



LEO LION

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Director - Actor/Improvisor - Game Show Creator - Arts Educator - Dungeon Master

BA in Theatre Directing, Fordham University (2022)

SELECT DIRECTING CREDITS

2025

[Liar's Night](#)

by Wally Alpern & Leo Lion
The Firebird Project, NYC

2025

[The Crucible](#)

by Arthur Miller, co-dir. Zoe Senese-Grossberg
The Firebird Project & Phoenix Theatre Ensemble
A Public Works Production, Nyack, NY

2025

[Scandalton: Live \(West Coast\)](#)

West Coast Transfer of RPG Improv Show
Dacha Theatre, Seattle

2025

[Trouble Feature](#)

Original RPG Improv Show
Firebird x The TEAM, NYC

2024

[DICE: A Midsummer Night's Dream](#)

Adapted from William Shakespeare
Dacha Theatre, Seattle

2024

[KafkaTech's 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
Co-dir. Zoe Senese-Grossberg
Firebird Project, Alchemical Studio NYC

2023

[Scandalton: Live](#)

Original RPG Improv Show
Phoenix Theatre Ensemble, NYC

2022

[The Importance of Being Earnest](#)

By Oscar Wilde
Phoenix Festival, Nyack, NY

2022

[The Harmfulness of Tobacco](#)

By Anton Chekhov, Original Translation
Phoenix Festival, Nyack, NY

2020

[The Death of Ivan Ilyich](#)

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

SELECT ACTING CREDITS

2025

[What If They Ate The Baby? - Upstairs](#)

Written & Directed by Xhloe & Natasha
SoHo Playhouse, NYC

2025

[HELP ME!!!! - Levi Notokin](#)

A Leo Lion Show, Directed by Yev Gelman
Edinburgh Fringe, Evolution Festival, EdFest, Downtown Art,
Phoenix Festival, PropBox Circus, Dacha Theatre

2025

[The Crucible - Reverend Hale](#)

Directed by Zoe Senese-Grossberg & Leo Lion
The Firebird Project & Phoenix Theatre Ensemble

2024

[Boy My Greatness - John Sharpe](#)

Directed by Zoe Senese-Grossberg, The Firebird Project

2023

[The Seagull - Trigorin](#)

Directed by Zoe Senese-Grossberg, The Firebird Project

SKILLS

Russian (Fluent), Improv (UCB Trained), Acting (Viewpoints, Michael Chekhov, Linklater Voice Technique), Youth Education (Grades 6-12), Digital Management (Google Workspace Proficient), Graphic & Web Design (Adobe Suite, Squarespace, & Canva Proficient), Sound Design (Adobe Audition, Audacity, Garageband), 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).

GRANTS & HONORS

Recipient of 4-Year **Theatre Department Scholarship** at Fordham College Lincoln Center.

Recipient of **Creatives Rebuild NY Guaranteed Income for Artists** program 2022-23.

Recipient of **New York State Council for the Arts - Support for Artists** Grant 2024.

Selected for **The TEAM's Petri Projects** Residency Cohort 2024-25 to develop original improv horror show *TROUBLE FEATURE*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

JAN 2013 – NOW

Founder/Artistic Director/Teaching Artist, The Firebird Project, NYC

- Managed day-to-day operations of an indie production company and arts education program. Duties included company administration, publicity and outreach, patron relations, online media management, grant applications, and artistic season programming. Produced NYC local as well as regional touring and international productions (Edinburgh Fringe Festival).
- Directed 17 off-off-Broadway theatre 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 PlaysToSee, ThinkingTheaterNYC, TheatreScene, BroadwayWorld, TDF Stages Magazine, Huffington Post, and Growing Without Schooling).
- Taught 13 years of educational afterschool and summer camp programs for students aged 8-18 in improv, playwriting, filmmaking, puppetry, clown, radio theater, roleplaying games, Shakespeare, and game design.
- Offered private student coaching in scene study, audition prep, vocal/speech, and creative writing projects.

JAN 2018 – NOW

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

- Directed 5 full-scale productions (*The Crucible*, *Metamorphosis*, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Wind in the Willows*) as well as numerous smaller events including reading series and festivals.
- 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 improv show *Scandalton: Live* and immersive *Metamorphosis* experience, both presented in workshop form in 2023 and 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.
- Worked as a Teaching Artist for InFlight theater ed outreach program at East Village Community High School.

SEP 2023 – JUNE 2025

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 in theatre foundations, Pantomime, Greek Drama, Shakespeare, and Improv.
- Directed 2 Middle School Musicals afterschool (*Into the Woods Jr.*, *Bye Bye Birdie Young Performers Edition*)
- Served as faculty advisor for a senior community project group.

SEP 2024 – NOW

Professional Game Master, Last Place on Earth, Brooklyn, NY / Cast Party, New York, NY

- Ran recurring professional-grade Dungeons & Dragons games in-person & online.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Fordham University

BA, Theatre (Directing), Summa Cum Laude, 2022
Concentration on Game Design & Interactivity

Upright Citizens Brigade, New York, NY

Improv 401 with Zack Willis (2024)
Improv 301 with Shannon O'Niell (2024)
Improv 201 with Ray Cordova (2023)

Squirrel Comedy, New York, NY

Improv 101 (2022) with Shane Nielsen

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

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

Theatre of the Apes, New York, NY

Long-Form Improv (2015) with Greg Kotis