

# Laurie Eliscu (Calahan)

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Created a wide range of college course offerings incorporating a variety of artistic approaches, from Stanislavsky to The Paper Bag Players
- Taught both the theoretical and practical aspects of theatre in area colleges
- Directed and supervised the artistic aspects of fully mounted productions in professional, community, and university settings
- Collaborated with and coordinated the creative output of designers, choreographers, musical directors, and playwrights
- Performed and developed character roles in educational and professional theatres, including both straight plays and musicals
- Coached actors privately and in scene study workshops, researched and recommended dramatic material tailored to each individual student/actor
- Stage managed professional performers and technicians, insuring the smooth operation of performances; dealt with difficult personalities and kept actors focused and on track
- Translated set designer's ground plans and recommended changes and solutions to support the staging
- Studied, shared and upheld the employment rules of Equity contracts
- Wrote librettos, comic sketches, and adapted literature into dramatic forms
- Created short films in an educational setting; incorporated video in teaching commercial and film acting
- Produced and co-produced productions, hired staff, auditioned performers, devised budgets, delegated tasks, and successfully met deadlines
- Developed new plays by working closely with playwrights, testing scenes in rehearsal, suggesting re-writes, and guiding script development
- Founded a new not for profit theatre corporation, worked closely with legal advisors to develop mission, bylaws, and budgets for productions

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Iona College**, Speech and Communication Studies, instructed students in theory and practice of effective interpersonal communications, small group interactions and public speaking (2002- 2003)
- **Marymount College**, Theatre and Communications Department, taught Beginning Acting using Spolin technique, and Public Speaking (1998)
- **SUNY-Purchase**, Theatre courses for Department of Continuing Education included Scene Study for Stage and Film, Monologues and Preparing for the Acting Profession, Improvisation and Theatre Games, Playwrights/Actors Workshop, Ensemble and Multi-media approach to Freeing Your Instrument, Commercial Audition Techniques using video camera (1988-1995, year round, three semesters per year)

- **Pace University**, Department of Communications, taught a two course program: Interpersonal and Group Communications, followed by a full semester course in Public Speaking (1985-1989)
- **Mercy College**, Department of Music, taught a survey course in American Musical Theater, covering the history of musical theater and how the elements interact, using recordings to demonstrate (mid 1980's)
- **Rockland Community College**, Performing Arts Department, taught Introduction to Performing Arts, an overview of theatre history, theory and contemporary practice, with scripted examples (early 1980's)
- **Elizabeth Seton College**, Radio/TV Department, taught Acting (1982)
- **Hudson Modeling Workshops**, Nyack, New York – taught Acting for Commercials and basic acting technique to students of all ages
- **Additional Workshops and Private Coaching** includes The Learning Co-op of Fairfield University Teachers' Center (alternative high school), Pelham Art Center, Nyack High School, Scarsdale Recreation Camp, Camp Fernwood, Gloria Landes Studio, Young People's Workshop of Brunswick, Maine, Scarsdale YW-YMHA, and private coaching of aspiring actors in New York City

