

# SHIRLEY SEROTSKY

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## EDUCATION

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, MFA in Directing, 2018

University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC, BFA in Directing, 1999

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Musical Theatre Major, 1993-1995

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University Activity

Instructor of Speech Communications, Catholic University, Washington, DC

Spring 2017, Spring 2018

- Through vocal exercises, improvisation scenarios, the development of story-telling and narrative techniques, and discussion surrounding relevant contemporary readings, I guided non-drama majors towards expressing their viewpoints and opinions in a clear and confident manner.

Teaching Fellow, Drama 101, Catholic University, Washington, DC

Fall 2016, Fall 2017

- An introduction to the nature of theatre as a performing art. Students studied selected plays from the perspectives of actors, directors, and dramaturges and engaged in discussion, performance-based activities, and writing exercises to gain oversight into the craft of theatre.

Guest Director, Design Master Class, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Spring 2009

- I served as the theoretical director for a production of the musical Side Show for a master class with graduate design students (scenic and costumes).

### Related Teaching Experience

The Kennedy Center Director's Intensive, Washington, DC

Summer 2018

- I led discussions and workshops on the subject of new play development for 25 undergraduate and graduate directing students from around the country.

Everyman Theatre, Baltimore, MD

Summer 2018

- Play analysis for adult students.

Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD

Summer 2018

- A week-long class introducing directing techniques to teenagers.

Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD

Winter/Spring 2018

- I taught acting and rehearsal techniques to teen actors in a musical theatre context.

Everyman Theatre, Baltimore, MD

Summer 2017

- A two-week program teaching acting, movement, and play analysis to teen actors.

Theatre Lab, Washington, DC

2008-2010

- Beginning scene study for adult actors
- “Acting in a Professional Production” for adult actors.

The Musical Theater Center, Rockville, MD

2004-2005

- I taught musical theater, song presentation, beginning acting skills, and monologue workshops to elementary and middle school students.

CASA Arts Camp at The Sheridan School, Washington, DC

2003

- Musical theatre, improvisation, and music and rhythm classes for elementary and middle school students.

### **Workshops and Coaching**

American University, Washington, DC

- Coached students in a professional audition workshop

George Washington University, Washington, DC

- Provided individual dramaturgical assignments for undergraduate students, and gave feedback on the articles

Roundhouse Theatre, Bethesda, MD

- Taught workshops in directing techniques and process for various education programs, including a teen session and The Heyday Players program for seniors

National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, Washington, DC

- Led audition workshops for conservatory classes

American College Theatre Festival, The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

- Worked with student playwrights in a script development process
- Adjudicated student actor awards and scholarships

Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington, DC

- Coached adult actors on audition monologues

Young Playwright’s Theatre

- Guided young people, ages 8-12, through a series of writing and improvisation activities that culminated in writing a full-length play

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

**Professional Directing** (Selected)

**Other Life Forms** by Brandon McCoy

Keegan Theatre, Washington, DC, 2018

**The How and the Why** by Sarah Treem  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2017

**Broadway Bound** by Neil Simon  
1<sup>st</sup> Stage, Tyson's Corner, VA, 2016  
\*Helen Hayes Nomination: Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play

**Another Way Home** by Anna Ziegler  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2016

**Cosi fan Tutte Goes Hollywood** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, adapted by Nick Olcott  
The InSeries, Washington, DC, 2016

**Stars of David: Story to Song** Conceived by Abigail Pogrebin and Aaron Harnick  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2015

**Rapture, Blister, Burn** by Gina Gionfriddo  
Roundhouse Theatre, Bethesda, MD, 2015  
\*Helen Hayes Award Winner: Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play

**The Call** by Tanya Barfield  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2015

**Yentl** by Leah Napolin, with new music by Jill Sobule  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2014

**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Christopher Sergel  
The National Players, Olney, MD, 2014

**The Jungle Book** based on the story by Rudyard Kipling, by Tracey Power  
Adventure Theatre, Glen Echo, MD, 2014  
\*Helen Hayes Award Nomination: Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences

**The Argument** by Alexandra Gerston-Vasilleros  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2013

**The Hampton Years** by Jacqueline E. Lawton  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2013

**A Man, His Wife, and His Hat** by Lauren Yee  
The Hub Theatre, Fairfax, VA, 2013

**Reals** by Gwydion Suilebhan  
Theatre Alliance, Washington, DC, 2012

**The History of Invulnerability** by David Bar Katz  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2012

**Blood Wedding** by Federico García Lorca, adapted by Tanya Ronder  
Constellation Theatre, Washington, DC, 2012

**Working** by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso (and others)  
Keegan Theater, Washington, DC, 2012

