

# Ethan McSweeney | director

curriculum vitae

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## **ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP:**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Chautauqua Theater Company 2004-2011

Alongside co-artistic director Vivienne Benesch, I oversaw a period of remarkable growth in artistry and audiences with a corresponding boost in national recognition of the company as a vital center for the cultivation of the finest emerging theatre artists in the nation and the development of exciting and relevant new work for the stage. As a director, I staged noted productions from the American canon including *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Death of a Salesman*, *All My Sons*, and *The Glass Menagerie* as well as creating a ground-breaking large scale collaboration with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra on Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor*. The work of the company as both a producer and incubator of talent is prominently showcased in the PBS documentary *Chautauqua: An American Narrative*.

### Achievements of my tenure included:

- Innovated schedule, programming, and pricing
- Increased audience (up by 300%), ticket sales (250%), and box office revenue (200%)
- Overall company budget Increased by 300%
- Introduced New Play Workshop Series and cultivated audience excited by new work
- Raised funds and implemented nationally significant semi-annual new play commission of \$20K
- Elevated the national profile of Conservatory, recruiting the finest emerging talents from the top training programs around the country.

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR** Shakespeare Theatre Company 1993-1997

LORT B+ Stage operating on a \$18 million annual budget founded by Michael Kahn of Juilliard School. In addition to being the Artistic Director's representative in all aspects of the company, I was the Assistant Director on 25 productions alongside master directors such as Michael Kahn, Joe Dowling, Garland Wright, Laird Williamson, Laurence Boswell & Ron Daniels among others.

### Responsibilities included:

- Director of revivals and remounts and annual Shakespeare "Free for All" for audience of 25K
- Director of the resident fellows touring company
- Season and company casting
- Line-producing all productions coordinating with all technical departments
- Artistic liaison to Education Department including lectures, seminars, talkbacks
- Publicity and Marketing Consultant
- Regular stand in for Artistic Director at public events, discussion, and fund-raising functions

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER** Stage Directors & Choreographers 2005-2017

2500 member national labor union representing stage directors and choreographers. As a trustee, I have participated in all aspects of overseeing the organization from staffing and leadership changes, to governance issues, to negotiating collectively bargained agreements, to national education and outreach.

- Search Committee for current Executive Director (the first new leader in 25 years)
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Re-branding Campaign Committee
- Academic Initiatives Committee Co-chair building relationships & memberships within Academy
- SDC Foundation Committee (Treasurer) building capacity & national reach of Foundation

### As Treasurer (2 terms, 2009-2015)

- Modeled and created the union's first 10 year plans and budgets
- Lead real estate search and financing relocation of headquarters offices in Manhattan
- Orchestrated and financed updating of all technology and communication platforms

## **Additional Leadership:**

RESIDENT DIRECTOR	New Dramatists	2001-2002
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	National Actors' Theatre	2004-2005
ASSOC. ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	George Street Playhouse	2000-2004
ARTISTIC ADVISOR	Cape Cod Theatre Project	2001-2004

## PRODUCTION HISTORY:

### **BROADWAY:**

A TIME TO KILL	Golden Theatre	2013
THE BEST MAN	August Wilson Theatre	2000
<b>Best Revival – Drama Desk Award   Outer Critics Circle Award   Tony Award nomination</b>		

### **INTERNATIONAL:**

THE FATHER	Gate Theatre, Dublin	2016
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	27 <sup>th</sup> Macao Arts Festival, China	2016
A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY	Gate Theatre, Dublin	2015
AN IDEAL HUSBAND	Gate Theatre, Dublin	2014
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	Gate Theatre, Dublin	2013
<b>Best Director – Irish Times Award</b>		
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE	Stratford Shakespeare Festival	2012
DANGEROUS LIAISONS	Stratford Shakespeare Festival	2010

### **OPERA:**

THE DICTATOR'S WIFE   world premiere	Washington National Opera	2017
BETTER GODS   world premiere	Washington National Opera	2016

### **FILM:**

THE GUADALUPE by Carol Carpenter	in development
TWELVE DAYS IN MAY by Frank Allen	in development

### **OFF BROADWAY:**

FULFILLMENT   world premiere	The Flea Theatre	2015
Rx   world premiere	Primary Stages	2012
1001   NY Premiere	Page 73	2007
100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW   world premiere	Playwrights Horizons	2007
SABINA	Primary Stages	2005
THE PERSIANS	National Actors' Theatre	2003
TAMICANFLY   NY Premiere	Weisberger Theatre Group	2001
NEVER THE SINNER   NY Premiere	John Houseman Theatre	1997
<b>Best Off Broadway Play – Outer Critics Circle Award   Drama Desk Award</b>		
FIXIN' TO DIE: The Life of Lee Atwater	West Bank	1993

