

LIZA BALKAN

M.F.A

Lizabalkan.org

Liza Balkan is a Dora Award-winning, multi-disciplinary theatre artist, with a professional career that spans over forty years. She works as a director, educator, writer, librettist, and actor - each discipline informing and complementing the other. Since 2001, her freelance directing experience has included theatre and opera, the development and creation of new work, site-specific projects, musical theatre, classical and contemporary text, and productions with young artists and students at the university level. She received her MFA in 2019 through the CanadianStage /York Graduate Studies Program. Liza is presently on faculty at Sharjah Performing Arts Academy in the UAE.

ACTING TEACHER /COACH /EDUCATOR

Private coaching 2010-Present.
Sharjah Performing Arts Academy/UAE/Course Leader-Acting -203/25
Western Univ./Don Wright Faculty of Music/Acting Instructor 2021/22
Driftwood Theatre/ Mentor 2021.
George Brown School/Theatre Dept./ Stage Director 2021
Humber College - Theatre Department/2020 - 2021
Canadian Opera Company/Artist Educator/
workshop leader 2016 —2020
University Of Windsor/Director and teacher 2010 - 2016
Movement Instructor/Birmingham Conservatory/Stratford
Festival 2011 - 2014
Director/teacher/ Randolph Academy 2013
Movement Instructor/St. Clair College 2013
Arts Educator/Te Amim Theatre - schools in GTA 2010/11
Shakesperience – two week summer programme 2009
Academy of Film and Television
Ryerson Theatre School -director
Soulpepper Youth Outreach/Pleiades Theatre
Usdan Centre – Long Island, New York 1981/8

SELECTED WRITING CREDITS

Librettist

Gould's Wall /21C/Koerner Hall/RCM 2022**
After the Fire/Brooklyn Art Song Society 2022
So, how's it Been?/Here for Now Theatre 2021
I Missed the Beginning/5Boroughs Songbook Fest. NYC.2018
What Rhymes with Azimuth/Bicycle Opera Project. 2016 Tour
21C Festival/Koerner Hall /RCM 2016
Looking at Spring; Meditations on Ageing / 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/Luminato Festival 2018
Out the Window/Theatre Centre/Window Collective 2012
Out The Window/Crows Theatre Workshop 2010
Playwright in Residence-Crows Theatre 2009/10
Artist In residence Theatre Centre 2008/2009
Plenty Room/Winnipeg Jewish Theatre 2007
Leftovers/Rhubarb Festival /2002
Wedding Number/WJT 1997
Martha Stewart Projects/
Pea Green Prods/ Buddies in Bad Times Theatre 1996
BRANGst/Rhubarb /Toronto Fringe 1996

SELECTED DIRECTING CREDITS:

