

LIZA BALKAN

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www.lizabalkan.com

Liza Balkan is an award - winning theatre artist who has been working professionally as an actor, director, writer, librettist, dancer, choreographer, singer and educator since 1981. Since 2001, her freelance directing experience has included opera, the development of new work, site - specific projects, musical theatre, classical and contemporary text, and productions with young artists and students at the university level. She has assistant directed productions at the Stratford Festival, NAC, Shaw Festival and Souleppper Theatre Company. An original member of Tapestry Opera's Studio Company, Liza was also invited to participate in the BASH programme at Canadian Stage, and the Directors' Project at the Shaw Festival. She is presently a Resident Artist with ARC. Liza had an extended residency with The Theatre Centre between 2008 -2012. Through this residency, she developed, co-produced and then directed her documentary project *Out The Window*. It played to sold out houses during its limited run at TTC in 2012. With composer Lembit Beecher, she co-created the song cycle *Looking at Spring*, which premiered in Vermont in 2014 and *I Missed the Beginning*, which premiered in NYC in 2017. *Out The Window* was produced at the 2018 Luminato Festival in Toronto.

SELECTED DIRECTING CREDITS:

ALL THE WAYS YOU SCARE ME	Canadian Stage 2020
EVERY BRILLIANT THING	Grand Theatre, London 2020
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	Canadian Stage/Shakespeare in High Park 2019
MIKVEH	Harold Green Jewish Theatre/2018
KOONI	Buddies in Bad Times/ Rhubarb/ Queer Festival Halifax 2017
LOVE WITH LEILA	Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts/Canadian Fringe/NYC Solo Fest. GeenLight Arts/2015/16/17
AN EXPERIMENT WITH AN AIR PUMP	UP/UWindsor/2016
ELGATO con BOTAS/BERIO'S FOLK SONGS	Royal Conservatory Of Music/GGS. 2015
STAG AND DOE	Lighthouse Festival Theatre 2015
BICYCLE OPERA/SHADOWBOX TO MOSCOW	Roy Thomson Hall/ RCM 21C Festival / NS Summer Tour 2015
ANAIS NIN	UP/University of Windsor 2015
BICYCLE OPERA PROJECT	Koerner Hall/21C Festival 2014 <i>Canadian Premiere</i>
THE BROTHERS GRIMM	Summer Season Tour 2014
MY TWENTIETH CENTURY	Canadian Opera Company 2013
ONE SONG GLORY	Glenn Gould School/Royal Conservatory 2013
PARADISES LOST	Acting Upstage Company 2013
GIRL RABBI of the GOLDEN WEST	Summerworks/Musical Works in Concert 2013
OUT THE WINDOW	Orion/UVic 2013
WELFAREWELL	Theatre Centre/Window Collective 2012
CALCEDONIES	UP Playhouse/UWindsor 2012
DUSTINGS	LHSC/Jeff Nisker 2012/13
CRIMES OF THE HEART	CanadianStage Festival of Ideas and Creations 2011
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	UP Playhouse/UWindsor 2011
L'ELISIR D'AMORE	C.O.S.I. Sulmona, Italy 2010
SMASH	C.O.S.I. Sulmona, Italy 2010
LAKE NORA ARMS	Windsor University 2010
MOURNING DOVE	Summerworks/ Factory Theatre/Leacock Festival 2009
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS	Tarragon Theatre /Ark Collective 2009
7 STORIES	CCPA, victoria BC 2008
TROJAN WOMEN	CCPA, Victoria. BC 2007
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL	Assistant Director / Marti Maraden/Stratford Festival 2008
OPERA ON THE ROCKS	Assistant Director / Marti Maraden/Stratford Festival 2008
OPERA BRIEFS 06& 07	Ambient Opera Society/Paupers Pub 2008
BUNNICULA	Tapestry New Opera 2006/07
HALF AN HOUR	Theatre Athena/director/choreographer 2007
INVISIBLE MAN	Directors' Project/ Shaw Festival 2007
THE CRUCIBLE	Assistant Director to Neil Munro/Shaw Festival 2007
ENEMIES (Premiere)	Assistant Director to Tadeusz Bradecki/Shaw Festival 2007
	Ryerson Theatre School 2006

