

## **LIZA BALKAN**

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Liza Balkan is an award - winning theatre artist who has been working professionally as an actor director, writer, librettist, dancer, 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. 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 and was produced at Toronto's International Luminato Festival in 2018. 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. She has written text for several short opera works produced by Tapestry Opera and Bicycle Opera Project. She presently has a work in development with composer Brian Current, scheduled for production in 2021 at RCM/Koerner Hall. Liza received her MFA in 2019 through the York /CanadianStage Graduate Studies in Directing.

### **SELECTED THEATRE and OPERA DIRECTING CREDITS:**

GHOSTS OF MY HOUSE	CanadianStage/2020/Cancelled (Covid— 19)
EVERY BRILLIANT THING	Grand Theatre/2020
LLANDOVERY CASTLE	Opera Laurier/2020
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	Shakespeare in High Park/2019
BACKSTAGE AT CARNEGIE HALL	Tapestry/Workshop 2019
MIKVEH	Harold Green Jewish Theatre 2018
KOONI	Rhubarb Fest. Buddies in Bad Times/Queer Festival Halifax
LOVE WITH LEILA	Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts/Greenlight Arts
	NYC Solo Fest/Fringe Tour 2015-2017
AN EXPERIMENT WITH AN AIRPUMP	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	Roy Thompson Hall/RCM 21C Festival/ Nova Scotia tour 2015
TO MOSCOW	UP/University of Windsor/2015
AN AIS NIN	Koerner Hall/21C Festival 2014
BICYCLE OPERA PROJECT	Summer Season 2014
THE BROTHERS GRIMM	Canadian Opera Company 2013
MY TWENTIETH CENTURY	Glenn Gould School/RCM 2013
ONE SONG GLORY	Acting Upstage Company 2013
PARADISES LOST	Summerworks/Musical Works in Concert 2013
GIRL RABBI of the GOLDEN WEST	Orion/UVic 2013
OUT THE WINDOW	Theatre Centre/Window Collective 2012
WELFAREWELL	UP/UWindsor 2012
CALCEDONIES	LHSC/Jeff Nisker 2012/13
CRIMES OF THE HEART	UP Playhouse/UWindsor 2011
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	C.O.S.I. Sulmona, Italy 2010
L'ELISIR D'AMORE	C.O.S.I. Sulmona, Italy 2010
SMASH	Windsor University 2010
LAKE NORA ARMS	Summerworks/ Factory Theatre/Leacock Festival 2009
MOURNING DOVE	Tarragon Theatre /Ark Collective 2009
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS	CCPA, Victoria BC 2008
7 STORIES	CCPA, Victoria. BC 2007
OPERA ON THE ROCKS	Ambient Opera Society/ Paupers Pub 2008
OPERA BRIEFS 06& 07	Tapestry New Opera 2006/07
BUNNICULA	Theatre Athena/director/choreographer 2007
HALF AN HOUR	Directors' Project/ Shaw Festival 2007
ENEMIES ( Premiere )	Ryerson Theatre School 2006
ORCHIDS	Marquis Entertainment 2005
TRYING	Persephone Theatre 2005
SKYLIGHT	Persephone Theatre 2004
THE PAJAMA GAME	Randolph Academy/Bathurst Street Theatre 2007

THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN  
PAVLOV'S BROTHER  
MY DYING DAY  
WAVES

Director/choreographer/Ryerson Theatre School 2005  
Salivating Dog/Toronto Fringe 2005  
London Fringe Festival 2003  
Choreographer – Rhubarb Festival 1997

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

TROJAN WOMEN  
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL  
INVISIBLE MAN  
THE CRUCIBLE  
PLATONOV / SCHOOL FOR WIVES  
  
TWELFTH NIGHT  
ENEMY of the PEOPLE

Assistant Dir. / Marti Maraden/Stratford Festival 2008  
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Assistant Dir. / Neil Munro/Shaw Festival 2007  
Assistant Dir. /Tadeusz Bradecki/Shaw Festival 2007  
Assistant Dir.to Laszlo Marton  
Soulpepper Theatre Company 2001  
Assistant Director to Marti Maraden/NAC 2001  
Assistant Dir. Marti Maraden 2000

