



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

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 Dracula Files](#)

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

2020

[Macbeth](#)

by William Shakespeare
The Firebird Project, Online

2019

[An Enemy of the People](#)

by Henrik Ibsen
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

2016

[Treasure Island](#)

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

2014

[eXpresso](#)

by Leo and Pavel Lion.
The Firebird Project, NYC

2022

[The Harmfulness of Tobacco](#)

By Anton Chekhov
Phoenix Festival, Nyack, NY

2022

[Electric Sheep](#)

Original Short Play Festival
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, NYC

2021

[The Roots that Clutch](#)

by Sophia Swettenham
University of Toronto, Online

2019

[The Death of Ivan Ilyich](#)

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

2019

[Julius Caesar](#)

by William Shakespeare
The Firebird Project, NYC

2018

[R.U.R.](#)

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

2017

[Romeo + Juliet](#)

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

2015

[Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#)

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

2013

[Down the Chocolate River and Beyond](#)

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

RPG GAME MASTER EXPERIENCE

Systems Fluent: D&D 5e, Apocalypse Engine, Dread, Good Society, Kids on Bikes/Adversity Engine

2020-2023

Kainos: A New Age

D&D 5e, Steampunk Superheroes/Intrigue
3 players, early 20s, online & in-person

2020

A Small World

D&D 5e, Tiny Animals Mystery
6 players, high school, online

2020

Motherload

Apocalypse Engine, Cyberpunk Thriller
6 players, high school, online

2020

Ever After

Apocalypse Engine, Fairy Tale War
6 players, high school, online

2020

Silver Screen

Apocalypse Engine, Real-World Fantasy
6 players, high school, online

2020

Found Footage

Apocalypse Engine, Cryptid Hunters
6 players, high school, online

2020-2021

Questington U: Freshman Gauntlet

D&D 5e, Fantasy Collegiate
3 players, early 20s, online & in-person

2021

The Leftovers

Adversity Engine, Mystical Apocalypse
6 players, high school, online

2021

Lakehouse (two-shot)

Dread, Teen Vampire Horror
11 players, high school, in-person

2021

Last Christmas (one-shot)

D&D 5e, Holiday Action Adventure
6 players, ages 19-50, in-person

2021

Cat Mountain (one-shot)

D&D 5e, Tomb Raider Fantasy
3 players, early 20s, in-person

2021

Ocean's Pieces of 8 (one-shot)

D&D 5e, Nautical Heist
4 players, early 20s, in-person

2022

Camp Erebus (one-shot)

Dread, Camping Horror
2 players, early 20s, in-person

2021

Spaghetti Western (one-shot)

D&D 5e, Food People + Wild West
6 players, ages 19-50, hybrid play

HOME BREW SETTING

Kainos

D&D 5e, Victorian High Fantasy

HOME BREW SETTING

Far'away

D&D 5e, Fairy Tale Fuedal War

HOME BREW SETTING

Clambourne

D&D 5e, Coastal/Marine Survival

HOME BREW SETTING

Eightlands

D&D 5e, Ancient Civ Oddysey

HOME BREW SETTING

Welderlands

D&D 5e, Dieselpunk Adventure

As a theater director, creative writer, and improv coach, I bring a unique perspective to RPGs. I've spent years studying storycraft, allowing me to facilitate compelling narratives that keep players on the edge of their seats. Through vivid worldbuilding and description, a wide array of character voices, and a bit of theatrical magic, I create immersive environments that will transport you right into the heart of the story. Whether we're playing online or in-person, I'll use sound and lighting effects to create an unforgettable experience. With me as your guide, you can expect a truly professional-level game that will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

JAN 2013 – NOW

Artistic Director, The Firebird Project, NYC

- Directed 11 off-Off-Broadway productions with youth and mixed-age ensembles (adults and teens). 6 productions received numerous National Youth Arts awards and nominations, including awards for Direction and Ensemble.
- Originally adapted 2 classic books for the stage (Treasure Island, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland) and co-adapted Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet for a present-day mixed-age production.
- Managed day-to-day company operations including publicity and fundraising, organizing community events and press outreach (work covered in Huffington Post, TDF Stages Magazine, and John Holt's Growing Without Schooling blog).
- Handled managerial production tasks.

JAN 2013 – NOW

Youth Teaching Artist, The Firebird Project, NYC

- Led classes and workshops for kids and teens ages 8-18 in Improv (short and longform), Playwriting (basic theory, format, story structure), Creative Writing (collaborative process, writing of a short fiction book), Computer Animation and Programming (Intro to MIT Scratch, game development), and Filmmaking (film analysis and collaborative production).
- Directed readings of original short plays by teen playwrights after facilitating the scripts' development in a youth workshop/festival process.
- Privately volunteered to coach students preparing audition monologues for performing arts high schools/programs and professional work.

JAN 2018 – NOW

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

- Directed off-Off-Broadway production of *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* (2020, Paradise Factory II)
- Directed a benefit reading of *Hedda Gabler* (2020, NYC & Nyack, NY)
- Directed developmental process for *The Dracula Files* (2022, NYC)
- Directed two mainstage Festival productions, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Harmfulness of Tobacco* (self-translated from Russian)
- Assisted in the management of programming for the company and admin for the Phoenix Festival, a town-wide arts festival in Nyack, NY.

JULY 2022 – AUG 2022

Theatre Studio Teacher, East Village Community High School, NYC

- Taught summer camp for grades 6-8 as part of Phoenix InFlight school studio program.
- Led workshops in clown & improv, playwriting, and scene study.

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)

OTHER ARTS CREDITS

Acting credits include work with Ayun Halliday/Theatre of the Apes, Wingspan Arts Summer Conservatory, Different Directions Inc, Firebird Youth Theater and Fordham Theatre Company.

Major Roles: 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, Firebird Youth Theater, 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

Columbia School of the Arts, New York, NY

Audited Directing I (2017) with Anne Bogart

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

Squirrel Comedy, New York, NY

Improv 101 (2022) with Shane Nielsen

NY Neo-Futurists

Neofuturism I (2023) with Hilary Asare & Robin Virginie

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.

Theatre of the Apes, New York, NY

Long-Form Improv (2015) with Greg Kotis

A Class Act NY, New York, NY

Showcase Coaching (Jessica Rofé)
T.V. Workshop (Jessica Rofé, Gayle Keller, Victoria Kress)