

# **LESLIE SWACKHAMER**

**Stage & Film Director, Dramaturg, Producer, Educator  
(memberAGMA, SSDC)**

Cell: (206)683-5369

[Lswackhamer@gmail.com](mailto:Lswackhamer@gmail.com)

[www.leslieswackhamer.com](http://www.leslieswackhamer.com)

## **Theatre Directing Credits (SDC) Selected Regional Credits**

SUNRISE COVEN (Premiere)	Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston)
SENSITIVE GUYS	Stages Repertory Theatre
PANTO SLEEPING BEAUTY	Stages Repertory Theatre (film with Đạt Peter Tôn)
THE MAKING OF SENSITIVE GUYS-	Documentary Film with Đạt Peter Tôn
CINCHED AND STRAPPED	Theatre 3 Dallas (Premiere by Selina Fillinger)
CONSTELLATIONS	The Alley Theatre
THE REVISIONIST	Stages Repertory Theatre
NSFW	Stages Repertory Theatre
MY MAÑANA COMES	Stages Repertory Theatre
STRAIGHT WHITE MEN	Stages Repertory Theatre
MARIE ANTOINETTE	Stages Repertory Theatre
<i>(2015 Houston Press Best Director, Best Scenic Design, Best Costume Design)</i>	
FAILURE: A LOVE STORY	Stages Repertory Theatre
SPHINX (premiere)	Musiq at Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center, Houston
IN THE NEXT ROOM	Stages Repertory Theatre
GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER	PARK MUSICAL-Stages Repertory
MAN FROM NEBRASKA	Stages Repertory Theatre
THE ANDREWS BROTHERS	Stages Repertory Theatre
RABBIT HOLE	Stages Repertory Theatre
	<i>Houston Chronicle Top 10 for 2009</i>
LADY	Stages Repertory Theatre
AMY'S VIEW	Stages Repertory Theatre
	<i>Houston Chronicle Top 10 for 2007</i>
THE LAST SCHWARTZ	Florida Studio Theatre
WIT	Madison Repertory Theatre
WHAT CORBIN KNEW	Madison Rep (Premiere, Jeffrey Hatcher)
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	Seattle Shakespeare Festival
	<i>Seattle Times Award: Best Shakespeare</i>
PSYCHIC LIFE OF SAVAGES	Empty Space Theatre
	<i>Seattle Times Award: Best Bravura Performance</i>
MRS. KLEIN	American Stage (American Premiere)
LOST IN YONKERS	American Stage
WHALES OF AUGUST	Tacoma Actors Guild
DRIVING MISS DAISY	Tacoma Actors Guild
YERMA	GREX (Seattle, new adaptation by KC Davis)
ESCAPE FROM HAPPINESS	Dobama (Cleveland)
ALIEN VICTIMS TELL ALL	Dobama/ Seattle Rep
SOME THINGS THAT CAN GO WRONG AT 35,000 FEET	Eldred Theatre (Cleveland)
THE CURIOUS SAVAGE	New Harmony Theatre

LEONARDO HAIKU                      Slovakia International Theatre Festival  
LYSISTRATA PROJECT                Seattle Town Hall  
THE RED ROOM                        Richard Hugo House (Seattle)

**ACT Theatre, Seattle, Washington (LORT C)**

GOING TO ST. IVES                by Lee Blessing (premiere)  
OLD WICKED SONGS                by Jon Marans  
NINA VARIATIONS                by Steven Dietz (co-directed with Mr. Dietz)  
AVENUE X                            by John Jiler and Ray Leslee  
LATER LIFE                         by A.R. Gurney  
A CHRISTMAS CAROL adapted by Gregory Falls (4 productions)

**The Cleveland Play House, Cleveland, Ohio (LORT C & D)**

THE BALTIMORE WALTZ            by Paula Vogel (toured state of Ohio)  
JAPANESE GHOST STORIES        by David F. Eliet (premiere)  
THE BUTCHERS DAUGHTER        by Wendy Kesselman (premiere)  
RECKLESS                         by Craig Lucas  
THE DWARFS                        by Harold Pinter  
THE NUNG KUA MA                by KC Davis (premiere)  
ELEGIES FOR ANGELS, PUNKS AND RAGING QUEENS by Bill Russell  
WHY THERE ARE NO TIGERS IN BORNEO by David F. Eliet (premiere)  
AESOP'S FABULOUS FABLES        by David F. Eliet (children's series)  
TALK TO ME LIKE THE RAIN        by Tennessee Williams  
LOVE AND SCIENCE                by KC Davis (premiere)  
OUR TOWN/YOUR TOWN            by David F. Eliet (SchoolTour)  
MIX & MATCH                    by KC Davis (School Tour)  
WHAT ABOUT ME?                 Company Developed (School Tour)  
THE LAW REVIEW                 by David F. Eliet (Benefit, premiere)  
COUNTRY BEYOND TEARS         by Paul Monette (Benefit, premiere)