**RELATED EXPERIENCE:**

**Writer**

*Out The Window*/T Luminato Festival 2018  
Theatre Centre/Window Collective  
2011/12  
*Out The Window*/Crows Theatre Workshop 2010  
Playwright in Residence-Crows Theatre 2009/10  
Artist In Residence The Theatre Centre 2008/2009  
*Plenty Room*/Winnipeg Jewish Theatre 2007  
*Wedding Number*/WJT 1997  
*Leftovers/ Rhubarb/Fringe Tour* 1991  
*BRANgst /TO Fringe 1989/Solar Stage* 1992  
*Martha Stewart Projects*  
Pea Green Prods/ Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

**Librettist**

The Vertical Horizon w/BrianiCurrent/Tapestry /Koerner Hall  
2021  
Looking at Spring;Meditations on Aging/ 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 /Canstage2011

**Dramaturge**

TIRESIAS/Jennifer Wise  
ANTIGONE 2020/ Jennifer Wise  
KOONIE/Izad Etemadi  
GIRL RABBI FROM THE GOLDEN WEST/Jennifer Wise  
LOVE WITH LEILA/Izad Etemadi.  
CALCEDONIES/Jeff Nisker  
ORCHIDS/ Jeff Nisker/Marquis Ent.  
PAVLOV'S BROTHER/ Salivating dog/TO Fringe  
SARAH'S DAUGHTER/university Health Sciences

**Educator/Coach**

Freelance Acting coaching: 2007 -2020  
Humber College Teacher/Creation Project 2020  
University Of Windsor/Director and teacher 2010 - 2016  
Director/teacher/ Randolph Academy 2013  
Movement Instructor/St. Clair College 2013  
Movement Instructor/Birmingham Conservatory/Stratford  
Festival 2011/2012  
Arts Educator/Te Amim Theatre - schools in GTA 2010/11  
Shakesperience – two week summer programme 2009  
CCPA, Victoria BC. director/educator 2007/08  
Academy of Film and Television  
Sheridan College/Seneca College  
Soulpepper Youth Outreach/Pleiades Theatre  
Usdan Centre – Long Island, New York

**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

**Casting Director**

Feature Film: HOUSE  
Laurie Lynd – Director;  
L.Lynd/ Daniel Macivor – Writers  
Water Pictures/household Ent.- Producers

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

**Writer/Performer**

OUT THE WINDOW/Lab Cab; Factory Theatre  
SO.THEN.Creator/choreographer/ Mayhem Festival  
Theatre Columbus 2005  
BRANgst/Toronto Fringe/Rhubarb/Sudbury Fringe  
LEFTOVERS/ Toronto Fringe

**EDUCATION:**

M.F.A.

American Academy of Dramatic Arts  
SEED School -Toronto

York University/CanadianStage Graduate Studies in  
Directing 2017 - 2019  
New York City 1979 - 1981 Graduate –1981  
1975-1978

**AWARDS**

DORA MAVOR MOORE AWARD  
BETTY MITCHELL NOMINATION  
TYRONE GUTHRIE AWARD

Best Performance in a Musical 1997, Still The Night  
Best Actor/1998, Still The Night  
Stratford Shakespeare Festival, 2008

**OTHER**

CAEA  
DORA/TAPA

Councillor – 3 terms; 1term as Secretary on Exec. Committee  
Board Member 04/06

**TRAINING:**

**Directing:** MFA York University, 2019 Shaw Festival Director's' Project; 2010 Richard Rose, Worldstage Masterclass (Peter Hinton, John Barton, Mike Alfreds );internships/assisting Neil Munro, Tadeusz Bradecki.  
**Acting:**American Academy of Dramatic Arts Graduate 1981; Dennis Moore, Rosemary Dunsmore, Pat Hamilton., Laszlo Marton

**Libretti Writing:** Tapestry Opera Lib/Lab, Noteworthy.

**Dance Training:** York University, Les Ballet Jazz, TDT, Banff School of Fine Arts.

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

**AGENT ( Creative)**

Ian Arnold

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**AGENT (Acting)**

Tova Small

Meridian Artists

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