**Birds of a Feather** by Marc Acito  
The Hub Theatre, Fairfax, VA, 2011  
\*Helen Hayes Award Winner: The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play

**Juno and the Paycock** by Sean O'Casey  
WSC Avant Bard, Arlington, VA, 2011

**Mikveh** by Hadar Galron  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2010  
\*Helen Hayes Award Nomination: Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play

**This is Not a Timebomb** by Aaron Wigdor Levy  
Source Theatre Festival, Washington, DC, 2010

**The Rise and Fall of Annie Hall** by Sam Forman  
Theater J, Washington, DC, 2009  
\*Helen Hayes Award Nomination: The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play

**Five Flights** by Adam Bock  
Theatre Alliance, Washington, DC, 2009

**Anna K.** by Jacqueline E. Lawton  
Roundhouse Silver Spring Series, Silver Spring, MD, 2009

**Titus X** by Shawn Northrip  
Capital Fringe Festival, Washington, DC, 2009

**Cautionary Tales** and **Trixie Ticks** by Shawn Northrip  
Roundhouse Silver Spring Series, Silver Spring, MD, 2009

**Crumble (Lay Me Down Justin Timberlake)** by Sheila Callaghan  
Catalyst Theater Company, Washington, DC, 2008

**References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot** by Jose Rivera  
Rorschach Theater, Washington, DC 2007  
\*Helen Hayes Award Nomination: Outstanding Direction of a Play

**The Story of Anna Frank**  
National Theatre for Education and the Arts, Boca Raton, FL, 2007

**We Are Not These Hands** by Sheila Callaghan  
Catalyst Theater Company, Washington, DC, 2007

**After Darwin** by Timberlake Wertenbaker  
Journeymen Theater, Washington, DC, 2007

**Collaterally Damaged** by Laura Zam  
Capital Fringe Festival, Washington, DC, 2007

**Sovereignty** by Rolin Jones

The Humana Festival, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Louisville, KY, 2006

**Two Rooms** by Lee Blessing

Theatre Alliance, Washington, DC, 2006

**Lunch** by Shawn Northrip

New York Musical Theater Festival, New York, NY, 2006

**Upshot** by Ami Dayan

Forum Theater, Washington, DC, 2005

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner** (a musical triptych) by Nathan Christensen, Scott Murphy, Damian Hess, Gaby Alter, and Shawn Northrip

Madcap Players Winter Carnival, Washington, DC, 2005

**The Winter's Tale** by William Shakespeare

Sonnet Repertory Theatre, New York, NY, 2004

**Bus to Buenos Aires** by Tom Mizer and Curtis Moore

Madcap Players Winter Carnival, Washington, DC, 2004

**Will You Please Shut Up?** By Dan O'Brien

The Kennedy Center Kenan Artists, Washington, DC, 2003

**Chiclets and Tortillas** by Mando Alverado

H Street Playhouse, Washington, DC, 2002

**The Blind** by Maurice Maeterlinck

The Looking Glass Theatre, New York, NY, 2001

**A Teenager's Guide to the Universe** by Judy Sheehan

The Looking Glass Theatre, New York, NY, 2001

**The Superfriends of Flushing, Queens** by Ji Hyun Lee

Columbia University, New York, NY, 2000

**Starlet for Sale** by Miranda Black

Expanded Arts, New York, NY, 1999

**Professional Readings and Workshops** (Selected)

**Transferral** by Jack Novack

Rorschach Theatre Company, Washington, DC, 2018

**Among These Wild Things** by Jacqueline E. Lawton

UNC Department of Dramatic Art, Chapel Hill, NC 2017

**Rashōmon's Gate** by Randy Baker

Spooky Action Theatre, Washington, DC, 2017

**Ondine's Curse** by Mora V. Harris  
KCACTF Finalists Readings, Washington, DC, 2017

**Forgotten Kingdoms** by Randy Baker  
Page-to-Stage at the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC, 2016

**The Drama of DNA** (featuring scenes by Anna Ziegler, Dorothy Fortenberry, Lisa Loomer, and Cassandra Medley)  
National Human Genome Research Institute and the Smithsonian, Washington, DC, 2014

**Susan and God** by Rachel Crothers  
Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington, DC, 2014

**Samsara** by Lauren Yee  
The Hub Theatre, Fairfax, VA, 2014

**Weightless** by Christine Evans  
Spooky Action Theatre, Washington, DC, 2014

**Ulysses on Bottles** by Gilad Evron  
Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival at Theater J, Washington, DC, 2013

