

# Lezlie Wade

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## **CAREER OBJECTIVE**

My life's work in the performing arts is to create thought provoking theatre for our diverse community using art to inspire, provoke, question and entertain.

## **BACKGROUND**

I am an actor, director, writer and librettist.

I have held leadership roles in three companies at different stages of my career and at each of these theatres was instrumental in moving the company into new venues.

As a free-lance artist I've worked across the country as an actor, writer and director, spent two seasons at the Shaw Festival and seven seasons at the Stratford Festival.

I have 18+ years' experience in the performing arts as a director & producer creating and managing festivals and events and directing and writing award winning main-stage productions

## **PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

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<b>2003 – 2005</b>	<b>The Georgian Theatre Festival</b> 350 seat not-for-profit Summer Theatre Co. Produced and directed a four-show season. Implemented and oversaw Playwright development program. Created and directed a Youth Theatre Program. Steered company into a newly renovated theatre. Successfully landed OAC operating grants, Trillium Foundation grants, Metcalf Award, and local sponsorship from Kinsman, Lion's Club, and local businesses.	<b>Producing Artistic Director</b>
<b>2002 – 2005</b>	<b>Words in Action</b> Children's Summer Theatre Company. Classes in Shakespeare for Children aged 6 – 16. Produced and performed two Shakespearian productions per summer.	<b>Founding Artistic Producer</b>
<b>1998 – 2000</b>	<b>Theatre in Port</b> 150 Seat Commercial Theatre Company. Produced, and directed a seven-show season (all year round). Hired all artistic and Technical personnel. Consulted on building of new theatre.	<b>Founding Artistic Director</b>
<b>1996 – 1998</b>	<b>Showboat Festival Theatre</b> Assisted Artistic Director in daily operations of the Theatre. Directed one show a season.	<b>Associate Artistic Director</b>

Performed as part of the repertory theatre company.  
 Oversaw and directed youth theatre program.  
 Assisted in Marketing, fundraising, casting and touring.

**1988 – 1989**                      **Rainbow Troupe**                                      **Founding Member, Writer**  
 Writer and performer.  
 Musical song cycle about the history of Niagara Falls.  
 Site specific work in regional parks.  
 Televised for CTV.

**DIRECTING - Theatre**

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<b>2020</b>	<b>SPAMALOT</b> Prod. Stratford Festival, Ontario	<b>Director</b> (postponed due to Covid-19)
<b>2019</b>	<b>OBEAH OPERA</b> Luminato Theatre Festival, Toronto	<b>Director</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>AN IDEAL HUSBAND</b> Prod. Stratford Festival, Ontario	<b>Director</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>H.M.S. PINAFORE</b> Prod. Stratford Festival, Ontario	<b>Director</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>DREAM A LITTLE DREAM</b> Prod. The Grand Theatre, London	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>NO CHANCE IN HELL</b> Prod. Toronto Fringe	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>OBEAH OPERA</b> Prod. Panamania / PanAm Games Young Centre, Toronto	<b>Director</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>THE 12 POUND LOOK</b> Prod. Shaw Festival, Ontario	<b>Director</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>RENT</b> Prod. Theatre Department, Sheridan College. Transferred to the Panasonic.	<b>Director</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>ELEGIES</b> Prod. Musical Stage Co., Toronto	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>QUEEN MILLI OF GALT</b> Prod. Theatre Aquarius, Hamilton	<b>Director</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE</b> Prod. Roth / Rubinoff Productions Panasonic, Toronto Directed: Sheila McCarthy, Barbara Budd, Margot Kidder, Wendy Crewson, Jeannie Bekker, Mary Walsh, Linda Kash, Luba Goy	<b>Resident Director</b>

<b>2009</b>	<b>TREES DIE STANDING TALL</b> Prod. Talk is Free Theatre Canadian Premiere	<b>Director / Co- translator</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>THE TOXIC AVENGER</b> Prod. Dancap, Toronto Worked under Director John Rando	<b>Resident Director</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>DOG SEES GOD</b> Prod. Canadian Premiere Rubinoff Productions, Toronto Directed: Tatiana Maslany, Jake Epstein, Paula Brancati <b>Remounted for NYC Fringe Benefit series Laurie Beechman Theatre</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE</b> Prod. Musical Stage Co. Canadian Premiere	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>ELEGIES</b> Prod. Musical Stage Company Canadian Premiere	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>THE YALTA GAME</b> Prod. Shaw Festival Director's Project	<b>Director</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>A CHRISTMAS CAROL</b> Prod. Theatre Orangeville	<b>Director / Adaptation</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>COTTON PATCH GOSPEL</b> Prod. Georgian Theatre Festival	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>THAT SUMMER</b> Prod. Georgian Theatre Festival	<b>Director</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>THE RELAPSE / THE ROVER</b> Prod. Theatre Department, George Brown Theatre School Period Study	<b>Director</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>COWGIRLS</b> Prod. Georgian Theatre Festival	<b>Director / Choreographer</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>FOR THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HER AGAIN</b> Prod. Georgian Theatre Festival	<b>Director</b>

