

# R I S A B R A I N I N

Representation:

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A passionate, innovative artistic leader, freelance director and educator working in LORT theaters large and small for 25+ years. Founded and runs a highly successful, unique play development program. Dedicated to building deep collaborations with artists, audiences and communities alike.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING

|                                                                                                    |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Utah Shakespeare Festival</b>                                                                   | 2026                           |
| <i>Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (July-October 2026)</i>                                             |                                |
| <b>Gulfshore Playhouse</b>                                                                         | 2024, 2026                     |
| <i>Dear Jack, Dear Louise</i>                                                                      |                                |
| <i>Every Brilliant Thing</i>                                                                       |                                |
| <b>Repertory Theatre of St. Louis</b>                                                              | 2009, 2017, 2025               |
| <i>The Cottage</i>                                                                                 |                                |
| <i>Secret Order</i>                                                                                |                                |
| <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>                                                                       |                                |
| <b>Alabama Shakespeare Festival</b>                                                                | 2000, 2012, 2024               |
| <i>The Comedy of Errors, In the Book Of*, Dear Jack, Dear Louise</i>                               |                                |
| <b>Rubicon Theatre</b>                                                                             | 2024                           |
| <i>"A" Train*</i>                                                                                  |                                |
| <b>The Guthrie Theater</b>                                                                         | 1990-96, 2023                  |
| <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>                                                                |                                |
| <i>Mystery of the Rose Bouquet</i>                                                                 |                                |
| <i>A Christmas Carol</i>                                                                           |                                |
| Short Plays: <i>Tone Clusters, The Zoo Story, Naomi in the Living Room</i>                         |                                |
| <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>                                                                      |                                |
| <i>AKA: Orwell*</i>                                                                                |                                |
| <i>Fantasio, Marat/Sade, The Sea Gull, K: Impressions of The Trial Tour (AD to Garland Wright)</i> |                                |
| <i>Dream on Monkey Mountain (AD to Bill T. Jones) Private Lives (AD to Michael Engler)</i>         |                                |
| <b>Indiana Repertory Theatre</b>                                                                   | 1997-2023                      |
| <i>Mary Shelley's Frankenstein</i>                                                                 | <i>Holmes and Watson</i>       |
| <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>                                                                | <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> |
| <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (co-production)</i>                           |                                |
| <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>                                                                       | <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>    |
| <i>Rosa's Children*</i>                                                                            | <i>One Thousand Cranes</i>     |
| <i>Talley's Folly</i>                                                                              | <i>Blithe Spirit</i>           |
| <i>Noises Off</i>                                                                                  | <i>Macbeth</i>                 |
| <i>Pygmalion</i>                                                                                   | <i>The Herbal Bed</i>          |
| <i>I have Before me a Remarkable Document Given to me by a Young Lady from Rwanda</i>              |                                |
| <b>Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park</b>                                                            | 2022                           |
| <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>                                                                |                                |
| <b>Seattle Children's Theatre</b>                                                                  | 2022                           |
| <i>The Watsons Go To Birmingham – 1963</i>                                                         |                                |
| <b>Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis</b>                                                            | 2021                           |
| <i>The Comedy of Errors (on Zoom)</i>                                                              |                                |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>United Solo Festival, NY</b>                                          |                                                    | 2015-2019           |
| <i>That Wonder Boy*</i>                                                  |                                                    |                     |
| <i>"A" Train*</i>                                                        |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Pittsburgh Public Theatre</b>                                         |                                                    | 2019                |
| <i>Indecent</i>                                                          |                                                    |                     |
| <b>History Theatre, St. Paul</b>                                         |                                                    | 1995-97, 2019       |
| <i>Civil Ceremony*</i>                                                   | <i>Oh, Pioneers!</i>                               |                     |
| <i>Gloria, A Life</i>                                                    |                                                    |                     |
| <b>American Players Theatre</b>                                          |                                                    | 2000-01, 2018       |
| <i>Uncle Vanya</i>                                                       | <i>The Government Inspector</i>                    |                     |
| <i>Measure for Measure</i>                                               |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Playmakers Repertory Company</b>                                      |                                                    | 2018                |
| <i>"A" Train*</i>                                                        |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Syracuse Stage</b>                                                    |                                                    | 2017                |
| <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (co-production)</i> |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Swine Palace Theatre</b>                                              |                                                    | 2017                |
| <i>Stupid F***ing Bird</i>                                               |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Elements Theatre Collective</b>                                       |                                                    | 2017                |
| <i>Stupid F***ing Bird</i>                                               |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Denver Center Theatre</b>                                             |                                                    | 2015                |
| <i>Appoggiatura*</i>                                                     |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Pacific Conservatory Performing Arts (PCPA)</b>                       |                                                    | 2003, 2014          |
| <i>Honk!</i>                                                             | <i>36 Views</i>                                    |                     |
| <b>Mixed Blood Theatre</b>                                               |                                                    | 1993-94, 2008, 2013 |
| <i>A, My Name is Still Alice (co-director)</i>                           |                                                    |                     |
| <i>Love Person*</i>                                                      | <i>Shiv*</i>                                       |                     |
| <b>Clarence Brown Theatre</b>                                            |                                                    | 2011                |
| <i>The Music Man</i>                                                     |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Great Lakes Theatre</b>                                               |                                                    | 2004-10             |
| <i>Julius Caesar</i>                                                     | <i>As You Like It</i>                              |                     |
| <i>Othello</i>                                                           | <i>Measure for Measure</i>                         |                     |
| <b>Idaho Shakespeare Festival</b>                                        |                                                    | 2004-10             |
| <i>Julius Caesar</i>                                                     | <i>King Lear</i>                                   |                     |
| <i>Othello</i>                                                           | <i>Measure for Measure</i>                         |                     |
| <b>Commonweal Theatre, MN</b>                                            |                                                    | 2009                |
| <i>John Gabriel Borkman* (new adaptation)</i>                            |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Portland Stage Company</b>                                            |                                                    | 2007                |
| <i>Iron Kisses (area premiere)</i>                                       |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Milwaukee Repertory Theatre</b>                                       |                                                    | 2005-06             |
| <i>The Underpants</i>                                                    |                                                    |                     |
| <i>Intimate Apparel</i>                                                  |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis</b>                                 |                                                    | 2004                |
| <i>As You Like It</i>                                                    |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Shakespeare Santa Cruz</b>                                            |                                                    | 2002-03             |
| <i>The Sea Gull</i>                                                      | <i>Hamlet</i>                                      |                     |
| <i>The Emperor's New Clothes*</i>                                        |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Kansas City Repertory Theatre</b>                                     |                                                    | 2000-03             |
| <i>Machinal</i>                                                          | <i>Morning Star</i>                                |                     |
| <i>Indian Ink</i>                                                        |                                                    |                     |
| <b>Actors Theatre of Louisville</b>                                      |                                                    | 1996-98             |
| <i>Greater Tuna</i>                                                      | <i>Lots of Love Gertrude, Ever Thine Thornton*</i> |                     |

