



Leo Lion

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BA in Theatre Directing, Fordham University (2022)

10 years professional experience directing for theatre & film and teaching Improv, Playwriting, Filmmaking, and Creative Writing (grades 6-12).

DIRECTED PRODUCTIONS

2024 (upcoming)

Metamorphosis

Immersive Adaptation from Franz Kafka
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, NYC

2023

The Wind in the Willows

Adapted from Kenneth Graham
Phoenix Festival, Nyack, NY

2023

Rossum's Universal Robots

Adapted from Karel Capek by Leo Lion & Zoe Senese-Grossberg. Firebird Project, Alchemical Studio NYC

2023

Scandalton: Live

Original RPG Improv Show
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, Chain Theatre, NYC

2022

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde
Phoenix Festival, Nyack, NY

2022

The Harmfulness of Tobacco

By Anton Chekhov
Phoenix Festival, Nyack, NY

2022

The Dracula Files

Adapted from Bram Stoker by Leo Lion & Boom Pflanz. Fordham University, NYC

2022

Electric Sheep

Original Short Play Festival
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, NYC

2021

The Roots that Clutch

by Sophia Swettenham
University of Toronto, Online

2020

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare
The Firebird Project, Online

2020

The Death of Ivan Ilyich

Adapted from Leo Tolstoy by Stephen Sharkey.
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, NYC

2019

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen
The Firebird Project, NYC

2019

Julius Caesar

by William Shakespeare
The Firebird Project, NYC

2018

The Tempest

Adapted from Shakespeare by Leo Lion & Zoe Senese-Grossberg. The Firebird Project, NYC

2018

Our Town

by Thornton Wilder
The Firebird Project, Hudson Guild Theatre, NYC

2017

Romeo + Juliet

Adapted from Shakespeare by Leo Lion & Zoe Senese-Grossberg. The Firebird Project, NYC

2016

Treasure Island

Adapted from Robert Lewis Stevenson by Leo Lion
The Firebird Project, NYC

2015

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Adapted from Lewis Carroll by Leo Lion & Thomas Pflanz. The Firebird Project, NYC

2014

eXpresso

by Leo and Pavel Lion.
The Firebird Project, NYC

2013

Down the Chocolate River and Beyond

Adapted from Roald Dahl by Leo Lion
The Firebird Project, NYC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

JAN 2013 – NOW

Artistic Director/Teaching Artist, The Firebird Project, NYC

- Founded and managed day-to-day operations of small independent production company and arts education program. Duties included company administration, publicity and outreach, patron relations, online media management, grant applications, and programming of the artistic season.
- Directed 12 off-off-Broadway productions with adult, youth, and mixed-age ensembles. 6 productions received numerous National Youth Arts awards and nominations, including awards for Direction and Ensemble.
- Oversaw company publicity (work covered in TDF Stages Magazine, Huffington Post, and John Holt's Growing Without Schooling).
- Taught educational afterschool and summer camp programs for students aged 8-18 in improv, playwriting, filmmaking, radio theater, roleplaying games, scene study, and game design.
- Offered private coaching to students in scene study, audition prep, vocal/speech skill development, and creative writing projects.

JAN 2018 – NOW

Associate Artistic Director, Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, NYC & Rockland County

- Directed 3 full-scale productions (*The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Wind in the Willows*) as well as numerous smaller events including reading series, short play presentations.
- Founded and oversaw PlayCoop New Works Incubator project to run long-term developmental workshops with resident artist ensemble, resulting in the creation of original interactive RPG show/experience *Scandalton: Live* and immersive *Metamorphosis* experience, both presented in workshop form in 2023 and being fully produced in 2024.
- Assisted in the management of programming for the company and admin for the Phoenix Festival, a regional arts festival in Nyack, NY and the greater Hudson Valley area.

SEP 2023 – NOW

Performing Arts Teacher (Middle School), International School of Brooklyn, Brooklyn NY

- Taught 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade theater classes, up to class size of 20 students, creating dynamic International Baccalaureate lesson plans featuring enriching explorations of theater history,
- Directed Middle School Musical afterschool (*Into the Woods Jr.*)
- Served as faculty advisor for senior community project group.

SKILLS

Youth Education (Grades 6-12), Digital Management (Google Workspace Proficient) Graphic & Web Design (Adobe CC Suite & Squarespace Proficient), Sound Design (Adobe Audition, Audacity, Garageband), Acting (Improv, Viewpoints, Michael Chekhov, Linklater Voice Technique), Singing (Baritenor Rock, Musical Theater, and Folk), Dialect Training (UK RP/London/Yorkshire, Russian). Gamemaster for RPGS (proficient in D&D 5e, Fiasco, Dread, Kids on Bikes, Apocalypse Engine).

OTHER ARTS CREDITS

Acting credits include work with Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, Ayun Halliday/Theatre of the Apes, The Firebird Project, and at Fordham University Studio.

Major Roles: Trigorin (The Seagull), John Sharpe (Boy My Greatness), The Baker (Into the Woods), Judas (Godspell), Mercutio/Friar Lawrence (Romeo and Juliet), Warbucks (Annie), Jan-the-Wise (Yeast Nation), Dickon (The Secret Garden), Dromio of Ephesus (A Comedy of Errors), Father Zosima (Delirium).

Playwriting: Plays written have been produced by Downtown Art, The Firebird Project, Writopia Worldwide Plays Festival, and in the Fordham University Studio.

Creative writing: Essays, fiction, and poetry published by Imagine Magazine, Teen Ink Magazine, and the New York Scholastic Awards Blog. Released a flash fiction collection: *Over the Bed: A little book about things that dwell*.

Visual Art/Filmmaking/Animation:

- Work exhibited in Metropolitan Museum of Art and Parsons The New School for Design.
- Short films Cracked and Leafman received Gold Keys from Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
- Short film "School Skits" received The Clay Crow Award at RolikiFest Film Festival in Moscow, Russia.
- Short animated film, Intergalactic Adventures of Bloop, awarded three national prizes from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards: National Gold Medal, Best in Grade Award, Ovation Award for Film and Animation. Animation work covered in the New York Daily News

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Fordham University

BA, Theatre (Directing), Summa Cum Laude, 2022

BEDLAM Theatre, New York, NY

Devising (2019) with Eric Tucker

The TEAM, New York, NY

Devising within Democracy (2017)
with Rachel Chavkin

Touring Productions (2017) with Manda Martin

Devising (2018) with Jill Frutkin

UCB, New York, NY

Improv 201 with Ray Cordova

Improv 301 with Shannon O'Niell

Squirrel Comedy, New York, NY

Improv 101 (2022) with Shane Nielsen

Theatre of the Apes, New York, NY

Long-Form Improv (2015) with Greg Kotis

NY Neo-Futurists

Neofuturism I (2023) with Hilary Asare & Robin
Virginie

Columbia School of the Arts, New York, NY

Audited Directing I (2017) with Anne Bogart

Wingspan Arts Conservatory, New York, NY

Directing (2017) with Valerie Issembert

Viewpoints & Composition (2015),

Dialects (British RP, Estuary, Yorkshire),

Stage Combat (2 units), Slam Storytelling, Acting
for the Camera, Sketch I.