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Directed Equity Productions** of *Fuddy Meers* (Shadowland Theatre), *Deathtrap* (Polka Dot Playhouse), *The Good Doctor*, *Beau Jest*, *Fools*, (Schoolhouse Theater)
- **Directed non-Equity Professional Productions** of *Sylvia* (Schoolhouse Theater), *Squabbles* (Pioneer Playhouse), *Beyond Therapy* (Rhinebeck PAC and Hudson River Repertory Company), *Driving Miss Daisy* (Heritage Playhouse), *The Owl and the Pussycat* (Fort Salem Summer Theatre), *Dial M for Murder* (Brunswick Summer Theater), *Don't Send the Knight* (TheatreCycle), *Passing Aggressing* (Theatre80)
- **Directed New York Equity Showcases** of *Butterscotch*, *Stoneskippers* (Pulse Ensemble, Theatre Row), *Cosmic Wonders*, *Comic Blunders!*, *Wanda's Visit*, *Song, Dance & Comedy of Love* (Hudson River Repertory), *Crawling Arnold* (Quaigh Theatre), *Great Moments from the Good Book* (Jason's Cabaret), *Butterflies Are Free* (Wonderhorse Theatre), *Foxy and John*, *Number 234 & 235* (Eccentric Circles Theatre), *Review, Review* (The Helen Review at St. Clements), *Death of a Dieffenbachia* (American Renaissance Theatre), *Word of the Week Festival* (Theatre Artists Workshop), *Gunther on Guard* (Equity Staged Reading at Actors Outlet) and showcase scenes of *This Property is Condemned*, *Feiffer's People*, *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*, *Patio*, *Zoo Story*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Actors Outlet), *War Bonds* (ARTC/Neighborhood Playhouse),
- **Directed Community Theatre Productions** of *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Sylvia*, *The Foreigner*, *The Nerd* (Chappaqua Drama Group), *I Hate Hamlet*, *Bedroom Farce* (Westport Community Theatre), *I Ought To Be In Pictures* (Kweskin Barn Theatre), *Invisible Friends* (1010 Players staged reading), excerpt from *The Hobbit* (Theatre of the Open Eye), *Dirty Work at the Crossroads* (Hastings

Centennial Commission), *Finding Work* (U.U. Society of Hastings),

*Dark of the Moon* (Hastings Creative Arts Council staged reading), *Carnival* (Irvington Town Hall Theater), *Runaways*, (Tappan Zee Playhouse Association), *A Christmas Carol* (Tappan Zee Playhouse Association and Hudson River Repertory Company at Irvington Town Hall Theater)

- **Directed Educational Theatre Productions** of *Little Orphan Annie* (Masters Thesis, Sarah Lawrence College), *The Boys Next Door* (Westchester Community College), *Infancy*, *Improvisation Night*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Nyack Drama Workshop), *Fiorello*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, (Scarsdale Recreation Department), *The Chairs* (University of Bridgeport), *Once in a Lifetime* (co-directed at Sarah Lawrence College); directed *Scene Nights*, showcase scenes from over 100 comedies and dramas (S.U.N.Y. – Purchase, Department of Continuing Ed.).
- **Assistant Directed** 3 Thornton Wilder One Acts under Joan Vail Thorne (Emelin Theatre)
- **Directed Films and Video** of *Position Available* (comedy for U.A.Columbia Cablevision), student films of *Drawn to Dance* (SUNY-Purchase), *For Married Women Only*, *Grown Ups* (The New School for Social Research)
- **Choreographed and Musically Staged** the Orphan Numbers in *Annie* (Millbrook Playhouse), special sections of *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Ark on Park Theatre), co-choreographed with Cheryl Bass *Runaways* (Tappan Zee Playhouse Association), musically staged *Carnival* (Irvington Town Hall Theater) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Nyack Drama Workshop) and *A Christmas Carol* (Tappan Zee Playhouse / Hudson River Repertory Co.)
- **Stage Managed** *The Subject Was Roses* (Schoolhouse Theater, Equity), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Ark on Park Theatre), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Sarah Lawrence College), and assistant stage managed *The Golden Screw* (Provincetown Playhouse, Off-Broadway musical)
- **Designed Sets** for *Once in a Lifetime*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Spring's Awakening* (Sarah Lawrence College, under Lester Polakov), *The Owl and the Pussycat* (Fort Salem Summer Theatre), and collaborated on designs of several of the productions directed
- **Wrote Scripts – book and lyrics** for *Little Orphan Annie* (musical adaptation before Annie opened), *Don't Send the Knight!* (children's musical fantasy), *A Christmas Carol* (musical adaptation written in 1983), *Pud' inhead!* (a musical adaptation of a Mark Twain novel, in process), **storyboards** for *Drawn to Dance*, *For Married Women Only*, *Grown Ups* and several **comic sketches**
- **Performed Roles in Professional Theatres** (Member Actors Equity): Head Nun in *House of Blue Leaves*, Lilianna Banana in *Trunk!* (Schoolhouse Theater), The Girl understudy in *The Golden Screw* (Provincetown Playhouse), Cora in *Little Mary Sunshine*, Tintinabula in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (Woodstock Playhouse), Lucetta in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (musical), Bonnie in *Anything Goes*, Berthe in *Pippin*, Grandma Tseidel, Fruma Sara, and Yente understudy in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Disco Queenie in *Pinoche* (all at Mahopac Farm Playhouse), Donya Duck and Old Woman in *The Ugly Duckling*

