Theatre, Audition Technique, Acting Styles, Creating a Character, Cabaret, Playmakers, culminating in a performance. Responsible for expanding the students' skill set and their understanding of the material being presented. Foster students' ownership of their work and themselves			
Consultant	Thingamajig Theatre Company	Pagosa Springs, CO	2015-Present
Collaborate on casting winter and summer seasons with the Artistic Director. Ensure hired artistic and production staff is an appropriate fit for the company. Lead Talkbacks after Opening night performances. Collaborate with Artistic Director on show selection for upcoming seasons. Set up a New York audition call and dance callback for Summer Seasons 2017 and 2018.			

MELISSA FIRLIT
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Artistic Director	Thingamajig Playwrights Festival	Pagosa Springs, CO	2015, 2018
	Organize, produce and direct the festival. Compose promotional press material and social media. Secure and coordinate with two playwrights, taking care of travel needs and day to day calendars. Prepare day to day calendar for festival and all participants. Direct two full length staged readings of guest playwrights for the weeklong festival. Responsible for casting and hiring production team for festival. Responsible for screening the submissions and picking the appropriate plays for the theatre's audience. Design programs for the week's events. Lead post show talkbacks with the audience, playwrights and teams. Developed a Young Playwrights Festival for workshopped aspiring playwrights in the area.		
Program Director	The College of St. Rose Summer Youth Academy	Albany, NY	2012-Present
	Run a Broadway Bootcamp program. Re-focused the Mission statement over 7 years, shifting the program into a training intensive for youth ages 12-18. Training includes: dancing, singing, acting, playwriting, stage combat, scene study, improvisation, songwriting, audition technique, ensemble building and performance skills. Coordinate the calendar for the 3 week program. Locate and retain teaching artists that challenge and support the students. Choreographer and Director for all performances.		
Co-Artistic Director	Fine Feathered Friends	New York, NY	2007-2012
	Produced and Directed new plays with playwright co-artistic director. Organized production calendar: including full scale productions, workshops, readings, company meetings and events. Led fundraising events for the company to have successful seasons. Produced 8 different pieces at various venues and festivals in the Northeast. In charge of travel arrangements when going out of town for residencies or performances.		
Producer	Jameson Studio Theatre, Rutgers University	New Brunswick, NJ	2010-2011
	Managed the production calendar for 14 shows in the 2010-2011 season. Ran weekly meetings for all shows that were in various stages of production; pre production, production, post mortems Organized production teams for all shows. Secured rehearsal spaces for each production. Ensured the Jameson Theatre was maintained and ready for the intense schedule. Ran tech schedules, coordinated with stage management teams. Approved and composed promotional press material and social media. Maintained show budgets and theatre's yearly fiscal budget.		
Guest Professor	Directing Workshop	Montevallo, Birmingham, AL	2015
Guest Professor	Directing Workshop	Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO	2015
Teaching Artist	Theater Appreciation	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2012
Teaching Assistant	Intro to Theatre	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2011
House Manager	Jameson Studio Theater	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	2009-2010
Sound Designer	Plays	New York, NY	2007-Present
Company Manager	Tomorrow Mourning Prod.	New York, NY	2004-2006
Intern	National Theater Institute	Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, CT	2003-2004

OUTREACH

Choreographer and Movement Director	Princeton Public Schools	Princeton, NJ	2012-2016
	Choreographed opening and closing numbers along with any movement needs for the 5th grade Shakespeare program. Rotated among 3-5 different schools each semester, teaching 3-6 classes per day.		

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Master Teaching Artist & Director	Dunn Middle School	Trenton, NJ	2014
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Led a semester long residency within the music class
 Along with playwright Jacqueline Goldfinger, interviewed students to share with us stories on who they were, where they live and what they hope to be, which we developed into *Our America* and included text, song and dance.
 Incorporated the school band and choir, involving over 120 students.
 Served as director, teacher and choreographer.
 Developed the semester curriculum
 Organized travel for students and their families to attend a special performance at the prestigious McCarter Theatre Center.

Master Teaching Artist	Dunn Middle School	Trenton, NJ	2011-2013
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Led an after school Drama program.
 Taught various workshops in acting, singing, dancing, scene study, poetry, playwriting, improvisation.
 Teaching focused on empowering and strengthening the students as artist and more importantly, as people.

Master Classes	Pagosa Springs Center for Arts	Pagosa Springs, Co	2014-Present
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Conducted behind the scenes workshops with the “Friends of the Theatre”

RESIDENCIES

Helena Walsh Voice Studio	Dublin, Ireland	2017
West Kortright Center	East Meredith, NY	2017
National Theater Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theater Center	Waterford, CT	2015
The Dragon’s Egg	Mystic, CT	2007, 2008, 2009, 2012,2016
The FAR Space Grant, The Field	New York, NY	2006
Looking Glass Theatre	New York, NY	2007

HONORS/AWARDS

Zelda Finchlander Award	Nominee	SDCF
Alan Schneider Director Award	Nominee	Theatre Communications Group
Best Dramatic Musical (nominee)	<i>Aida</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Direction of a Play (nominee)	<i>Dracula</i>	Broadway World New Jersey
Best Director of a Play (nominee)	<i>A Few Good Men</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Director of a Play (nominee)	<i>Misterman</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Director of a Play (nominee)	<i>A Picasso</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Director of a Musical (nominee)	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Dramatic Play (nominee)	<i>Misterman</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Dramatic Play (nominee)	<i>A Picasso</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Dramatic Musical (nominee)	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Small Ensemble (nominee)	<i>A Picasso</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Director	<i>Red</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Dramatic Play	<i>Red</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Small Ensemble	<i>Red</i>	Broadway World Denver
Best Performance of a Solo Show	<i>BUBBA</i>	Planet Connections
Best Director of a Solo Show	<i>BUBBA</i>	Planet Connections
Best Variety Show	<i>BUBBA</i>	United Solo Festival
Philip J. Levin Scholar	Scholarship Recipient	2009, 2010, 2011
Best Direction, Best Overall Production	<i>A Nasty Story</i>	OffOffOffOnline.com
Top Ten FringeNYC shows to See	<i>A Nasty Story</i>	The New York Sun
Outstanding Overall Solo Show	<i>By Light Silvery Moon</i>	MidTown Intl Festival