

BARBARA DAMASHEK

Playwright/Author
Director
Composer-Lyricist
Teacher

("*Light in the Tunnel*" Creative Team Role: Script/Book-Writer)

Barbara Damashek has worked extensively as a playwright, director, and composer-lyricist at many of the country's leading regional theaters including South Coast Repertory Theatre, the Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Repertory Theatre, Trinity Repertory, The Mark Taper Forum, the Denver Center, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Syracuse Stage, the Yale Repertory Theatre and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Representative projects at those theaters include: *The Dybbuk*, *Happy End*, *Sunday In The Park With George*, *The Faith Healer*, *She Stoops To Folly*, *The Firebugs*, *Baltimore Waltz*, *Vilna's Got A Golem*, *Dancing At Lughnasa*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Trumpets and Drums* and *A Taming of the Shrew*.

She has created a large body of original plays with music, and is best known nationally as the Director, Composer-Lyricist and Co-Author of **QUILTERS** which received **6 Tony Nominations** in 1985 including **3 for Ms. Damashek** for **BEST DIRECTION**, **BEST ORIGINAL SCORE** and (with co-author Molly Newman) **BEST BOOK of a MUSICAL**.

Ms. Damashek also directed productions of **QUILTERS** at the Denver Center, the Mark Taper Forum, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Fringe Award), the Dublin Festival and the Jack Lawrence Theater in New York.

In 1988, *Whereabouts Unknown*, her musical documentary play about the homeless was commissioned by and premiered at the Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, and was a 1988 Susan Smith Blackburn Playwright's finalist.

In the Bay Area she has directed the *House of Blue Leaves*, and *Rhinoceros* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and for the Rep's Schools Tour, her original musical about genetics for young audiences called *Code Blue At The Genome Zoo*, which was commissioned by the San Francisco Exploratorium.

Ms. Damashek's most recent local credits include: *Fat Pig*, and *Private Jokes Public Places* at the Aurora theater, *Tranced* at San Jose Repertory, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and *Noel and Gertie* at Center Rep., *Old Wicked Songs* at Marin Theatre Company, *Chess*, *City of Angels*, *Floyd Collins*, *Assassins* and *The Magic Flute* at San Francisco State University and *The Love of The Nightingale* for A.C.T's Conservatory.

Additionally she has directed *The Cherry Orchard* at A.C.T.; *A Mouthful of Birds*, *Spring Awakening* and *the House of Atreus* at the A.C.T. Conservatory; *Silence*, *The Cryptogram*, *Lonesome West*, *Bronte* at the Magic Theatre; and *Arms And The Man* at the Marin Theatre Company and *Counting Icebergs* at the Little Globe Theatre in Kirovohrad, Ukraine.

Ms. Damashek is an Assistant Professor at San Francisco State University and has an M.F.A. in Acting from the Yale School of Drama.

Detailed CV Follows....

Background

* Co-Author, Composer-Lyricist and Director of “**QUILTERS**” which received **6 Tony Nominations** in 1985 including **3 for Ms. Damashek** for **BEST DIRECTION, BEST ORIGINAL SCORE** and (with co-author Molly Newman) **BEST BOOK of a MUSICAL.**

Ms. Damashek also directed productions of “**QUILTERS**” at the Denver Center, the Mark Taper Forum, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Fringe Award), the Dublin Festival and the Jack Lawrence Theater in New York.

* Graduate of the Yale School of Drama with an M.F.A. in Acting.

* Has worked extensively in the American regional theater as playwright, director, composer-lyricist, and teacher enjoying many residencies and commissions

* Associate Artist at the Magic Theatre since 1998

* Profiled in American Theatre Magazine Dec. 1993

* Has taught at many of the major theater conservatories in the country including A.C.T. Conservatory and Trinity Rep. Conservatory

* Assistant Professor at San Francisco State University since 2002

* Artistic Director of the Pacific Jewish Theater 1986-8

Playwright/Author

“QUILTERS” published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 1986

...Also Composer-Lyricist and Director. Received **6 Tony Nominations** in 1985 including **3 for Ms. Damashek** for **BEST DIRECTION, BEST ORIGINAL SCORE** and (with co-author Molly Newman) **BEST BOOK of a MUSICAL.**

Ms. Damashek directed productions of **“QUILTERS”** at the Denver Center, the Mark Taper Forum, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Fringe Award), the Dublin Festival and the Jack Lawrence Theater in New York.

“WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN”

...Based on testimonies of the homeless. Commissioned by the Actors Theatre of Louisville for the Humana Festival. Reviewed N.Y. Times, Wed. March 23, 1988. SUSAN SMITH BLACKBURN *Finalist.*

“TWO SUITCASES”

...Based on interviews conducted in Milwaukee with Soviet-Jews who recently immigrated to the United States. Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Oct. 1994

“OLYMPIAN GAMES”

...Written with co-author/translator Kenneth Cavander. A story theater adaptation with music of *Ovid’s Metamorphoses* produced at the American Repertory Theatre.
May 1986

“CODE BLUE AT THE GENOME ZOO”

...A genetics musical for young audiences commissioned by, written for and produced at the S.F. Exploratorium. May 2003. Also, Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s School’s Tour Feb. 2004

Director

"Fat Pig" by Neil LaBute
Aurora Theatre Company Nov. 2009

"Vinegar Tom" by Caryl Churchill, original score by Barbara Damashek; San Francisco State University; May, 2010

"Chess" by Ulvaeus, Andersson, Rice and Nelson;
San Francisco State University; December, 2008

"Counting Icebergs" by Frances Rouse; Little Globe Theatre;
Kirovohrad, Ukraine; June, 2008

"City of Angels" by Cy Coleman, Larry Gelbart, David Zippel;
San Francisco State University; May, 2008

"Tranced" by Bob Clyman; San Jose Repertory Theatre;
February, 2008

"Private Jokes, Public Places" by Oren Safdie; Aurora Theatre
Company; March, 2007

"Floyd Collins" by Guettel and Landau; San Francisco State
University; December, 2006

"Laughter On The 23rd Floor" by Neil Simon; Center Repertory;
Walnut Creek; May, 2006

*** 2006 Bay Area Critics Circle Nomination for Direction*

"Old Wicked Songs" by Jon Marans; Marin Theatre Company;
February, 2006

"The Love of the Nightingale" by Timberlake Wertenbaker;
A.C.T. Conservatory; October, 2005

Director (cont'd)

"Loaded" by Scott Capurro; Ars Nova Theater; New York; July, 2005

"The Magic Flute" by Mozart and Shikaneder; San Francisco State University; May, 2005

"Noel and Gertie" by Sheridan Morley; Center Repertory, Walnut Creek; January, 2005

*** 2005 Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Direction*

"Assassins" by Weidman and Sondheim; San Francisco State University; May, 2004

"The Lonesome West: by Mairtin McDonagh; Magic Theatre; May, 2003

"The House of Blue Leaves" by John Guare; Berkeley Repertory Theatre; September, 2002

"Rhinoceros" by Eugene Ionesco; Berkeley Repertory Theatre; January, 2002

"The Dybbuk" by S. Ansky with Musical score by Barbara Damashek; Syracuse Stage; April, 2002

"Silence" (*American premiere*) by Moira Buffini; Magic Theatre; March, 2002

*** Dean Goodman Award for Direction*

"House of Atreus" by Aeschylus – **"The Oresteia"** adapted by John Lewin with A Capella Score by Barbara Damashek; American Conservatory Theater Conservatory; MFA Project; October, 2001

Director (cont'd)

"Bronte" (*World premiere*) by John O'Keefe; Magic Theatre; February, 2000

"Spring Awakening" by Frank Wedekind, Translation by Douglas Langworthy; Magic Theatre; November, 1999; produced by A.C.T. Conservatory M.F.A. students

"Vilna's Got A Golem" by Ernest Joselovitz, Musical score by Barbara Damashek; Oregon Shakespeare Festival; March 1998

"A Mouthful of Birds" by Caryl Churchill and David Lan; New Langton Arts Theatre; October, 1997; produced by A.C.T. Conservatory graduate students

"The Cryptogram" (*West Coast Premiere*) by David Mamet; Magic Theatre; January, 1997

"The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov, translation by Paul Schmidt; American Conservatory Theater; April, 1996

"She Stoops To Folly" (*American premiere*) by Tom Murphy, Music for Songs by Barbara Damashek; South Coast Repertory; September, 1995

** *Dramalogue Award for Direction*

"Crow And Weasel" by Jim Leonard and Barry Lopez; Sundance Children's Theatre; July, 1995

"The Faith Healer" by Brian Friel; South Coast Repertory; May, 1995

"Dancing At Lughnasa" by Brian Friel; Trinity Repertory Company; July, 1994

Director (cont'd)

"All's Well That Ends Well" by Shakespeare; Music for Songs by Barbara Damashek; Shakespeare Santa Cruz; July, 1993