**Love Goes to Press** by Martha Gellhorn and Virginia Cowles  
The Actors Salon, Washington, DC, 2013

**In Love and Warcraft** by Madhuri Shekar  
Kennedy Center Playwrights Lab, Washington, DC, 2013

**Jüdische Kulturbünd Workshop** (director/devisor)  
The Jüdische Kulturbünd Project, Washington, DC, 2013

**West: The Grand Gesture** by Jacqueline E. Lawton  
NNPN Podcast Play, Washington, DC, 2012

**The Break\*** by Michele Lowe/Scott Richards  
21/24 New Musical Workshop at Signature Theatre, Arlington, VA, 2012

**Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo** by Rajiv Joseph  
New Play Institute at Arena Stage, Washington, DC, 2011

**Three Tall Women** by Edward Albee  
Edward Albee Festival at Arena Stage, Washington, DC, 2011

**Such a Beautiful Voice is Sayeda's and Karima's City** by Youssef El Guindi (adapted from the short stories by Salwa Bakr)  
Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival at Theater J, Washington, DC, 2011

**3 Seconds in the Key** by Deb Margolin  
Backstage at the Lincoln Theater, Washington, DC, 2010

**Dov and Ali** by Anna Ziegler

Tribute Productions (A division of The Sprenger Lang Foundation), Washington, DC, 2009

**The Wonderful World of Zidney** by Shawn Northrip  
The New Musical Fund, Alexandria, VA, 2007

**Antigone** by Brecht, adapted by Judith Malina  
Washington Shakespeare Company, Arlington, VA, 2006

**AmericaMisfit** by Dan Dietz  
Centerstage Theatre, Baltimore, MD, 2006

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL CREDITS

**Antigone** by Emily Mann  
Everyman Theatre Play Production Teen Camp, Baltimore, MD 2017

**Etiology** by Teri Gillmor  
Catholic University, Washington, DC 2014

**A Lie of the Mind** by Sam Shepard  
National Conservatory Dramatic Arts, Washington, DC 2010

**Picnic at Hanging Rock** by Laura Shamas  
Catholic University, Washington, DC 2010

**Wonder of the World** by David Lindsay-Abaire  
National Conservatory Dramatic Arts, Washington, DC 2009

**Pieces of Life** (various writers)  
Young Playwrights Theater, Washington, DC 2002

## GRADUATE DIRECTING, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

**Floss** by Rachel Rios, 2018 (Pending)  
**The Love of the Nightingale** by Timberlake Wertenbaker (Thesis), 2017  
**Measure for Measure** by William Shakespeare, 2017  
**That's How I Lie** by Liz Maestri, 2016

## ASSISTANT DIRECTING

**The Scene** by Theresa Rebeck, Directed by Rebecca Taichman  
The Humana Festival, ATL, Louisville, KY 2006

**Regina** by Mark Blitzstein, Directed by Gerald Freedman  
The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC 2005

**All's Well that Ends Well** by William Shakespeare, Directed by Richard Clifford  
The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Washington., DC 2003

**Twelfth Night** by William Shakespeare, Directed by Aaron Posner  
The Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC 2003

**A Question Of Mercy** by David Hare, Directed by John Dillon  
Alliance Theatre Company, Atlanta, GA 1998

**All's Well that Ends Well** by William Shakespeare, Directed by Gerald Freedman  
North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC 1998

**Falsettos** by William Finn, Directed by Michael Breault  
North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem, NC 1997

#### **WRITING AND ADAPTATIONS** (which have received public readings/workshops)

**United by Faith, Divided by War: Jews and the Civil War**  
Washington DCJCC Literary Festival, Washington DC 2011

**Something by Tolstoi** (adapted from the short story by Tennessee Williams)  
Tenn Cent Fest at Georgetown University, Washington, DC 2011

#### **LEADERSHIP AND STAFF POSITIONS**

**Director of Literary Programs, Edlavitch DCJCC, Washington, DC**  
**June 2016-May 2018**

I planned and produced all book-themed programming, for adults and young people, at a unique, urban, Jewish Community Center

**Acting Artistic Director, Theater J, Washington, DC**  
**December 2014-December 2015**

I programmed and coordinated all artistic and production aspects of Theater J, a professional theatre in Washington, DC area. I was responsible for: choosing the 2015/2016 season; engaging with the artistic team for each production in pursuit of the highest artistic standards; working with the Associate Producer and Casting Director to staff and cast all productions; communicating with Theater J staff about the conception and execution of marketing and communication materials and strategies; communicating with the board about future planning; working with the Managing Director to create a positive working environment for staff, artists and volunteers and to maintain Theater J's fiscal health by creating annual budgets, and planning for long-term financial stability and growth; and writing statements, articles and interviews on subjects relevant to Theater J and its productions for programs, press releases, media requests, grants, the Theater J blog, and other outlets.

