

ELEANOR REISSA

Playwright – Director – Choreographer – Actor - Singer
SSDC; AEA; SAG; AFTRA; DRAMATISTS GUILD

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CURRICULM VITAE

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- 2018 – TAIBELE AND HER DEMON – NY Philharmonic Biennial – (libretto)
Commissioned by Gotham Chamber Opera; Judd Greenstein, composer.
Adaptation of I.B. Singer’s short story. In Yiddish with English supertitles.
- 2015 – THE LAST SURVIVOR And Other Modern Jewish Plays – Anthology of 6 Plays
by Eleanor Reissa

EDUCATION

Brooklyn College - Bachelor of Arts – Summa Cum Laude

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

- 2015-2004 – Mint Theater, NYC – Board Member
2011-2009 - New York State Council for the Arts – Evaluation Theatre Panelist
2003-1998 - Artistic Director – Folksbiene Theatre, New York City
1999-1997 - National Endowment for the Arts – Awarding Theatre Reporter

AWARDS

- 2013 - Christian A. Johnson Chair at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
(Director/Choreographer – THE THREEPENNY OPERA)
- 2013 – Israel Prize – Nominated for Best Musical – HERSHELE OSTROPOLYER
(Writer/director/choreographer)β
- 2003 – Dorothy Silver Playwright Award (Playwright Finalist) –
THICKER THAN WATER
- 2002 – Heideman Award - Actor’s Theatre of Louisville – (Playwright Finalist) -
THE LAST DINOSAUR
- 2001 - Dorothy Silver Playwright Award (Playwright Winner) - WISHFUL THINKING
- 1997 - American Academy in Rome – Invited Artist Playwright Fellowship
- 1996 - Bogliasco Academy of Arts and Letters; Liguria, Italy – Writing Fellowship
- 1991 - Tony Award Nomination – Best Director of a Musical – (Broadway)
THOSE WERE THE DAYS

PLAYWRIGHT/ADAPTER/TRANSLATOR

- 2014 - YIDL MITN FIDL – Commission from Yiddishpiel, Tel Aviv – Musical Theatre
Adaptation of 1937 film – Book, selected lyrics in Yiddish (Produced in 2013)
- 2010 - THE ADVENTURES OF HERSHELE OSTROPOLYER – Commission from
National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, NYC - Based on Polish folk tales in
Yiddish. Nominated for the Israel Prize (Produced in NYC 2010, 2011/ Israel
2012)
- 2008 – STAGES OF EXIT – Workshop at Actor’s Studio, NYC with Lois Smith

- 2005-2003 – THICKER THAN WATER – Fringe Festival - Stamford Center for the Arts; New Works Festival - Cleveland Playhouse; Cherry Lane Theatre; NYC
 2002 – ZISE KHALOYMES (SWEET DREAMS) – Musical Adaptation of WISHFUL THINKING in Yiddish – Theatre Four; NYC
 2001 – WISHFUL THINKING – Winner of the Dorothy Silver Playwright Competition
 1998 - THE LAST SURVIVOR – Produced by Northlight Theatre; Chicago

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

- 2014 – THE SCUTLEY PAPERS by Jamie Wax with Sally Field (workshop); NYC
 2014 – YIDL MITN FIDL – Yiddishpiel, Tel Aviv, Israel (musical)
 2013 – AUTUMN AND WINTER by Lars Noreen with Ellen Burstyn, Brian Murray (workshop); NYC
 2013 – THREEPENNY OPERA – Colgate University (dir/chor); Hamilton, NY
 2013-2010 - ADVENTURES OF HERSHELE OSTROPOLYE – National Yiddish Theatre, NY/ Yiddishpiel, Tel Aviv (musical) Nominated for the Israel Prize
 2009 – HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING – White Plains Performing Arts Center (musical); NY
 2006 – SOLDIER’S WIFE by Rose Franken – Mint Theater; NYC (Two Drama Desk Nominations)
 2006 – BLOOD DRIVE by Rachel Sheinken/Joel Derfner – O’Neill Music Theatre Conference; CN (musical)
 2005– THE SKIN GAME by James Galsworthy – Mint Theater; NYC
 2005-1995 – COWGIRLS by Mary Murfitt/ Betsy Howie – Minetta Lane Theatre, NYC; Old Globe, San Diego; Marin Theatre, CA; Berkshire Theatre Fest, MA; Capitol Repertory; NYC (dir/chor) (Outer Critics Nomination)
 2004 - ECHOES OF THE WAR by J.M. Barrie - Mint Theater; NYC (Drama Desk Nomination)
 2003 – SYNCOPATION by Alan Knee - Marin Theatre Company; CA (dir/chor)
 2002 - OUT OF STERNO by Deborah Zoe Laufer – Cherry Lane; NYC
 2001 - DIANA OF DOBSON'S by Cecily Hamilton -Mint Theater; NYC
 2001 - SONG OF THE TURTLE DOVE by Noa Ain/Gerard Edery – (musical) Premiere's, Lincoln Center, NYC / O'Neill Musical Theatre Conference; CT
 2001 - SCREAMS OF KITTY GENOVESE by David Simpatico/Will Todd – O'Neill Musical Th. Conference; CT (musical)
 2000 - OVER THE RAINBOW:YIP HARBURG'S AMERICA – American Music Theatre Festival; Philadelphia PA (dir/chor)
 1999 - AVENUE X by Ray Leslee/John Jiler – Marin Theatre; CA (dir/chor)
 1998 - SONGS OF PARADISE by Rosalie Gerut/MiriamHoffman/Itzik Manger - New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theatre; NYC (chor)
 1997 - NOTHING LIKE A DAME - Phyllis Newman's Health Initiative/Actor's Fund – Marquis Theatre; NYC (musical)
 1996 - THE LAST SUPPER by Artie Butler - Hollywood Playhouse; FL (musical)
 1995 - MY FAIR LADY with Richard Chamberlain - Broadway and National Tour (Assistant Director)
 1994 - ALL THAT GLITTERS by Stephan Bullard – Theatre Four; NYC