**University Credits (Guest Professional Artist)**

THE HOUSE OF ATREUS- Oklahoma City University  
WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT- Sam Houston State University  
ENRON- Sam Houston State University (KCTF Regional Award)  
ONCE UPON A MATTRESS- Sam Houston State University  
HOT L BALTIMORE- University of Houston-  
BIG LOVE- University of Houston  
THE THREE PENNY OPERA-Rice University  
FEFU AND HER FRIENDS-University of Texas, Austin  
*Austin Chronicle Top Ten Treasure Award, 8 B. Iden Payne Award Nominations*  
THE BALCONY (Genet)-University of Washington  
THE REVOLUTION PLAY (premiere, KC Davis)- University of Washington  
THE CHANGING RIVER (premiere, KC Davis)- University of Washington  
LES LIAISONS DANGEROUSES - USC  
SCENES FROM THE PENITENTIARY –Case Western Reserve University

**M.F.A. Productions at the University of Washington**

THE ROVER by Aphra Behn (Thesis Production)  
DARK TIME TRAVELING (premiere, KC DAVIS)  
ANIMAL FARM-the musical- Adapted by Peter Hall from George Orwell. Lyrics  
by Adrian Mitchell. Music by Richard Peaslee  
BEIRUT by Alan Bowne

SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC by Howard Brenton  
THE COLLECTION by Harold Pinter  
THE LOVELIEST AFTERNOON OF THE YEAR by John Guare  
THE SANDBOX by Edward Albee

### **FILM**

PANTO SLEEPING BEAUTY- streaming production for Stages Theatre. Film  
(not a film of a theatre piece)-

Co-directed and edited with Peter Ton.

THE SUSAN SMITH BLACKBURN PRIZE 2021 PRIZE PRESENTATION-  
produced and edited with Peter Ton

THE MAKING OF SENSITIVE GUYS- Documentary- written, directed, edited  
with Peter Ton

SENSITIVE GUYS, the ZOOM Version- Adapted, directed and edited with MJ  
Kaufman and Peter Ton

### **OPERA (AGMA)**

RIGOLETTO- new production upcoming at Opera Pa Skäret, Sweden 2023

MADAMA BUTTERFLY- Originated production, designed by Jun Kaneko: Opera  
Omaha, 2006, 2011,2019. Dayton Opera, 2006; Madison Opera, 2008;  
Vancouver Opera, 2010, Opera Carolina, 2012, San Francisco Opera, 2014 and  
2016. Washington National Opera (Kennedy Center) 2017

Currently workshopping TURN & BURN, a new opera with Houston Grand Opera

4 workshops- A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS (based on the best-selling novel  
by Khalid Hosseini), composer, Sheila Silver; Conductor, Sara Jobin. Opera  
America, American Opera

TOSCA- Opera in the Heights (Houston)

MADAMA BUTTERFLY. New production at Opera Pa Skäret, Sweden

ORFEO ED EURIDICE, Opera in the Heights.

COURTSIDE, Houston Grand Opera, East-West Project, Premiere.

MACBETH, Opera in the Heights.

DON GIOVANNI, Opera in the Heights, Spring, 2007

SEATTLE OPERA- Young Artists Fall Concert, 2003

COLD SASSY TREE. Opera Omaha's Heartland Opera Theatre Tour. Also  
created adaptation for 50 minute version. 2003.

CARMEN, Young Artists Tour (5 states) for Opera Omaha. 2002.

LA FINTA GIARDINIERA by W.A.Mozart, premiere of translation by Theodore  
Deacon, Wildwood Festival for the Performing Arts, 2000.

SHAKESPEARE NOTES & QUOTES-a touring co-production of Opera Omaha and the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Tour, Fall, 2000.

### **NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT WORK**

Directed/Produced/Dramaturged over 100 new plays at regional theatres across the U.S.

- Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, Executive Director. 2013, Producer of 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Alley Theatre, Houston. 2008, Producer of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Houston Voices at the Alley Theatre; 2006-present Readers Panel to select finalists.
- The Horton Foote Prize- reading committee.
- Brave New Works Festival, Emory Theatre- 3 different festivals, workshopping new plays. Most recently, 2020.
- Alley All New Festival, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- Landing Theatre New Play Festival- Judge (2015).
- O'Neill Playwrights Conference- Readers Panel.
- Founder, Women Playwrights Festival, Seattle, Washington. Four Years as Staff Director and Producer of FirstACT, ACT's new play development program, commissioned 16 new plays.
- Four Years as a director and dramaturg for DiscoverReads, The Cleveland Play House.
- 1999 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of America National Conference- Featured speaker on new play development and director-playwright collaboration.
- Dramaturg for WordBridge, St. Petersburg, Fla, a program designed to identify and nurture promising playwrights from college and graduate school
- Curator, Theatre Puget Sound Annual Conference- "Playwrights for the New Millennium".
- TCG Observership in New Play Development-Sundance, O'Neill, A.S.K., HumanaFest.