"The Baltimore Waltz" by Paula Vogel; Oregon Shakespeare Festival; May, 1993

"Trouble" by Steve Friedman (World Premiere); Magic Theatre; March, 1993

"The Firebugs" by Max Frisch; Music for Songs by Barbara Damashek; Oregon Shakespeare Festival; April, 1992

"Arms And The Man" by G.B. Shaw; Marin Theatre Company; May, 1992

"Happy End" by Bertolt Brecht, music by Kurt Weill; South Coast Repertory; June, 1991

"Treasure Island" adapted by Ara Watson; Actors Theatre of Louisville; March, 1991

"Into The Woods" by Sondheim and Lapine; U.C. Irvine Theatre; October, 1991

"The Cherry Orchard" adapted by David Mamet, Incidental Score by Barbara Damashek; Sacramento Theatre Company; March, 1990

"Sunday In The Park With George" by Sondheim and Lapine; South Coast Repertory; June, 1989

** *Dramalogue Award for Direction*

"Topgirls" by Caryl Churchill; San Francisco State University; March, 1989

Director (cont'd)

"The White Crow" by Donald Freed; Zephyr Theatre;
San Francisco; March, 1989

The San Francisco New Vaudeville Festival – Director of
segments with Avner the Eccentric, Keith Terry and Vaudeville
Nouveau; San Francisco State University; July, 1986 & June, 1988

"Two" by Ron Elisha; Northlight Repertory Theatre;
September, 1987

"Dreyfus In Rehearsal" by Jean-Claude Grumberg, adapted by
Garson Kanin; Berkeley Jewish Theatre; March, 1986

"The Wash" by Philip Kan Gotunda; Mark Taper Forum – New
Theater For Now; Festival of New Plays; November, 1985

Director and Composer

(...of original Full-Length Musical Scores...)

"Olympian Games" adapted from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*
by Kenneth Cavander and Barbara Damashek;
American Repertory Theatre; March, 1988

"Gimpel The Fool" adapted from the I.B. Singer story
by Larry Arrick; Berkeley Jewish Theatre Tour; June, 1987;
Mark Taper Forum's Itchy Foot Cabaret; June 1985

"Trumpets and Drums" by Bertolt Brecht; Denver Center
Theatre Company; March 1983

"A Taming Of The Shrew" – Denver Center; March, 1982

Composer-Lyricist and Musical Director

(...of original Full Length Musical Theatre works...)

“Tom Jones” adapted from the novel by Larry Arrick

“He Who Gets Slapped” adapted by Larry Arrick from Andreyev;
Hartman Theater

“Whiskey” – musical adaptation of the play by Terrence McNally;
also co-lyricist

“Camino Real” – musical adaptation of the play by Tennessee
Williams; also co-lyricist

“Two Saints” – musical adaptation of I.B. Singer’s *Gimpel the Fool*
adapted by Larry Arrick

“Flaubert’s St. Julian the Hospitalier” adapted by Ken Cavander

“Grimm’s Fairy Tales – Story Theater” with Lyricists, Arnold
Weinstein and Ken Cavander

...Representative Producers of the Above Productions...

*Trinity Repertory Company
Yale Repertory Theatre
Baltimore Center Stage
Pittsburgh Public Theater
WGBH Boston.*

...Staged Readings (Representative)...

"Autodelete" by Honour Moore; Bay Area Playwrights Festival at the Magic Theater; June 2004

"National Showcase of New Plays" – Stanford University; June, 2005

"Reunion" by Kenn Rabin; Playground Playwrighting Festival/Zeum Theatre; February, 2005

"Eyes For Consuela" by Sam Shepherd; Magic Theatre; June, 1998

"Captains Courageous" (Musical) by Fryer and Cook; American Music Theater Conference/Eugene O'Neill Theater Center; July, 1990

"The Heartbreaker" (early draft of **Sight Unseen**) by Donald Margulies; South Coast Repertory; October, 1989

Teacher

*Acting, Directing, Lyric Theatre,
Project Direction, Creation of Original Projects*

Professor, San Francisco State University 2003- 2011; also
Guest Lecturer 1994

American Conservatory Theatre Conservatory; Guest Director
1987-2005

...Additional Teaching/Guest Lecturing...

- * Guthrie Actor's Training Lab at University of Minnesota
- * Carnegie-Mellon Drama Department
- * Trinity Repertory Company Conservatory; founding faculty member
- * National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center