

Ezra Barnes
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Profile

Artistic Director, Producer, Director and Actor with over twenty years experience in theater, especially Shakespeare, and detailed knowledge of production. Demonstrated commitment to theater as a vehicle for community building, exploration of the human condition and as a transformative experience for young people.

Professional Experience

Founding Artistic Director, Shakespeare on the Sound, Norwalk, Ct 1995-2008

Responsible for the overall artistic management and programming for company. Efforts result in attendance numbers in excess of 125,000 over life of company, five-fold increase in budget accompanied by consistent fiscal responsibility, and expansion of performances to a second community.

- *Worked with residents of Rowayton and Norwalk to found company.
- *Created mission statement approved and confirmed by company's board.
- *Collaborated with managing director/business manager to create annual budget and organizational structure. Collaborated with staff and board on fundraising activities.
- *Led company in collaborative efforts and projects with noted area organizations.

- *Directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Julius Caesar*. Performed several major roles including Prospero in *The Tempest*.

- *Recruited and hired prominent directors from major American Shakespearean Festivals.

- *Retained leading New York based casting directors, engaged actors from major New York and LORT theaters, identified young talent by establishing relationships with acting programs at NYU, SUNY Purchase and the Juilliard School.

- *Commissioned original music performed live for each production.

- *Recruited experienced scenic, costume, lighting and sound designers. Strengthened technical aspects of productions.

- *Facilitated creation of comprehensive Educational Outreach program for company.
 - *Recruited David Shookhoff (Education Director, Manhattan Theatre Club) in ongoing consulting and program creation capacity.
 - *Participated in/supervised delivery of school residencies & other outreach.

Co-Founder & Producer, Westerly Shakespeare Festival, Westerly, RI 1990-93

For the Colonial Theatre in Westerly, co-founded professional Shakespeare festival. Actively involved in naming of project, strategic planning, board development, fundraising, programming, artistic staffing, managerial staff development, acting and line producing. Inaugural performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* established successful new theater festival. Artists

recruited and worked with included directors Richard Edelman, William Woodman, actors Frances Sternhagen, Earle Hyman, and composer Lewis Spratlan.

Professional Director (selected productions), 1995-present

Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Allentown, PA, & Norwalk Symphony Orchestra
Peer Gynt by Ibsen and Grieg (with Tony nominee Paul Hecht) 2007
Connecticut Grand Opera, Greenwich, CT
Shakespeare in Love by William Shakespeare (also Adapted) 2003
Vertical Player Repertory, Brooklyn, NY
Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters by Stein and Rorem 2003
Medicine Show, New York, NY
Polly by John Gay 1995

Professional Actor (selected productions), member AEA, SAG, 1984-present

New York City
To Kill a Mockingbird (Brave New World Rep) by C. Sergei 2005
Far And Wide (Mint Theatre Company) by Arthur Schnitzler 2003-4
Richard II (Pearl Theatre Company) by William Shakespeare 1998
Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Center Valley, PA
Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare 2010
1776 by Edwards and Stone 2009
Quantum Theatre Company, Pittsburgh, PA
Breakfast With Mugabe by Fraser Grace (U.S. Premiere) 2007
Denver Center Theatre Company, New Play Summit
Good on Paper by Michele Lowe 2006
Hartford Stage Company, Hartford, CT
Othello by William Shakespeare 2004
Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ
Wuthering Heights by Robert Johanson 1999
Film & Television
Bored to Death, HBO 2009
Joshua, Fox Searchlight (Official Selection, Sundance Film Fest) 2007
Law & Order, Law & Order:SVU (Multiple Episodes), NBC TV 1999-2009

Theater Teacher, 1984-present

Conducted Master Classes in acting at Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA and Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. Create curriculum, teach acting skills, scene study, audition prep, proven coach of successful applicants to NY High School of Performing Arts.

Harvey Milk High School, New York, New York 2009-2010
*Theater/Acting Teacher in school specifically created for LBGT and at-risk teens.
Poly Prep Country Day High School, Brooklyn, NY 2008
*Directed *La Dispute* by Mariveaux, *The Potboiler* by Alice Gerstenberg.
Young Actors Workshop, Brooklyn, New York 2004-Present
*Founder & Teacher of after-school acting studio.
Piper Theatre Productions, Brooklyn, New York 2006-2007
*Directed *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at teen theater camp.
Saint Ann's School, Brooklyn, New York 2001-2004
*Taught High school Acting classes, directed *Pullman Car Hiawatha* by Wilder.

Education

MFA, National Theatre Conservatory, Denver Center Theatre Company 1989
BA, *magna cum laude*, English and Dramatic Arts, Amherst College 1984