<b>2003</b>	<b>THE FOURSOME</b> Prod. Georgian Theatre Festival	<b>Director</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>ART</b> Prod. Waterloo Stage	<b>Director</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>BOOK OF DAYS</b> Prod. Theatre Emanation Canadian Premiere	<b>Director / Producer</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>THE CHIMES</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Director / Adaptation</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>RELATIVELY SPEAKING</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Director</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>A CHRISTMAS CAROL</b> Prod. Sudbury Theatre Centre	<b>Director / Adaptation</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>SYLVIA</b> Prod. Theatre in Port Starring Samantha Bee	<b>Director</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>THE GIFT OF THE MAGI</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Director</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>EDUCATING RITA</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Director</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>THE WOMAN IN BLACK</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Director</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>SHIRLEY VALENTINE</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Director</b>

#### **ASSISTING & ASSOCIATE DIRECTING - Theatre**

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<b>2013</b>	<b>HENRY V</b> Prod. Stratford Festival, Ontario Director, Des McAnuff	<b>Associate Director</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>A WORD OR TWO</b> Prod. Stratford Festival Worked with Des McAnuff & Christopher Plummer on one-man show.	<b>Assistant Director</b>
<b>2012 / 2013</b>	<b>JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR</b> Prod. Stratford Festival Director, Des McAnuff	<b>Assistant Director</b>
	<b>JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR</b> Prod. LaJolla Playhouse, California	

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR**  
Prod. Neil Simon Theatre, Broadway, NYC

<b>2011</b>	<b>AS YOU LIKE IT</b> Prod. Stratford Festival Theatre Director, Des McAnuff	<b>Assistant Director</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>FUENTE OVEJUNA</b> Prod. Stratford Festival Theatre Under the direction of Lawrence Boswell	<b>Assistant Director</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>MACK &amp; MABEL</b> Prod. Shaw Festival Under the direction of Molly Smith	<b>Assistant Director</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>SUMMER &amp; SMOKE</b> Prod. Shaw Festival Under the Direction of Neil Munro	<b>Assistant Director</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>MISS JULIE</b> Prod. Soulpepper Under the direction of Herbert Olschok	<b>Assistant Director</b>

#### **TEACHING / DIRECTING**

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<b>2021</b>	<b>ANYTHING GOES</b> St. Clair College	<b>Director</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>SERIOUS MONEY</b> Prod. Theatre Department, National Theatre School, Montreal	<b>Director</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>INTO THE WOODS</b> St. Clair College	<b>Director</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>MR. BURNS</b> Prod. Theatre Department, University of Windsor	<b>Director</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>LES BELLES SOEURS</b> Prod. Theatre Department, University of Windsor	<b>Director</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>BLUE STOCKINGS</b> Prod. Theatre Department, University of Windsor	<b>Director</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR</b> St. Clair College, Ontario	<b>Director</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF PERCIVAL VON SCHMOOTZ</b> Prod. World Premiere Musical. CMTP Sheridan College.	<b>Director</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>RENT</b> Sheridan College	<b>Director</b>

**2011**                      **WAITING FOR THE PARADE**                      **Director**  
Prod. Theatre Department, University of Toronto

## **DIRECTING – Film**

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**2020**                      **DEAD RECKONING**                      **Director / Writer**  
Prod. Loose Tea  
USA film / Children festival selection

**2021**                      **RED LETTER DAY**                      **Director / Writer**  
Prod. Yellow Door Theatre

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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**2019**                      **La MaMa International writer’s workshop / Spoleto Italy**  
Three-week writers retreat with Lisa Krohn (Fun Home book writer).

**2012 – 2013**                      **Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction / Stratford Festival**  
assisted on four productions under the direction of Des McAnuff.