- (Westco Productions), Jack's Mother in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Westchester Theatremobile), the Dutchess in *Alice in Wonderland* (78th Theatre Lab – showcase), Leader of Chorus in *The Trojan Women* (Woodstock Playhouse)
- **Performed Roles in Educational Theatre:** Cherubim and other roles in *The Wakefield Cycle of Mystery Plays*, Witch and Stepmother in *Hansel and Gretel*, Muriel Snyder in *The Midnight Bride*, Gypsy in *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real* (Bennington College), Julie in *Miss Julie*, Silent Woman in *The Stronger* (Washington University), Io in *Prometheus Bound* (University of Bridgeport), Sadie Thompson in *Rain*, Curley's Wife in *Of Mice and Men*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Beatrice in *Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* (Sarah Lawrence College scene showcases), Woman in *Getting Old and Full of Days*, Alice in *The Affair* (Circle in the Square Actors Workshop), scene work at The Neighborhood Playhouse and other workshops
  - **Performed Community Theatre Roles:** Pegeen Mike in *Playboy of the Western World* (City Players of St. Louis), Caroline in *Childhood* (Emelin Theatre), Princess (dancer) in *Kismet* (U.S. Army), Eva Lee Brown in *Dear Eva* (Lyndhurst, Greenwich Historical Society)
  - **Film/TV Acting** includes appearances on *The Equalizer*, *Rockbottom commercial*, *Parade magazine industrial*, *Drinking and Driving commercial*, *Coke roast*, *Citibank industrial*, role of Dog Owner in *Shepherds of the City*, Judith in *The Delicacy* (student films), AA member in *Bobby Dogs*, Restaurant Patron in *Like a Springsteen Song* (SAG experimental), Comic demanding client in *Gravel* (Ingrid Alexander independent film)

## EDUCATION

**Master of Fine Arts in Theatre, Sarah Lawrence College, 1975**  
**Bachelor of Arts, University of Bridgeport, 1971, Magna Cum Laude**  
 Attended **Bennington College, 1965-1967**  
 Attended **Washington University, St. Louis, 1968**  
**The Neighborhood Playhouse, Junior Division – Acting, Speech, Dance**  
**Circle in the Square Actors Workshop – Acting, Voice, Stage Movement**  
**HB Studios – Acting, Mime, Voice, Fencing**  
**Weist-Barron – Film Acting, Commercial Audition Techniques**  
**Improvisation – National Improvisational Theater**  
**Stage Combat – Basic unarmed technique with Ricki Ravitts**  
**Private Voice Lessons – Frank Baker, Paul Ukena, Celeste Magnone,**  
 Christopher Schumann, and others  
**Dance Training – Jazz, tap, modern at Broadway Dance Center, Steps,**  
 Bennington College, classes with Kathy Calahan at Nola Studios  
**BMI, ASCAP, Musical Theatreworks – Librettist Workshops**  
**The New School for Social Research – Filmmaking Certificate Program**

## ADDITIONAL INTERESTS

### Interior Design and Home Renovation

- Renovated and decorated three dwellings as profitable investment
- Designed and oversaw construction of additional new dwelling

## MEMBERSHIP

**Actors Equity Association**  
**Stage Directors and Choreographers Society**  
**Dramatists Guild**  
**American Federation of Radio & Television Artists**  
**Theatre Artists Workshop – Westport/Norwalk**  
**American Renaissance Theatre Company - NYC**  
**Theatre Resources Unlimited - NYC**

## AWARDS

**Winner of 3 Awards - 10th Annual New School Film Festival**  
*Silver Certificate – Overall Achievement*  
*Laumic Company Award – Best Editing*  
*Eastman Kodak Award – Best Cinematography*

- Theatre Reviews Enclosed and Listed Separately