ORCHIDS	Marquis Entertainment 2005	
TRYING	Persephone Theatre 2005	
SKYLIGHT	Persephone Theatre 2004	cont'd
THE PAJAMA GAME	Randolph Academy/Bathurst Street Theatre 2007	
THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN	Director/choreographer/Ryerson Theatre School 2005	
PLATONOV	Assistant Director to Laszlo Marton	
	Soulpepper Theatre Company 2001	
SCHOOL FOR WIVES	Assistant Director to Laszlo Marton/Soulpepper 2001	
AMADEUS	Movement/Opera Coach – Theatre Aquarius 2007	
ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE	Assistant Director to Marti Maraden/ National Arts Centre 2001	
TWELFTH NIGHT	Assistant Director to Marti Maraden/NAC 2001	
PAVLOV'S BROTHER	Salivating Dog/Toronto Fringe 2005	
SO. THEN.	Creator/choreographer/ Mayhem Festival Theatre Columbus 2005	
MY DYING DAY	London Fringe Festival 2003	
WAVES	Choreographer – Rhubarb Festival 1997	

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Librettist

I Missed the Beginning/5 Boroughs Songbook/NYC/2017
Looking at Spring - Meditations on Aging
 Opera Philadelphia, Scrag Mountain Music 2014
Ride the Fear - Ivan Barbotin's album ATOM 2014
Ice Cream/ Opera Briefs /Tapestry New Opera - 2012
(What Rhymes with) Azimuth/Tapestry/Briefs- 2012
Little Miss All Canadian/Tapestry/Briefs - 2012
DUSTINGS/Festival of Ideas and Creations 2011

Writer

Out The Window/Theatre Centre/Window Collective
 2011/12
Out The Window/Crows Theatre Workshop 2010
 Playwright in Residence-Crows Theatre 2009/10
 Artist In residence Theatre Centre 2008/2009/12
Plenty Room/Winnipeg Jewish Theatre 2007
Wedding Number/WJT 1997
Nobody Does Italian w/Shelley Hoffman
 Martha Stewart Projects Pea Green Prods/
 Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
Leftovers Solar Stage /TO Fringe 1994

Dramaturge

Brangst: 1989 Rhubarb/1990 TO Fringe
 LOVE WITH LEILA/Izad Etemadi/Unveiled Productions
 CALCEDONIES/Jeff Nisker
 ORCHIDS/Marquis Entertainment
 PAVLOV'S BROTHER/ Salivating dog/TO Fringe
 SARAH'S DAUGHTER/university Health Sciences

Producer

OUT THE WINDOW Co- producer with Theatre Centre
 2011/2012
 SARAH'S DAUGHTER/Tour 2008/09
 LEFTOVERS /TO Fringe1992
 CATS Cabaret – PWA fundraiser @Arts Club1986

Acting Teacher/Coach/Arts Educator

COC/ Living Opera 2015/16/2017
 Canadian Opera Company/opera creation 2016
 University Of Windsor/Director and teacher 2010 - 2015
 Movement Instructor/Birmingham Conservatory/Stratford
 Festival 2011 - 2014

Director/teacher/ Randolph Academy 2007/2013
Movement Instructor/St. Clair College 2013
Canadian College of the Performing Arts/Director/Instructor
2013/2008
Arts Educator/Te Amim Theatre - schools in GTA 2010/11
Shakesperience – two week summer programme 2009
Academy of Film and Television
Sheridan College/Seneca College
Soulpepper Youth Outreach/Pleiades Theatre
Usdan Centre – Long Island, New York

Casting Director

Feature Film: HOUSE/Laurie Lynd Director/
L.Lynd/ Daniel Macivor – Writers
Water Pictures/household Ent.- Producer
Feature Film: THE FISHING TRIP
Amnon Buchbinder- Director
Canadian Film Centre/Camilla Freiberg - Producers
Feature Film: CITY OF DARK
Bruno Pacheco – Director/writer
NFB/October Films – Producers

Short Film: R.S.V.P. (Gemini Award Winner)
Laurie Lynd-Director/writer/Paul Brown-Producer

Feature Casting Liaison for The Canadian Film Centre's Film Project

Writer/producer

OUT THE WINDOW/Lab Cab; Factory Theatre
BRANGST/Toronto Fringe/Rhubarb/Sudbury Fringe
LEFTOVERS/ Toronto Fringe

M.F.A.