\*World Premiere

## NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

### LAUNCH PAD Preview Productions, University of California, Santa Barbara

2005-26

*Standing Still* by Melinda Lopez

*Strange Birds* by E.M. Lewis

*Everybody's Favorite Mothers* by James Still

*She Wolf, Margaret of Anjou* by Katie Bender

*Alone, Together: a Zoom Festival of 39 short plays* (Artistic Director)

*Abundance* by James Still & *Auld Lang Syne* by Jenny Mercein (Director)

*What Martha Did* by Enid Graham

*The Watsons Go To Birmingham --1963* by Cheryl L. West

*Staging the Daffy Dame* by Anne García-Romero

*The Talented Ones* by Yussef El Guindi

*We Want the Funk, a rustbelt lullaby on the one!* by Idris Goodwin

*Appoggiatura* by James Still

*Untitled IV* by Ruth Markofsky by Alison Tatlock

*Entangled* by Lila Rose Kaplan

*Biederman's Match* by Beau Willimon, music by Michelle DiBucci, lyrics by Portia Kamons

*Kingdom City* by Sheri Wilner

*La Niñera: The Nursemaid* by Barbara Lebow

*Plumfield, Iraq* by Barbara Lebow

*The Dinosaur Within* by John Walch

*Melancholy Play* by Sarah Ruhl

### LAUNCH PAD Reading/Workshops:

*Summer Reading Series and Pop-Up Readings* (Director)

