

MICHAEL R. WILSON

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artistic Director, Hartford Stage 1998 - 2011, Hartford CT

- **Transformed the TONY Award-winning not-for-profit professional theater** from a 9-month subscription season to a year-round production program, growing the operating budget from 6.3 to 10 million
- **Commissioned, developed & premiered outstanding new American work**, including **Quiara Alegria Hudes' *Water By the Spoonful*** (winner, 2012 Pulitzer Prize); the first workshop of the TONY Award winning Best Musical ***The Band's Visit***; **Horton Foote's *The Orphans Home Cycle*** (winner, 2010 Connecticut Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Lucille Lortel Foundation Best Play Awards) and **Edward Albee's *Peter and Jerry*** (one of 10 productions to transfer to Broadway/Off-Broadway)
- **Raised 63 million dollars** over 13 years by working closely with Board leadership, Managing Director and professional development staff to cultivate and personally steward major donors, resulting in 20 million dollars for Capital and Endowment Campaigns, as well as attracting first-time funding from the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust as well as major project support (\$500,000) from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and growing the company's Shubert Foundation grant by 100%
- **Promoted Equity, Diversity & Inclusion** on stage and off, engaging **Cynthia Mayeda** and **Donna Walker-Kuhne** in 1999 to conduct a diversity audit of the institution, leading to consistent hiring and recruitment practices for staff and artists of color, earning Bank of America's Neighborhood Builder's & the Hartford Courant's Tapestry Awards for Excellence in Diversity
- **Examined American classics** by producing the nation's first decade long marathon of **Tennessee Williams**, including an acclaimed musical staging of the rarely produced ***Camino Real*** (winner, 2000 CT Critics Circle Best Production, Director and Score Awards), starring TONY Award winner **Betty Buckley**
- **Established A New Holiday Tradition for Connecticut with original adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol** (which celebrated its 22nd anniversary in 2019), attracting first-time family audiences, while creating a consistent source of earned revenue for the company
- **Launched a Popular Summer Stage Season**, presenting legendary performers including TONY Award winners **Chita Rivera, Elaine Stritch, and Ben Vereen**
- **Created an Expansive Education, Outreach & Community Engagement Program**, hiring the company's first full-time Education Director, focusing on underserved Connecticut youth with groundbreaking programs like ***Interact*** and ***Connections***, while training the next generation of musical theatre artists with the University of Hartford's Hart School of Theater
- **Acted as principal spokesperson for the institution**, serving on the Connecticut Commission of the Arts (appointed by Senate President pro Tempore Kevin B. Sullivan) and as an Executive Board Member for the national union for Stage Directors and Choreographers, appointed to both in 2002
- **Directed 30 productions**, earning **Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle** and **Connecticut Critics Circle Outstanding Director Awards**, as well as the **Princess Grace Foundation-USA Statue Award** (2001), **Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award** (2002), **National Governors Association Award** for Distinguished Service to the Arts (2007), **Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, University of Hartford** (2007); and **Connecticut Governor's Award for Excellence in Culture** (2008)

Associate Director, Alley Theatre 1989 - 1997, Houston TX

- **Served as lead artistic producer for the company**, as well as Assistant Director for the musical premiere of ***Jekyll & Hyde*** (1990, and Associate Director for its 1995 pre-Broadway tour)

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SELECTED PROJECTS

"Tender Mercies" (current)

New musical by Steve Earle & Daisy Foote
based on Horton Foote's Oscar winning script

Le Petit Theater (current)

"Dear Mr. Williams" written by & starring
SAG Award winner Bryan Batt

Adirondack Theater Festival

"Beau" (2019)
Musical Premiere

CTG/Ahmanson Theater

"Grey Gardens – The Musical" (2016)
Los Angeles Premiere

Lifetime/Ostar Productions

"The Trip to Bountiful" (2014)
DGA Award nom, Outstanding Director TV-Movie

Jeffrey Richards/Schoenfeld Theatre

"The Best Man" (2012)
2 Tony Award Noms, including Best Revival of a Play

The Acting Company (current)

New musical by Michael McElroy & Julianne Wick Davis
based on Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale"

Chicago Shakespeare/National D.C.

"The King's Speech" (2020)
North American Premiere

A.R.T. @ Harvard University

"The Night of the Iguana" (2017)
starring James Earl Jones

Michael Mailer Productions

"Showing Roots" (2015)
winner, Best Film, Bahamas & Maryland Int Festivals

Nelle Nugent/Sondheim Theatre

"The Trip to Bountiful" (2013)
Outer Critics Circle Nom, Outstanding Director

Dodger Productions/St. James Theatre

"The Who's Tommy" (1993)
First Assistant Director (Broadway debut)

THEATRICAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

TONY Administration Committee, American Theater Wing / Broadway League (2014 to present)

Treasurer, SDC Executive Board (2016 to present)

Co-Chair, SDC/Broadway League negotiations (2015 & 2019)

RECENT AWARDS

Artistic Visionary Award, Bay Street Theater & Arts Hall of Fame, R.J. Reynolds Arts Magnet School (2017), inducted with **Ben Brantley** and **Howell Binkley**

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Art, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Morehead-Cain Scholar, Order of the Golden Fleece