### **THEATRE AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS**

2008-Present **THE SUSAN SMITH BLACKBURN PRIZE**  
**Executive Director**

The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, established in Houston in 1978, is the oldest and largest international prize given annually to recognize women who have written works of outstanding quality for the English-speaking theatre. The Prize currently awards \$85,000 or more annually to the top ten plays. It is regarded as the largest and most prestigious playwriting award for Women+. For more information, visit [www.blackburnprize.org](http://www.blackburnprize.org).

2001-2005 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF DRAMA.**

Director of Development. Raised over \$2million for School of Drama general operating funds and scholarships.

1997-2001 **THEATRE PUGET SOUND. *President (1998-2000) and founding officer.*** Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) is a service organization

whose mission is to promote the spiritual and economic necessity of theatre in the Puget Sound region. Implemented long-term strategic plan, initiated, negotiated and oversaw the development and management of 2 theatre spaces at Seattle Center as well as the conversion of a suite of rehearsal studios.

- 1997 **ACT THEATRE, Seattle. LORT. *Interim Artistic Director***  
Artistic leadership, planning and budgeting of Mainstage 7-play season, including hiring all artistic and production personnel, season selection and oversight, season scheduling, community relations, policy development.
- 1995-1998 **ACT THEATRE. *Associate Artistic Director***  
Resident Director and Director of New Play Development.
- 1991-95 **THE CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE. *Artistic Associate***  
Resident Director for mainstage, new play festival and lab company productions. Produced two international theatre exchanges with Russia, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Developed children's theatre series and experimental adult series. Oversaw playwrights in the schools project culminating in a new play based on their work, which also toured.
- 1990-91 **THE CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE. *Directing Fellow***
- 1989-90 **SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE. *Literary Assistant. Directing/Literary Intern***
- 1989 **MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER. *Directing Intern***

## **EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

- 2015-2019 **Rice University- Adjunct Faculty- Theatre History**
- 2011-2014 **Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX**  
Assistant Professor of Theatre and Musical Theatre.  
**Thea 4366- Directing I**  
**Thea 4392-Stage Movement for Actors**  
Directed Mainstage productions of ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, ENRON, and WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT A PRESENTATION  
Mentored Student Directing projects
- 2011 & 2010 **University of Houston, Guest Artist**
- 2009 **Rice University, Guest Artistic Director**  
**Thea 303 –Introduction to Theatre**
- 2007-2008 **Stages Repertory, Young Artist Conservatory, Directing**
- 2007 **University of Texas, Austin-Guest Artist and MFA Playwriting Thesis Advisor**
- 2000-2004 **University of Washington-Adjunct Faculty**  
**Drama 499-Artistic Administration.**  
**Drama 460-Introduction to Direction I.**  
**Drama 461-Introduction to Direction II.**  
**MFA Directing Thesis Project Advisor**
- 1999 **Seattle Children's Theatre Summer Conservatory**  
Guest Director, William Mastrosimone's BANG, BANG-YOU'RE DEAD

1998            **Emory University**, Atlanta. Guest Lecturer & Artist  
**University of Washington**. Guest Artist

1997            **ACT/Intiman/Freehold** Journeyman Program

1997            **Inglemore High School/ACT**-Playwrights in the Schools  
Developed and taught pilot program

1996            **Cornish College**, Guest Artist in New Play Development

1994            **University of Southern California**. Guest Artist

1993            **Case Western Reserve University**, Cleveland. Guest Artist

1990-94        **Cleveland Public Schools & The Cleveland Play House**  
Playwrights in the Schools. Team-taught with a Playwright

1987-1991     **University of Washington**. Instructor and Guest Artist  
Drama 401 (new play development), Drama 101 (Intro to Drama)

**Related Skills**

sight read music (piano and vocal); dramaturgy; working knowledge of Spanish, Italian and German; Suzuki method of actor training; Viewpoints; Acting coach for film and television.

**Professional Affiliations**

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (Professional Union)  
AGMA (American Guild of Musical Artists)

**Education**

**M.F.A.** in Theatre (Directing), University of Washington..  
**J.D.**, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
**B.A.** in History, Emory University.

*References Available Upon Request*