FROG SONG	Here For Now Theatre 2023
MUSTARD	University of Waterloo 2022
SO, HOW'S IT BEEN?	Creator/Director /Here for Now Theatre, 2021
ALWAYS STILL THE DAWN	CanadianStage 2020 (Cancelled/Covid -19)
EVERY BRILLIANT THING	Grand Theatre, London 2020
LLANDOVERY CASTLE	Wilfred Laurier 2020
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	CanadiansStage/Shakespeare in His Park. 2019
MIKVEH	Harold Green Jewish Theatre 2019
KOONI	Buddies in Bad Times/Rhubarb/Queer Festival Halifax'17
LOVE WITH LEILA	Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts/NYC Solo Fest
	GreenLight Arts 2015/16/17
	UP/UWindsor 2016
AN EXPERIMENT WITH AN AIR PUMP	Royal Conservatory Of Music/GGS. 2015
EL GATO con BOTAS/ BERIO'S FOLK SONGS	Lighthouse Festival Theatre 2015
STAG AND DOE	Roy Thomson Hall/ RCM 21C Festival /Summer Tour 2015
BICYCLE OPERA PROJECT	Springworks/Canadian Fringe/NYC Solo Fest.2015
LOVE WITH LEILA	UP/University of Windsor 2015
TO MOSCOW	Koerner Hall/21C Festival 2014
AN AIS NIN	Summer Tour/Toronto/Stratford/Guelph/et al. 2014
BICYCLE OPERA PROJECT	Canadian Opera Company 2013
THE BROTHERS GRIMM	Glenn Gould School/Royal Conservatory 2013
MY TWENTIETH CENTURY	Acting Upstage Company 2013
ONE SONG GLORY	Summerworks/Musical Works in Concert 2013
PARADISES LOST	Orion/UVic 2013
GIRL RABBI of the GOLDEN WEST	Theatre Centre/Window Collective 2012
OUT THE WINDOW	UP Playhouse/UWindsor 2012
WELFAREWELL	LHSC/Jeff Nisker 2012/13
CALCEDONIES	CanadianStage Festival of Ideas and Creations 2011
DUSTINGS	UP Playhouse/UWindsor 2011
CRIMES OF THE HEART	C.O.S.I. Sulmona, Italy 2010
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	C.O.S.I. Sulmona, Italy 2010
L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Windsor University 2010
SMASH	Summerworks/ Factory Theatre/Leacock Festival 2009
LAKE NORA ARMS	Tarragon Theatre /Ark Collective 2009
MOURNING DOVE	CCPA, victoria BC 2008
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS	CCPA, Victoria. BC 2007
7 STORIES	Assistant Director / Marti Maraden/Stratford Festival 2008
TROJAN WOMEN	Assistant Director / Marti Maraden/Stratford Festival 2008
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL	Ambient Opera Society/Paupers Pub 2008
OPERA ON THE ROCKS	Tapestry New Opera 2006/07
OPERA BRIEFS 06& 07	Theatre Athena/director/choreographer 2007
BUNNICULA	Directors' Project/ Shaw Festival 2007
HALF AN HOUR	Assistant Director to Neil Munro/Shaw Festival 2007
INVISIBLE MAN	Assistant Director to Tadeusz Bradecki/Shaw Festival 2007
THE CRUCIBLE	Ryerson Theatre School 2006
ENEMIES (Premiere)	Marquis Entertainment 2005
ORCHIDS	Persephone Theatre 2005
TRYING	Persephone Theatre 2004
SKYLIGHT	Randolph Academy/Bathurst Street Theatre 2007
THE PAJAMA GAME	Director/choreographer/Ryerson Theatre School 2005
THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN	Assistant Director to Laszlo Marton
PLATONOV	Soulpepper Theatre Company 2001
	Assistant Director to Laszlo Marton/Soulpepper 2001
SCHOOL FOR WIVES	Movement/Opera Coach – Theatre Aquarius 2007
AMADEUS	Assistant Director to Marti Maraden/
ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE	National Arts Centre 2001
	Assistant Director to Marti Maraden/NAC 2001
TWELFTH NIGHT	Salivating Dog/Toronto Fringe 2005
PAVLOV'S BROTHER	Creator/choreographer/ Mayhem Festival/Theatre Columbus 2005
SO. THEN.	London Fringe Festival 2003
MY DYING DAY	Choreographer – Rhubarb Festival 1997
WAVES	

DRAMATURGE

BATTE COURE/Paulina Derbez 22/23
REFUGEES/ Jennifer Wise/Afarin Mansouri. 2021/22
MIRRORS/Blue Ceiling /Rupert/Derbez 2018
CALCEDONIES/Jeff Nisker
ORCHIDS/Marquis Ent.
PAVLOV'S BROTHER/ Salivating dog/TO Fringe
SARAH'S DAUGHTER/university Health Sciences

ACTOR

See Resume

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.- 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

WRITER/PERFORMER

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

TRAINING/EDUCATION

MFA CanadianStage/York Graduate Studies 2019
Mentor: Peter Hinton - Davis

Acting: American Academy of Dramatic Arts Grad1981,
Dennis Moore, Rosemary Dunsmore, Pat Hamilton, Laszlo Marton

Directing: MFA CanadianStage/York Graduate Studies 2019
Shaw Festival Director's' Project
Richard Rose
Worldstage Masterclass (Peter Hinton, John Barton, Mike Alfreds)
AssistantDirector/Internships: Neil Munro, Tadeusz Bradecki, Lazlo Marton, Marti Maraden

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

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

Cont'd

Other:

Pathways to Human Rights, Education and Action - Humber
Indigenous Canada - University of Alberta /Certificate
Hollaback Anti -Harassment/Intervention Training.
Bystander Training - CAEA.
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion- AACE/Various

****DORA MAVOR MOORE NOMINATIONS**

Gould's Wall, Outstanding New Opera/Outstanding Production 2022

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

AGENT (Creative)

Ian Arnold

Catalyst TCM

416-645 - 0935

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AGENT (Acting)

Tova Small

Meridian Artists

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