

Alex Levy
7033 Kittyhawk Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(773) 636-3696 alexblevy@yahoo.com, www.alexlevy.weebly.com

EDUCATION

University Of California-Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, 2012
M.F.A in Directing (Thesis Committee Chair: Jose Luis Valenzuela)

University Of Rochester, Rochester, NY 1998
B.A. *Cum Laude* in Political Science with minor in Literature

Dah Theatre, Belgrade, Serbia 2010
Dah Theatre Research Center, International School for Directors

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE WORK HISTORY

Managing Director

Watts Village Theater Company, Los Angeles, CA **2013-present**
Responsible for all administrative, fiscal operations.

- Responsible for generating, directing and supervising day-to-day administrative activity.
- Work with the Artistic Director in all aspects of planning and administering artistic projects.
- Oversee the organization's fiscal integrity, including preparation of budgets, financial reporting to Board of Directors, and working with the Board of Directors to develop and fulfill long-range fiscal strategies.
- Create and implement a plan for reaching out to the South Central Los Angeles community through public relations, marketing and community activism.

Artistic Director

Ballybeg Theatre, New York, NY **2011-present**
Hired as first artistic director of Ballybeg Theatre. Ballybeg's mission is to support and produce new plays by a diverse group of emerging American Playwrights.

- Development and oversight of all artistic programming and management.
- Direct two productions per season and all developmental readings/workshops.
- Identify and develop new plays for production and/or reading.
- Hire and supervise all artistic staff.
- Represent Ballybeg in the artistic community as well as to the greater New York and American community.

Producer

Empanada For a Dream, New York/Chicago/Los Angeles **2012**
Produced award-winning production in New York City, Los Angeles & Chicago.

- Led fundraising campaign, which raised over \$6,000 from more than 100 individual donors.
- Organized benefit party in New York City.
- Budgeted and negotiated productions in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Artistic Director

Pegasus Players, Chicago, IL **1998- 2009**
Pegasus Players is one of the oldest and most decorated theatre companies in Chicago with a mission to build community through the arts and provide arts to those with little access. Appointed Artistic Director in January 2004. Previously held titles of Associate Artistic Director (2001-2003), Literary Manager (1999-01) & Company Manager (1998-99).

- Development and oversight of all artistic programming and management. Includes five mainstage productions per season, senior/disabled outreach program and extensive educational outreach programming.
- Pegasus was awarded seventeen Joseph Jefferson Citations including "Best Production" (*Sunday in the Park With George*) and "Best New Work" (*The Lynching of Leo Frank & The Upper Room*) and six After Dark Awards during my tenure.

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- While Artistic director, Pegasus Players was nominated for Joseph Jefferson Citation “Best Production” or “Best New Work” for six straight seasons.
- In 2001, Pegasus became the first arts organization ever to win The Chicago Community Trust’s “James Brown IV Award of Excellence for Outstanding Community Service” (which included a \$50,000 grant) and the City of Chicago’s “Human Relations Award” for “improving intergroup understanding and cooperation in Chicago.”
- Led Pegasus on International tours in 2000, 2002, 2007 to Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco & India.

Dramaturge Steppenwolf Theatre

2009

Served as Dramaturge for First Look Repertory of New Works.

- Dramaturge for world premiere of *Honest* written and directed by Steppenwolf Ensemble member Eric Simonson.

DIRECTING ACHIEVEMENTS:

- *Empanada For a Dream* was selected as one of the best productions of 2012 by The Chicago Tribune and The Chicago Reader. It was awarded the New York ITBA Award for “Outstanding Solo Performance.” Nominated for three New York Innovative Theatre Awards including “Best Solo Show.”
- *Broadway Bound* was chosen as one of the best shows of 2003 by the Chicago Tribune & Chicago Sun Times. It was nominated for five Joseph Jefferson Citations including “Best Production” and won the After Dark Award for “Best Ensemble.”
- *Golda’s Balcony*, was awarded the Jeff Award for “Best Solo Performance.”
- *The Upper Room* was the recipient of the Joseph Jefferson Citation for “Best New Work” and was nominated for three Black Excellence Awards and two African American Theatre Alliance Awards including “Best Production.”
- *Black Caesar* was nominated for three Black Excellence Awards.
- Twice selected as a finalist for the Goodman Theatre’s Michael Maggio Fellowship for Emerging Directors.
- Conceived, adapted and directed *Home Front*, a one-act play based on interviews with combat veterans in Southern California and *A Dark Sun*, a full-length ensemble based work based on the writings of Carl Jung.
- Directed short film *America Amerique* for JENA Productions

DIRECTING CREDITS

(Representative selection full resume available upon request)

<u>Show</u>	<u>Playwright</u>	<u>Theatre</u>
<u>International:</u>		
<i>My Soul is a Witness</i>	David Barr	Hindu Metro Plus Theatre Festival (Chennai, India)
<i>My Soul is a Witness</i>	David Barr	U.S. State Department tour (Kolkata/Mumbai/Delhi, India)
<i>Antigone</i> (adaptation)	Various	Dah Theatre International School (Belgrade, Serbia)
<i>Side By Side By Sondheim</i> (Associate Director)	Stephen Sondheim	U.S. State Department Tour (Amman, Jordan/Istanbul, Turkey/Cairo & Alexandria, Egypt/