York University/CanadianStage Graduate Studies in Directing

DORA MAVOR MOORE AWARD

Best Performance in a Musical 1997, Still The Night

BETTY MITCHELL NOMINATION

Best Actor/1998, Still The Night

TYRONE GUTHRIE AWARD

Stratford Shakespeare Festival, 2008

CAEA

Councillor – 3 terms; 1term as Secretary on Exec. Committee

DORA/TAPA

Board Member 04/06

TRAINING: M.F.A. York University/CanadianStage Graduate Studies in Directing 2019

Graduate:American Academy of Dramatic Arts Grad 1981

Acting: Dennis Moore, Rosemary Dunsmore, Pat Hamilton., Laszlo Marton

Directing: Shaw Festival Director's' Project; Richard Rose, Worldstage Masterclass (Peter Hinton, John Barton, Mike Alfreds);internships/assisting Lazlo Marton, Neil Munro, Tadeusz Bradecki.

Dance Training: York University, Les Ballet Jazz, Toronto DanceTheatre, Banff School of Fine Arts.

Voice/Singing: Patsy Rodenberg, David Smukler, Alan Reid.

AGENT (Acting)
Tova Small
Meridian Artists
416-961-2777
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AGENT (Creative/directing)
Ian Arnold
Catalyst TCM
416-645 - 0935
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LIZA BALKAN
ACTRA/EQUITY/SAG/AEA

Represented by Tova Smith/Merdian Artists

Height: 5'2 Weight: 109lbs

Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown

SELECTED FILM & TELEVISION

Rising Suns	Maroushka (recurring)	Rising Suns Prod./Leif Bristow
AFTER CAMELOT	Lrg.Principal	C-Lot Prod./Jon Cassar/Katie Holmes
REMEMBER	Principal	Serendipity/Atom Egoyan
THE PIN	Principal	Scythia Films/Naomi Jaye
GOOD DOG	Principal	Shaftesbury/Ken Finkleman
DOC	Principal	PAX/Stephen Fanfara
THE 11 th HOUR	Principal	CTV/Kelly Makin
AMERICA'S PRINCE	Principal	FOX/Eric Laneuville
CROWN HEIGHTS	Featured Principal	Showtime/Jeremy Kagan
BLUE MURDER	Principal	Global/Tim Southam
THE 5 th QUADRANT	Principal	S & S Productions/Bruce Pirrie
KHALED	Principal	Asghar Massombagi/CFC Feature
TROUBLE IN MIND	Principal	Sleeping Giant Productions
HIDDEN AGENDA	Principal	Le Monde Ent./Iain Patterson
BABYMAKER	Principal	CBS/Arlene Stafford
STREET LEGAL	Principal	CBC/Stacey Curtis
E.N.G.	Principal	Alliance/Steve DiMarco
INTERVALS	Principal	Cathy Robertson
I WAKE UP MARRIED	Lead	Laurie Lynd