### **NATIONAL:**

TWELFTH NIGHT	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2017
LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT	Weston Playhouse	2017
THE TEMPEST	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2016
MOMENT   east coast premiere	Studio Theatre	2016
FULFILLMENT   world premiere	American Theatre Company	2015
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2015
THE TEMPEST	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2014
A RAISIN IN THE SUN	Chautauqua Theater Company	2014
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2012
TALES FROM HOLLYWOOD	Guthrie Theatre	2012
FIFTY WAYS   world premiere	Chautauqua Theater Company	2012
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2011
LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST	Chautauqua Theater Company	2011

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2011
A TIME TO KILL   world premiere	Arena Stage	2011
ARMS AND THE MAN	Guthrie Theatre	2011
TRINITY RIVER PLAYS   world premiere	The Goodman/Dallas Theater Ctr.	2011
DEATH OF A SALESMAN	REP/Delaware	2010
ORDINARY DAYS   west coast premiere	South Coast Rep	2010
THE GLASS MENAGERIE	Chautauqua Theatre Company	2009
CORNELIA   world premiere	The Old Globe	2009
ION   US premiere	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2009
WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF	Center Stage	2008
A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE	Guthrie Theatre	2008
DEATH OF A SALESMAN	Chautauqua Theater Company	2008
MAJOR BARBARA	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2008
IN THIS CORNER   world premiere	The Old Globe	2008
THE JUST	Chautauqua Theater Company	2007
1001   world premiere	Denver Center Theatre	2007
THE CHERRY ORCHARD	Chautauqua Theater Company	2006
THE PERSIANS	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2006
A BODY OF WATER	The Old Globe	2006
ALL MY SONS	Chautauqua Theater Company	2005
A BODY OF WATER   world premiere	Guthrie Theatre	2005
CHASING NICOLETTE	Prince Music Theater	2004
SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME	Westport Playhouse	2004
MR. MARMALADE   world premiere	South Coast Rep	2004
ROMEO AND JULIET	The Guthrie Theatre	2004
A WALK IN THE WOODS	George Street Playhouse	2004
COBB	Chautauqua Theater Company	2003
SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION	The Guthrie Theatre	2003
DIRTY BLONDE	Wilma Theatre/George Street	2002
CTRL+ALT+DELETE	George Street Playhouse	2002
THIEF RIVER	Guthrie Theatre	2002
CTRL+ALT+DELETE   world premiere	San Jose Rep	2001
OLD TIMES	George Street Playhouse	2001
WIT	Pittsburgh Public Theatre	2000
SIDE MAN	Guthrie Theatre	2000
MASTER CLASS	George Street Playhouse	2000
BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE	Alley Theatre	1999
GROSS INDECENCY	Guthrie Theatre	1998
MAD ABOUT THE BARD	Folger Theatre	1998
HYDRIOGRAPHIA   world premiere	Alley Theatre/Berkeley Rep	1998
THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE	Washington Shakespeare Co	1998
NEVER THE SINNER	Signature Theatre Company	1997
JULIUS CAESAR	Shakespeare Theatre (tour)	1996
TWELFTH NIGHT	Shakespeare Theatre (tour)	1995

### THEATRICAL EVENTS:

THE GREAT RECESSION   <i>New York Living</i>	Flea Theater	2009
EVERY GOOD BOY DESERVES FAVOR	Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra	2008
GALA OPENING, Harman Center for the Arts, <i>Featuring Anne-Sophia Mutter, Julio Bocca &amp; Nina Ananiashvilli, Patti Lupone, the Washington Ballet, and Wynton Marsalis &amp; the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra</i>	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2007

## ACADEMIC DIRECTING:

DANCING AT LUGHNASA	The Juilliard School	2008
MISALLIANCE	University of Delaware, PTPP	2006
ARMS AND THE MAN	New York University, MFA	2000
JACK AND JILL	The Guthrie Experience	1999
ANYTHING GOES	University of Maryland	1997
A COMEDY OF ERRORS	Shakespeare Theatre Conservatory	1997
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	University of South Carolina, MFA	1997