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Casablanca & Marrakesh, Morocco)

National Tours:

<i>America Amerique</i>	John Adams	JENA Productions (36 cities nationally)
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New York:

<i>Broken Fences</i>	Steven Simoncic	Ballybeg Theatre
<i>Empanada For a Dream</i>	Juan Villa	Transport Co at Duke Theatre
<i>The Taste of It</i>	John Adams	Ballybeg Theatre
<i>Empanada For a Dream</i>	Juan Villa	TerraNOVA Arts Collective

Los Angeles:

<i>Macbeth</i>	William Shakespeare	Savage Players
<i>Empanada for a Dream</i>	Juan Villa	Los Angeles Theatre Center
<i>In The Red</i>	Various	ARK Theatre
<i>Cassiopeia</i> (Assistant to Emilie Beck)	David Wiener	Theatre at Boston Court

Chicago:

<i>Empanada For a Dream</i>	Juan Villa	16 th St. Theatre
<i>Empanada For a Dream</i>	Juan Villa	Teatro Vista & Collaboracion
<i>Karl & Joey</i>	Arthur Pascale	Pegasus Players
<i>Love</i>	Benjamin Sullivan	Pegasus Players
<i>The Ride Down Mt. Morgan</i>	Arthur Miller	Red Twist Theatre
<i>The Bench</i>	Jihad Kheperu	Pegasus Players
<i>2nd Story Festival</i>	Various	Museum of Contemporary Art
<i>Daughters of the Revolution</i>	David Edgar	Pegasus Players
<i>Mothers Against</i>	David Edgar	Pegasus Players
<i>Kid Kuisine</i>	Aaron Abolt	Pegasus Players
<i>Golda's Balcony</i>	William Gibson	Pegasus Players
<i>2nd Story Festival</i>	Various	Serendipity Theatre Collective
<i>An Evening With the Living Dead</i>	Brian Tasch	Pegasus Players
<i>Hero</i>	Kim Morris	Serendipity Theatre Collective
<i>Crash Stories</i>	Kim Morris	Serendipity Theatre Collective
<i>Black Caesar</i>	David Barr	Pegasus Players
<i>Imminent Dangers of</i>	KM Lickert	Smoke & Mirrors Productions
<i>Love and the Afterlife</i>		
<i>Still Life</i>	Emily Mann	Pegasus Players
<i>The Upper Room</i>	David Barr	Pegasus Players
<i>Arroz Y Frijoles</i>	Cora Vander Broeck	Serendipity Theatre Collective

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<i>Waking Up</i>	Nikhar Ahmed	Pegasus Players (Chicago, IL)
<i>Broadway Bound</i>	Neil Simon	Pegasus Players
<i>Insert Title Here</i>	Lisa Morrow	Pegasus Players
<i>The One-Eyed Man is King</i>	Carter W. Lewis	Pegasus Players
<i>T.R.I.P.</i>	Christa Crewdson	LaSalle
<i>A Stampede of Zebras</i>	Robert G. Martin	Baxter Int'l
<i>Crumbs From the Table of Joy</i> (Assistant to Chuck Smith)	Lynn Nottage	The Goodman Theatre

Educational:

<i>A Dark Sun</i>	Alex Levy	UCLA Theatre
<i>Copenhagen</i>	Michael Frayn	UCLA Theatre
<i>Home Front</i>	Various	UCLA Theatre
<i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i>	Sarah Ruhl	UCLA Theatre
<i>The Adding Machine</i> (Assistant to J. Ed Araiza)	Elmer Rice	UCLA Theatre
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Lorraine Hansberry	Oakton College
<i>Mini-Musicals</i>	Various	Loyola University, Chicago
<i>Scenes From the New World</i>	Eric Bogosian	University of Rochester

Other:

<i>Women Who Steal</i> (Assistant to Skip Greer)	Carter Lewis	Geva Theatre (Rochester, NY)
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

University of California-Los Angeles

2009-2012

Assist in lecture, grading, curriculum development and led sections for undergraduate courses.
Student evaluation surveys available upon request. Courses taught:

- "Chicano Theatre Movement 1960-1980" (Lecture)
- "Chicano Theatre Movement 1980-present" (Lecture)
- "Introduction to Performance" (Lecture/studio)
- "Introduction to Design (scenic, lighting & costume)" (Lecture)
- "Introduction to Directing" (Studio)
- "Fundamentals of Directing" (Studio)

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**Guest Lecturer
Various**

2001-2013

Guest lecture on theatre practices and history at colleges and universities.