SELECTED THEATRE

KISS	Interperter	Smash/Arc/Canadianstage /Ashlie Corcoran
POMONA	Gale	ARC/Christopher Stanton
THE STRONGER VARIATIONS	She	Buddies in Badtimes/ Theatre Rusticle/A. McMacken
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD	Lily	Harley Dog Prods./Brenley Charkow
THE DROWNING GIRLS	Margaret	Thousand Islands Playhouse/Kathryn Mackay
SMALL MIRACLE	Anushka	Pak Siew B'ye/Varrick Grimes
FORMS OF DEVOTION	She	Theatre Kingston/Mark Cassidy
BELL BOOK AND CANDLE	Queenie	Touchmark Theatre/Doug Beattie
THE STRONGER VARIATIONS	She	Harbourfront/Theatre Rusticle/A. McMacken
GOLDA'S BALCONY	Golda	Winnipeg Jewish Theatre/Mariam Bernstein
THE STRONGER VARIATIONS	She	Theatre Rusticle/Allyson McMacken
BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE	Marie	Touchmark/Doug Beattie
A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT	Doto	Touchmark/Doug Beattie
IT'S ALL TRUE	Olive/Eva	GCTC/Stewart Arnott
THE WINTER'S TALE	Emilia/Dorcus	National Arts Centre/Marti Maraden
FORMS OF DEVOTION	She	Threshold/SummerWorks/Mark Cassidy
EMPEROR OF ATLANTIS	Elisabeth	Ian Prinsloo/On the Verge/NAC

THREE PENNY OPERA	Street Singer/Jake	Persephone Theatre/T. Feheregyhazi
WIT	Susie Monahan	Globe Theatre/Ruth Smillie
SYLVIA	Sylvia	Belfry Theatre/Doug Beattie
THE JUNIPER TREE	Melinka	T.O. Fringe/Josephine LeGrice
WE ARE AT WAR	Karen	SummerWorks/John Palmer
ROAR OF THE GREASEPAINT	Kid	Reprise/Tom Diamond
**STILL OF THE NIGHT	Bryna	Factory Theatre/ATP/NAC/Tom Diamond
*STILL OF THE NIGHT	Bryna	Theatre Passe Muraille/Anne Anglin
WEST SIDE STORY	Anybodys	U.S. National Tour/Kennedy Centre/R. Mitchell
THE FOREIGNER	Catherine	Theatre Aquarius/Max Reimer
VILLA EDEN	Charisse	Blyth Festival/Anne Anglin
MA BELLE MABEL	Mayme/Helen Keller	Blyth Festival/Janet Amos
I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES	Libby	Grand Theatre/Marti Maraden
OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD	Liz Morden	Sudbury Theatre Centre/Gord McCall
UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS	Benita	Theatre Faux/M.McKinley
THE VILE GOVERNESS	Fritzi	T.O. Fringe Fest/Sue Miner
RETRIBUTION	Osculum	T.O. Fringe Fest/Adrian Truss
WAVES	Edith	Rhubarb Festival/Adam Nashman
LEFTOVERS (One Woman Show)	Writer/Performer	Solar Stage/T.O. Fringe/C. Hayos
BRANGST	One Woman Show	Toronto Fringe/Micheline Chevrier
TORONTO/MISSISSIPPI	Jhana	Sudbury Theatre Centre/Gord McCall
THE LEARNED LADIES	Martine	Equity Showcase/M. Chevrier
PAL JOEY	Wagner	Grand Theatre/NAC/Larry Lillo
CATS	Gumbie/Demeter	Elgin/Can. National Tour/David Taylor
AWAKE AND SING	Hennie	People's Light & Theatre Co. PA./M. Nash
UNDER MILKWOOD	Several	People's Light/Lou Lippe
LITTLE BLACK FISH	Lead	Theatre for the New City, NYC

***1997 Dora Award Winner – Best Actress**

****1998 Betty Mitchell Award Nomination – Best Actress**

ANIMATION

SAILOR MOON Sailor Mercury/Amy Optimum Productions

TRAINING

Acting – Rosemary Dunsmore; Pat Hamilton; Dennis Moore; AADA (NY) Graduate '81; Lazlo Marton
 Directing – M.F.A: York University/Canadian Stage Directing Studies. World Stage Masterclass: Mike Alfreds; John Barton; Christopher Newton; Richard Rose; Peter Hinton
 Voice – David Smukler; Patsy Rodenburg
 Dance – Banff School of Fine Arts; Les Ballets Jazz; Al Greene; Lois Smith
 Singing – Alan Reid

