

# MELODY ERFANI

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## DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/DRAMATURG

### PROFILE

Highly competent, versatile, and driven professional with extensive experience in theatrical production as a director, dramaturg, stage manager, and actor, both regionally and internationally. **Excellent collaborator** in workshopping, producing, and directing new works.

- **Experienced leader;** familiar with all aspects in running stage production, from conceptualization, to scheduling rehearsals, and working backstage during shows.
  - Maintain strong work ethic and professionalism; adhere to high level of standards of excellence, modeling and communicating them for students to follow.
  - Effective at resolving problems that provide win-win solutions to all concerned parties and making sound decisions under stressful situations.
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### EDUCATION/INTERNSHIP

- 2013 July **Lincoln Center Director's Lab**
- 2009–2012 **Master of Fine Arts in Theater Arts**  
Actors Studio Drama School  
PACE UNIVERSITY, New York, NY  
*Recipient, Iranian-American Scholarship Fund, 2009*
- 2001–2005 **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Arts**  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON, Arlington, TX  
*Graduated summa cum laude*  
*Presidential Honors Scholarship, Honors College, 2002–2004*
- 2003–2004 **Theatre Courses in British Theatre, Shakespeare, and Acting on the Camera**  
RICHMOND UNIVERSITY, London, UK
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### THEATER/STAGE PLAY EXPERIENCE

LOWER EAST SIDE SHAKESPEARE CO., New York, NY

*Artistic Director/Producer, 2014–2015*

#### **Director, 2015**

*Twelfth Night*

*Romeo and Juliet*

5D PRODUCTIONS AROUND THE BLOCK, New York, NY

**Creator and Director, 97 Orchard St (World Premiere), 2014**

ACTORS STUDIO, PDW New York, NY

**Director, Afterglow (New Work), 2012–2013**

EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Director/Producer, All an Act (World Premier), 2012**

Award: Four–Five Star Production

THE BIKE SHED, Exeter, England

**Director, All an Act, 2012**

STAGEDOOR MANOR, New York, NY

**Director, 2007–2012**

*Leader of the Pack*

*The Importance of Being Earnest*

*Pride and Prejudice*

*Elsewhere in Elsinore*

*The Boyfriend*

*Playing for Time*

*Our Town*

*The Young and Fair*

*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

*The Uninvited*

*Nine Girls*

**Production Stage Manager, 2005–2006**

ACTORS STUDIO DRAMA SCHOOL REPERTORY SEASON, New York, NY

**Director, Years Covered 2009-2012***Dying City**The Woolgatherer**Raised in Captivity**All an Act (New Work)**Terminal (Directed and Adapted)**Andre's Mother**The Great American Trailer Park Musical**The Lover**The Baby Dance***Actor, Years Covered 2009-2012***As Clair, Proof**As Olga, Three Sisters*

THE LOOKING GLASS FORUM, New York, NY

**Director, 2008–2010***In The Changling (New Work)**Othello**Without (New Work)**Every Young Girl's Dream (New Work)*Award: Won Best Upcoming Director and Best Production, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON, Arlington, TX

**Director, 2004–2005***Wings**Keely and Du**The Vagina Monologues**The Pillowman,**The Diviners***Stage Manager, 2005***Little Old Broadway (World Premiere Musical), 2005***Assistant Stage Manager, 2002, 2004***Back County Crimes**The Great God Brown***Actor, 2004***As Pimple, She Stoops to Conquer,*

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE, Millburn, NJ

**Production Assistant, 2007-2008***Nutcracker**Happy Days*

MAINSTAGE TOURING PRODUCTIONS, New York, NJ

**Stage Manager, 2007***Mooseltoe,*

SKYLIGHT OPERA THEATRE, Milwaukee, WI

**Assistant Stage Manager 2005-2006***The Man of La Mancha**Tintypes**The Tragedy of Carmen**Animal Crackers**Little Women the Opera*

HIP POCKET THEATRE, Fort Worth, TX

**Stage Manager, 2002, 2003***Yeti's Songs from Mount Analogue**A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court,***Actor,***As the Narrator, Bad Girls in the Big City*

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, London, UK

**Assistant Stage Manager, 2004***Romeo and Juliet**Othello,*

RICHMOND UNIVERSITY, London, UK

**Actor, 2003**

*As the Messenger/Little Girl/Furrie, The Infernal Machine,*

OVILLA THEATRE, Red Oak, TX

**Actor,**

*As Juliet, Romeo and Juliet, 2001*

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

STAGEDOOR MANOR, Loch Sheldrake, NY, USA

**Director and Teacher, 2007–2012**

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE, London, England

**Education Intern: 2004**

SOUTHWEST CENTER, DeSoto, TX, USA

**Youth Drama Teacher, 2001–2003**

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**CORE STRENGTHS***Theatre Expertise*

- Applied subject matter expertise in developing concepts for multiple musicals and plays based on comprehensive research.
- Familiar with different levels of operations to produce successful shows, having produced, been a production assistant and assistant stage manager; exemplified proficiency in managing a budget, overseeing managing paperwork for run sheets, notating blocking, prompting during rehearsals, setting up and breaking down rehearsal space, and working backstage during run of the shows.
- Equally successful in raising funds up to \$20K through various promotional events and personal donations; overseeing budget development and expenditure for production, travel, venue, and lodging internationally and in NYC.

*Teaching Experience*

- Competent and skilled at developing appropriate lesson plans and teaching materials for students ages 5-18 years old; provided instructions on basic and master acting classes, character development, acting tools, improvisation, cold reading, details and preparations of the audition process, script analysis, and directing to diverse age groups.
- Experienced in mentoring students through one-on-one sessions to help them maximize their strengths and improve their weaknesses; preparing them to be effective in their preferred roles in theatre production.
- Aided instructors in Education Department in conducting effectual and high-impact workshops that produce positive results.

*Stage Management*

- Accustomed to overseeing all aspects of production, including administering 4 theatre spaces and 8 shows, handling scheduling of rehearsals, and preparing materials, production and promotions; facilitate production meetings and liaise between departments and stage managers.
- Effective at building a motivated and synchronized team composed of designers, actors, and crew to successfully launch full-scale theatre productions.