- **Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY**
 - “Acting I”
 - “Advanced Fiction writing”
 - “Theatre and the Language of Sex”
 - “Advanced Acting”

- **Harry S Truman College, Chicago, IL**
 - “A History of Chicago Productions of Stephen Sondheim Musicals”
 - “Introduction to Playwriting”
 - “Viktor Lowenfeld & Other Jewish Pioneers at America’s Historically Black Colleges”
 - “Issues of Arts Management in Chicago”

- **Columbia College, Chicago, IL**
 - “Auditioning Workshop for actors”
 - “Response to Brecht’s *Three Penny Opera*”

- **Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL**
 - “History of African-American Theatre in the 20th Century”

- **Mumbai University, Mumbai, India**
 - “Introduction to acting, improvisation & Viewpoints”
 - “Staging Historical Drama”

**Teaching Artist
Pegasus Players**

1998-2009

Teaching artist in over 50 high schools throughout Chicago. Courses taught include:

- Theatre History
- Playwriting
- Acting
- Improvisation

**Education Apprentice
Geva Theatre, Rochester, NY**

1997-1998

Assisted Education Director in all programming including in-school residencies, student matinees, The Geva Theatre Summer Academy.

- Co-taught courses to teens in acting, playwriting, theatre games and musical theatre workshops.
- Helped develop a Young Playwrights Festival.
- Assisted in casting for children’s roles in mainstage production of *A Christmas Carol*.

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- Two-time recipient of the University Fellowship in support of the pursuit of an MFA from UCLA (2011 & 2012).
- Awarded the Executive Award by the Executive Committee of UCLA’s School of Theater, Film & Television. (2011)
- Awarded the Rosalee Sass Scholarship in support of the pursuit of an MFA from UCLA (2010).
- Awarded Kopelson Award to support international research. (2010)

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- Awarded the Regent's Stipend in support of the pursuit of an MFA from UCLA (2009)
- Dean's Award (2nd Place) for Playwriting at the University of Rochester (1997).
- Winner Chicago Young Playwrights Festival (1995).

PUBLICATIONS

- Forward for Empanada For a Dream, No Passport Press, New York, NY, 2012.
- Introduction for *The Face of Emmett Till* published as part of larger anthology of new works, New Plays From Chicago, Chicago Dramatists Press, Chicago, IL, 2005.

SELECTED MEDIA QUOTES ABOUT ALEX LEVY PRODUCTIONS

Broken Fences

- *"A really, really great show. It's compelling story, the characters are engaging and easy to relate to, it's creatively and efficiently staged, and the terrific cast works well together. I highly recommend it."* –Breanna Foister, New York Theatre Review
- *"Director Alex Levy deftly handles the eight-person cast on this tiny stage surrounded on three sides by audience members...It deserves to be on Broadway"*
–Ernece B. Kelly, The New York Beacon
- *"Four stars...A first-rate new play directed by Alex Levy"*—Jordan Teicher, The Artists Forum

Empanada For a Dream

- *Harrowing, hilarious, absurd, brave, incredibly well crafted yet terrifying in its rage...reminds me of nothing so much as William Carlos Williams's advice to readers of Allen Ginsberg's "Howl": "Hold back the edges of your gowns, Ladies, we are going through hell."* –Tony Adler, Chicago Reader
- *"The undoubted highlight of the festival...harsh, but often quite funny and touching...at the heart of our current, but evergreen, national debates about what it means to be American and how much responsibility we owe to each other."* –Kerry Reid, Chicago Tribune
- *"Riveting...What might, in another production, feel like transitions, here are executed so well, with the help of director Alex Levy... they read as pitch-perfect shifts in tone and tempo... Director and actor make great use of the playing area."*
–Olivia Jane Smith, New York Theatre Review
- *"A beautiful performance...Villa moves like a dancer... a richly textured voice and a physical dexterity that allow him to depict an almost bewildering array of characters"*—Steven Leigh Morris, LA Weekly

Still Life

- *"It [Still Life] gets a brilliant production at Pegasus Players...It is astonishing...this production is superb. People should not miss it!"* –Kelly Klieman, NPR
- *"In the hands of director Alex Levy and three exceptional actors, "Still Life" is painful, taut, profound, and perhaps one of the most powerful performances I have experienced"*
–Joe Stead, Steadstylechicago.com
- *"Alex Levy's innovative direction picks you up by the collar and doesn't let your feet touch the ground for a full 90 minutes"* –Flavorpill Chicago

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My Soul is a Witness

- *“The cast of five had the audience spellbound for the entire duration of the play”*
--Mandakini Gahlot, The Indian Express
- *“The Play worked beautifully...Brilliant!... Chennai is indeed privileged to have hosted the international debut of this marvelous production.”* --Madhuri Shekar, The Hindu

Black Caesar

- *“Alex Levy guides his cast with a smooth hand and seasoned eye for dramatic detail...One also hopes that theater companies such as Pegasus Players continue to care enough about the world around them to produce loving productions such as this one.”*
--Brian Kirst, Chicago Free Press

Broadway Bound

- *“Alex Levy has beautifully explored this aspect of ‘art imitating life.’ He also matches Simon scene-for-scene, in the play’s roller coaster ride of emotions, which can have you in tears one moment and in stitches the next.”* --Hedy Weiss, Chicago Sun Times
- *“Levy and his company get everything right with this revival.”*
--Web Behrens, Chicago Free Press