**Associate Artistic Director/Director of Literary and Public Programming, Theater J, Washington, DC**

**July 2008-May 2016**

I aided in the production of our mainstage season (usually 7-8 full productions and 2-3 festivals per year) providing artistic oversight and managing tasks related to casting and staffing. I also produced over forty post-show discussions and panels a year; coordinated all aspects of our developmental reading and workshop series; and served as Literary Manager and staff dramaturg,



**New Works Coordinator, Catalyst Theater Company, Washington, DC**

**2006-2008**

I maintained communications with agents, play development programs, and playwrights to obtain plays for consideration for production by a small, innovative theatre company in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, DC.

**Marketing Assistant and Staff Writer, Conservation Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC,**

**December 2003-November 2004**

I assisted on all marketing duties for a boutique historical preservation firm including coordinating the production of a thirty-two page, full-color company brochure and managing all aspects of the launch of a new website.

**Kenan Fellowship Director-in-Residence, The John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC**

**August 2001-May 2002**

I completed one of five Kenan fellowships in the education department of the Kennedy Center, serving as the director-in-residence for the fellowship program.

**Assistant to the President, The L'Chaim Society, New York, NY**

**June 2000-August 2001**

I served as an editorial assistant and event planner/producer for a non-profit organization focused on discussing and promoting Jewish values.

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

**As lead programmer at Theater J, I programmed and curated over 150 panels on a broad range of subjects. In addition, I served as the moderator or a featured speaker on the following panels:**

**Theater J**

- Bridging Identity: The Promise of Parenthood
- A Cultural History of Yentl, the Yeshiva Boy
- Race and Representation: The African American Artist in the World
- Bashert: Myth or Meant to Be
- Truth and Transparency in a Media Age
- An Interfaith Conversation: Healing in the Aftermath of Trauma
- Policy and Programming: The Relationship between the US and Africa
- Women and Religious Tradition
- "New Forms": Adapting the Classics
- Our Class: A Panel Discussion Co-sponsored by The embassy of Poland
- Family Building for the Twenty-first Century
- Camp, Cult and Quirk: From 'Outsider' to 'Insider' Art
- An Interfaith Panel: Navigating Grief
- Who Am I Now? Mindfulness and Identity
- Sacred Moments: The Intersection of Sexuality and Faith
- A Genuine Chanel Suit: Style and Status on Stage
- Women and Work: From Murphy Brown to Lean In
- On Grief, Healing and Resolution in Partnership with the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis
- Diagnosing Joey: A Conversation about ADD, ADHD, ODD and Depression
- How a Family Communicates: A Post-show Panel with Author and Linguist Deborah Tannen

**The Kennedy Center Playwrights Intensive**

The Director/Playwright Relationship

**Catholic University**

*The Love of the Nightingale* Discussion

**Footlights D.C.**

Theatre Discussion: *The Hampton Years*

**Playwrights Forum**

How I Read Your Script

**Forum Theatre**

The Female POV in Theatre Symposium

**Shakespeare Theatre Company**

ReDiscovery: *Susan and God*

**The Georgetown University Theater and Performance Studies Program**

DC: A Laboratory for Global Performance and Engagement

**Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company**

American Theatre in 2034

**AFFILIATIONS**

**Attendance and/or participation in Theater and New Play Conferences and Panels:**

Arena Stage #NewPlay Convening, Washington, DC, 2011

Playpenn, Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2011

IsraDrama International Theatre Convening, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2011

National New Play Network Conference, Washington, DC, 2012

Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center Visiting Professionals Weekend, 2013

TCG National Conference, Boston 2012 and Cleveland 2015

Kennedy Center MFA Playwright's workshop, multiple years

American College Theatre Festival, multiple years

**ANCILLARY EDUCATION**

Kennedy Center Designer/Director Lab with Ming Cho Lee, Washington, DC

Kennedy Center Kenan Fellowship in Directing, Washington, DC

Composition Workshop with Anne Bogart, New York, NY

Workshop: Decolonizing Directing and Dramaturgy, The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC