

# **Sophia Watt, Director/ Artistic Leader/ Educator**

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## **Producing/ Management Experience**

### **Artistic Associate Director** Rec Room 2019- Present HOUSTON

Overseeing the creation of Rec Room's Writer's Group and the Artist Residency programs. Overseeing the production of nine online workshops and audio productions of playwright's work. Directing for the organization. Creating fundraising strategies for the organization with input and collaboration from the board. Working with the Artistic Director on season selection, reading plays and researching rights. Working with the Artistic Director and Board on direction and message of the organization.

### **Artistic Associate** Rec Room 2018-2019 HOUSTON

Worked with the executive director on fundraising strategies. Helped manage patron experience and communication. Organized and maintained the CRM patron data and donor profiles.

### **Artistic Associate** Titan Theater 2015 - 2017 NYC

Assisted Artistic Director and General Manager with outreach programs, such as our public reading series and Teens Take the Met event. Edited and adapted Shakespeare plays to be performed in public libraries. Directed readings for an age range of 6 to 80+ . Created accessible work for audiences who have never seen Shakespeare. Helped with house management and patron experience. Assistant directed when necessary.

### **Artistic Director** Royalty Free Theater 2013-2015 NYC

Co-founded Company and drafted company mission statement. Planned three seasons of main stage productions, readings and workshops. Obtained park permits for outdoor summer shows. Reviewed all company contracts and theater rental agreement. Filed the showcase codes with Actors Equity. Prepared and executed actor contracts on showcase code. Worked with actor's agents. Helped create press releases and promotional material.

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Professor, Directing II**, University of Houston, January 2020- Present

Instructing a class of 8-11 students with majors in playwriting, dramaturgy, theater education and acting in an advanced directing class. Overseeing the development of ten 40 minute student shows, from casting, pre-prep and rehearsals. Teaching an in-depth script analysis process designed for theater practitioners. Introducing international theater principles and artists. Making sure class had up to date knowledge of the current American theater landscape. Guiding potential next career moves for those seeking directing opportunities. During Covid, pivoting these productions into radio plays.

### **Professor, Intro to Directing I** University of Houston, August 2020- Present

Instructing a class of 10 to 17 students majoring in playwriting, dramaturgy, theater education, acting and stage management in the fundamentals of theater directing. Leading classes in viewpoints composition work and elementary script work, with a focus on clear storytelling and managing progression.

### **Professor, BFA Acting Career Prep** University of Houston, January 2021- Present

Organizing guest speakers from around the country, to speak to life in each city as artists. Designing course which leaves actors proficient in AEA and SAG Afra rules. Requiring each student to create a reel and a website, as well as learning the ropes of voice acting.

**Professor, Intro To Acting**, University of Houston, January -May 2018

Instructed a class of 18 students all of whom were new to theater. Utilized a collection of theater games, improv and sense memory exercises to physically engage and emotionally connect the student performers. Introduced rudimentary acting concepts. Coached monologues and scene work.

## Workshops And Relevant Experiences

**Thomas Ostermeier Rehearsal Techniques For Directors**, Hangar Theatre August 2019

Created a weeklong workshop introducing Thomas Ostermeier's ( The Artistic Director of the Germany's Schaubuhne Theatre) principles of directing for nine undergraduate students. Classes included: Ostermeiers work on personalization, physical family photographs, storytelling and his adapted work on Meisner all applied to Arthur Miller's All My Sons. The workshop ended with a presentation of selected scenes from All My Sons created by the students using Ostermeier's rehearsal techniques.

**Lab Company Orientation Week**, Hangar Theatre, June 2019

Created with a team of three other directors during a week long orientation for 30 student actors, directors and choreographers. The orientation consisted of theater games from Viola Spolin, Ann Bogart's Viewpoints, and a workshop exploring metaphor and story using Chekov's the Seagull. Co-organized a Skype session for intimacy direction for the Lab company taught by Laura Rikard from Theatrical Intimacy Education.

**First Folio and Verse Work**, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, June 2015

Created a three hour curriculum to introduce theater practitioners to Shakespeare's first folio and verse work. Classes included: lecture portion on how Folios were created, and group assignments on critically reading and analyzing of the folio, ending with a performance based on the student group work.

## Selected Directing Credits

<i>Dance Nation( Preproduction)</i> by Claire Barren	Rec Room
<i>The Diaries of Adam and Eve</i> by Mark Twain	Unity Theatre
<i>Wolves (Canceled during Covid)</i> by Sarah DeLappe	Rec Room
<i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> by Marjorie Sokoloff	Hangar Theatre/KIDDSTUFF
<i>Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.</i> by Alice Birch	Hangar Theatre/ Wedge
<i>The Nest</i> by Theresa Rebeck	University of Houston ( <i>Guest Artist</i> )
<i>The Effect</i> by Lucy Prebble	MATCH
<i>Three Sisters</i> by Chekhov	University of Houston ( <i>Guest Artist</i> )
<i>Hedda Gabler</i> by Ibsen	After Glow Collective/Rec Room
<i>Oleanna</i> by David Mamet	The Landing Theatre
<i>The Laramie Project</i> by Moises Kaufman	The Rice Players ( <i>Guest Artist</i> )
<i>The Visit</i> by Esme Wu	The Landing Theater
<i>Arms and the Man</i> by G.B. Shaw	Studio 208
<i>Boston Marriage</i> by David Mamet	Studio 208

*Ring Around the Moon* by Jean Anouilh  
*Creatures of Habit ( 10 minute)* by Blaise Miller  
*The War of the Roses* by Shakespeare  
*Dracula* by Jayce Johnson  
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Studio 208  
The Landing Theatre  
Irondale Theater  
Noho Arts Center  
Arthur Seelen Theater

### **Assistant Director**

*Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley  
*Man and SuperMan* by G.B. Shaw  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell  
*Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare  
*Othello* by Shakespeare  
*Julius Caesar* by Shakespeare  
*Thicker Than Honey* by Nicole Zimmer  
*The Importance of Being...* by Oscar Wilde

Theresa Rebeck ( Alley Theater)  
James Boehnen ( UH)  
Bill Brown ( UH)  
Sara Becker ( UH)  
Lenny Banovez ( Titan Theatre)  
Sara Becker ( UH)  
Rob Shimko (UH)  
Terry Layman ( Titan Theatre)

### **WorkShops**

*Close to Home* by Sharifa Yasmin  
*Corona* by Elizabeth Keel  
*MiddleMarch* by Janet Mathews  
*Jekyll and Hyde* by Jayce Johnson  
*Dracula* by Jayce Johnson  
*The Lesbian Exhibit* by Will Inman

Amphibian Stage  
Rec Room Artist Residency  
Barn Arts Collective  
Access Theater  
133 rd Arts Center  
University of Houston

### **Affiliations**

Drama League Directing Fellow, 2019  
SDC Foundation Observership Class 2016-18  
Member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab 2015

### **Education**

Directing MFA, University of Houston  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Hartford, The Hartt School

### **References - Upon Request**