2014-25

Louis Bayard, Jami Brandli, Deborah Brevoort, Dan Castellaneta, Mia Chung, Franky D. Gonzalez,

Idris Goodwin, Declan Hughes, Arlene Hutton, William Davies King, Deb Lacusta, Barbara Lebow

E.M. Lewis, Melinda Lopez, Joyce Carol Oates, Lia Romeo, Cheri Steinkellner, James Still, Cheryl L. West

*Amplify Reading Series Festival*, 18 new plays (Artistic Director)

2021-25

Leo Cabranes-Grant, Lisa Sanaye Dring, Yuseff El Guindi, Kareem Fahmy, Keiko Green, Candrice Jones,

Rehana Lew Mirza, Milta Ortiz, Eliana Pipes, Jacqueline E. Lawton, Matthew Paul Olmos, A. Rey Pamatmat,

Eric Reyes Loo, Caridad Svich, Megan Tabaque, Stephanie Kyung Walters

### Olney Theatre Company, New Playwrights Festival

2026

*Full-On Cleopatra* by Yussef El Guindi

### Road Theatre Company, New Playwrights Festival

2021

*Refugee Rhapsody* by Yussef El Guindi (on Zoom)

### Seven Devils New Play Foundry

2021

*The Body's Midnight* by Tira Palmquist (on Zoom)

### Skylight Theatre, Los Angeles

2020

*Dear Auntie D* by Michele Willens (on Streamyard)

### Arkansas New Play Festival, TheatreSquared

2013, 2018

*The Spiritualist* by Bob Ford *Staging the Daffy Dame* by Anne García-Romero

### The Lark New Play Development, NY

2013, 2016

*"A" Train* by Annie Torsiglieri *Bad Touch* by Joyce Carol Oates

### Project Y, NY *Above Water* by Bob Clyman

2015

B R A I N I N

**Red Bull Theatre, NY Short New Play Festival**  
**New Harmony Project**

*The Roof* by Suzanne Bradbeer

*In the Book Of* by John Walch

2013

2005, 2011

## ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Founder / Artistic Director, [LAUNCH PAD](#)

a residency and performance program for new plays at UC Santa Barbara

Artistic Director, **Shakespeare Santa Cruz**

Associate Artistic Director, **Kansas City Repertory Theatre**

Associate Artistic Director, **Indiana Repertory Theatre**

Associate Company Director, **The Guthrie Theater**

Director of Apprentice/Intern Program, **Actors' Theatre of Louisville**

Resident Director, **The Guthrie Theater**

2005-present

2001-03

2000-02

1997-00

1995-96

1996

1991-93

## AWARDS / HONORS

**St. Louis Theatre Circle Awards, 2026**

**Winner: Outstanding Production of a Comedy** *The Cottage*, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

**Nomination: Outstanding Director**

**Nominee, SDCF's 2021 Zelda Fichandler Award**

**SDC's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Top 10 "Standout Moments" of 2017-18**

For casting an actor on the autism spectrum in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

**SALT Award: Best Director** *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Syracuse Stage

**Santa Barbara Independent Award:** *Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird* at Elements Theatre Collective

**United Solo Festival, NY**

**Best Direction, Best One-Man Show, Audience Award:** *That Wonder Boy*

**Best Production, Best Encore:** *"A" Train*

**Santa Barbara Independent Award:** *36 Views* at PCPA

**Colorado Henry Award Nomination: Best New Play** *Appoggiatura*

**Kevin Kline Award**

**Nomination: Best Director**

**Winner: Best Ensemble:** *Secret Order* at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

**Santa Barbara Independent Awards:** *The Dinosaur Within & Timon of Athens* at UCSB

**Northern Ohio Live Award:** *Julius Caesar* at Great Lakes Theatre Festival

**Named "Arts Newsmaker of the Year"** by the Santa Cruz Sentinel

**Finalist, Alan Schneider Directing Award**

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, **College of Fellows of the American Theatre** since 2020

President (2015-16), **National Theatre Conference (NTC)**. Member since 2002. Board Trustee for 12 years.

Member, **Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)** since 1997

## EDUCATION

**CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY**, BFA in Acting

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