1992 – A STRANGER AMONG US (film) directed by Sidney Lumet (choreographer)
1991 - THOSE WERE THE DAYS – Broadway – (dir/chor/perf)
Tony Nomination for Best Direction of a Musical
1989 - CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF with Kathleen Turner – Broadway (Asst. Dir)

PERFORMER (very partial list)

2013 – EAST TOWARD HOME by Billy Yaloff, dir. David Schecter; NYC
2013-2012 – THE MATERIAL WORLD by Dan Fishback, dir. Stephen Brackett; NYC
2012 – UNFORGETTABLE – CBS TV (guest star);
2010 – SOUL DOCTOR by Danny Wise/Shlomo Carlebach/David Schecter,
dir. Holly-Anne Ruggario; New Orleans
2010 – CALLING IT QUILTS – Film directed by Anthony Tarsitano
2009 – TROPHY KIDS – Film directed by Josh Sugarmann
2002 – YENTL – (title role) directed by Robert Kalfin; NYC
1998 – LOST IN YONKERS directed by Peter Lawrence - National Tour
1984 – ISN'T IT ROMANTIC directed by Susan Rosenstock
1987-1983 – THE RISE OF DAVID LEVINSKY by Bobby Paul/Isaiah Sheffer (With
Larry Keith, Larry Luckinbill, Larry Kert); directed by Sue Lawless (American
Jewish Theatre/George Street Theatre/Houseman Theatre)
1983 – GODSPELL directed by Darwin Knight - Cinninnatti Playhouse
1982 – TINTYPES directed by Larry Deckel – Actor's Theatre of Louisville
1980/1985/1986 – LOOSE ENDS directed by Robert Farley; TINYTPES directed by
Walt Jones; EL GRANDE DE COCA COLA directed by Walt Jones –
Alaska Repertory Theatre
First Equity Job - ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST – National Tour -
directed by Lee Sankowich

From 1978 to the present – member of Actors Equity – Acting in scores of plays and
musicals all over NYC and the USA

From 1980 to the present – Singing in hundreds of concerts in English and Yiddish;
Venues include Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Town Hall, Merkin Hall,
Symphony Space, Metropolitan Room – NYC and in festivals all over the world
including Amsterdam, London, Warsaw, Tel Aviv and throughout the United
States.

RECORDINGS

2014 – JUST ADD WATER – Eleanor Reissa and Di Boyess; Musical Dir. Frank London
2012 – BEST OF 'CELEBRATE' SERIES - compilation
2002 – SONGS IN THE KEY OF YIDDISH - Musical Dir. Grant Sturiale
1992 – GOING HOME: GEMS OF YIDDISH SONG – Musical Dir. Allen Herman
1991 – REMEMBER THE CHILDREN – Musical Dir. Henry Sapoznik
1990 – PEARLS OF YIDDISH SONG – Musical Dir. Zalmen Mlotek

PUBLICATIONS

2003 - DREAMS OF AUGUSTA – Article in Women's Sports Publication
2002 – WORTHY BUT NEGLECTED: PLAYS OF THE MINT THEATRE –

Introduction to the play DIANA OF DOBSON'S – Granville Press

PERSONAL HISTORY

Product/Victim/Beneficiary of the New York City Public School System.

Born in Brooklyn, New York.

Daughter of holocaust survivors.