### Instructor/Master Classes at:

Academy for Classical Acting (GW/STC)	2015-2018
Texas State University	2016
Chautauqua Theatre Company Conservatory	2005-2014
University of Utah	1994-1997
Shakespeare Theatre Classical Acting Conservatory	1995-1997

## WORKSHOPS/NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT: (partial listing)

REVELATION READINGS	Red Bull Theater	2010-present
CTC/NEW PLAY WORKSHOPS	Chautauqua Theater Company	2005-2015
NEW PLAY SUMMIT	Denver Center Theatre	2010-11
NEXT STAGE FESTIVAL	George Street Playhouse	2006-07
BRAND: NEW	Hartford Stage	2005
NEW WORK NOW	Public Theater	2004
PLAYLABS	Playwrights Center	2004
NEW AMERICAN PLAYS	Kennedy Center	2004
PACIFIC PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL	South Coast Repertory Theatre	2002-2004
SIX @ SIX	Manhattan Theatre Club	2002
O'NEILLPLAYWRIGHTS CONFERENCE	O'Neill Theatre Center	2001-2002
CAPE COD THEATRE PROJECT	Falmouth, MA	2000-2003
NEW DRAMATISTS	New York, NY	2001-2002

& MCC, Ensemble Studio Theatre, HB Playwrights, & Darryl Roth Productions among others

## HONORS & AWARDS:

*Productions nominated for more than 75 theatre awards, with 30 wins, including four for best director.*

### TWELFTH NIGHT

**Outstanding Director, Outstanding Production** – Helen Hayes Award  
**Outstanding Set Design, Outstanding Supporting Actor** – Helen Hayes Award  
**5 Additional Helen Hayes Award Nominations** – including Outstanding Ensemble, Costume, Lighting, and Sound Design

### MOMENT

**3 Helen Hayes Award Nominations** – including Outstanding Director, Production, & Actress

### THE FATHER

**3 Irish Times Award Nominations** – including Best Production, Actor & Scenic Design

### A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

**Best Director** – *Irish Times* Award  
**Best Actress** (Lia Williams), **Best Supporting Actress** (Catherine Walker)  
And 3 additional nominations including Production and Design

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

**5 Helen Hayes Award nominations** – including Outstanding Director, Production, & Design

### MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

**3 Helen Hayes Award nominations** – winner for Scenic Design & Supporting Actor

### WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF

**Best Production 2008** – *Baltimore City Paper*

### MAJOR BARBARA

**7 Helen Hayes Award nominations** – including Outstanding Director & Production  
Winner for Scenic Design & Supporting Actor

## IN THIS CORNER

**Best Play** – San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award

## 100 SAINTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Ten Best of 2007** – *Entertainment Weekly, Theatremania, & TimeOut NY*

## 1001

**Ten Best 2007** – *TimeOut NY*

**Ovation Award** – Outstanding Production, *Denver Post*

**Best Play** – *Rocky Mountain News*

## A BODY OF WATER

**Best Direction** – San Diego Critics Circle Award

**Best Play, Ensemble, & Scenic Design** – SD Critics Circle

**Best New Play** – Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*

## CHASING NICOLETTE

**10 Barrymore Award Nominations** – including Best Direction & Best Musical

## MR. MARMALADE

**OCIE Award** – Best Production

## SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

**Best Director & Best Production** – Minneapolis *Star Tribune*

## CTRL+ALT+DELETE

**Best of 2002** – New Jersey *Star-Ledger*

## THE BEST MAN

**Outer Critics Circle Award** – Best Revival

**Drama Desk Award** – Best Revival

**Tony Award nomination** – Best Revival

## WIT

**Best Production** – Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*

## NEVER THE SINNER,

**Outer Critics Circle Award** – Best Off Broadway Play

**Outer Critics Circle** – 4 nominations including Best Director

**5 Drama Desk Award Nominations** – including Best Play, & Best Director

**5 Helen Hayes Award nominations** – including Best Play & Best Director

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Wingspace Theatrical Design Collective, member 2014 to present
- Shakespeare Theatre Company Affiliated Artist, 2011 to present
- US-Ireland Alliance Mitchell Scholar Selection Committee, 2015 to present
- Tony Awards Voter, 2005 to present
- Lincoln Center Director's Lab, founding member

## PUBLICATIONS

*Directing Shakespeare in America*, by Charles Ney, Arden Shakespeare 2016

## UPCOMING:

TOSCA Washington National Opera 2018/19 season

## EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BA, Theater and Dramatic Arts 1993