

# 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, 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 *Howe & Hummel*, the musical (New York Musical Theatre Festival), *Socks Without Partners* (Samuel French OOB Festival), *The Chemist excerpt* (Pulse Theatre), *The Committee* (Richmond Shepard Theatre), *Mama's Boys* (Roy Arias Theatre Festival), *Butterscotch*, *Stoneskippers* (Pulse Ensemble), *Cosmic Wonders*, *Comic Blunders!*, *Wanda's Visit*, *Song, Dance & Comedy of Love*, *Season's Greetings* (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* (St. Clements), *Death of a Dieffenbachia* (American Renaissance Theatre), *Word of the Week Festivals* (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*, *Amends to Nature*, *Your Bags*, *The Shopping Monster* (American Renaissance Theatre Short Play festival)
- **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), *Pudd'n'head!* (a musical adaptation of a Mark Twain novel, in process), *Your Bags*, *Socks Without Partners*, **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*, (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 Listed Separately