**2010 – 2012**                      **BMI Workshop, New York**  
Regarded as the premiere training ground for musical theatre composers, lyricists and librettists. Among some of the works developed from the program are Avenue Q, A Chorus Line, Ragtime, Seussical, Little Shop of Horrors, Next to Normal, and The Addams Family.

**2008**                      **Directing Symposium / Stratford Festival workshop with Mike Alfreds.**

**2001**                      **Lincoln Center Director’s Lab, New York**  
(Study in Style) with Master Director Shi Sheng Ji and his exploration of the Pagoda Pavilion

**1992 – 1995**                      **George Brown Theatre School, Toronto**  
Certificate in Acting

**1990 – 1991**                      **The Neighborhood Playhouse, School of the Theatre, New York**  
Studied under the mentorship of Sanford Meisner, Phillip Gushee, Richard Pinter

## **WRITING**

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**2021**                      **RED LETTER DAY - musical**                      **Book & Lyrics**  
14 girls tell share their innermost secrets, joys, worries, and struggles during their high school graduation.

**2020**                      **DEAD RECKONING**                      **Book & Lyrics**  
In development with Scott Christian  
Filmed through Loose Tea Productions  
Selected for USA film / Kidfest

<b>2020</b>	<b>HANSEL &amp; GRETEL (The real story) -</b> A musical re-telling of the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale Optioned by Yellow Door Theatre Projects Music by Scott Christian	<b>Book &amp; Lyrics</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF PRINCE JEN</b> Musical based on book by Lloyd Alexander Optioned by Somerled Foundation in NYC Poised to receive a world premiere at a major theatre company this Winter Music by Daniel Green	<b>Book &amp; Lyrics</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>ASCAP Dreamworks Workshop</b> Prince Jen chosen as one of two musicals chosen for workshop with Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Flaherty and Dick Scanlan	
<b>2015</b>	<b>BEST OF BROADWAY</b> Prince Jen chosen as one of four musicals chosen for Best of Broadway presentation in NYC	
<b>2018</b>	<b>ROBIN HOOD - musical</b> Re-telling of the classic story. Commissioned for Yellow Door Theatre Collaborator John-Luke Addison	<b>Book and Lyrics</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE TOWER</b> Prod. Toronto Fringe Festival Composer Scott Christian Book Ali Greenburg	<b>Lyrics</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>RULE OF THIRDS</b> Workshopped at Road Less Traveled Productions, Buffalo	<b>Playwright</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>SUNSHINE SKETCHES OF A LITTLE TOWN</b> Playwright development fund	<b>Lyrics</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>QUEEN OF THE MIST</b> Prod. Smile Theatre Co Composer Wayne Gwillim	<b>Book &amp; Lyrics</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS CAROL</b> Prod. 2003 - The Globe Theatre, Regina 2002 - Sudbury Theatre Center 2005 - Theater Orangeville 2006 - Carousel Theatre, Vancouver 2001 - Workshop West, Edmonton 2001 - Shadow Theatre, Edmonton	<b>Book, Lyrics &amp; Music</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>THE CHIMES</b> Prod. Theatre in Port	<b>Playwright</b>

## PLAYWRIGHT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS (Directing)

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2012	<b>ORACLE</b> Musical Stage Company, Toronto Written by Paul Sportelli & Jay Turvey	Director
2008	<b>PATIENCE LORRAINE</b> Blyth Festival, Blyth Written by Alison McElwain	Director
2008	<b>PANDA, PANDA</b> YPT, Toronto Written by Leanna Brodie	Director
2005	<b>PEACELINE</b> Smile Theatre, Co. Toronto Written by Melinda Little	Director
2003	<b>HOME</b> Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover Written by Robert More	Director
2002	<b>CHORALOCITY</b> Independent Theatre Workshop Written by Scott White	Director
2002	<b>THE EGG</b> Nightwood Theatre Company, Toronto Written by Dawn Obdija	Director

## AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

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2019	<b>David Edney Award / Stratford Festival</b> Three week writing residency in Paris	
2016	<b>NO CHANCE IN HELL</b> Best of the Fringe & Critic Choice Award	
2015	<b>Tom Hendry Award</b> The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen Short-listed for best new Canadian musical	
2008	<b>Dora Nomination</b> Best Direction for a Musical A Man of No Importance	
2005	<b>Pauline McGibbon Nomination</b> Directing	
2001	<b>Dora Nomination for Book of Days / Theatre Emanation</b>	

