

# WILL DETLEFSEN | DIRECTOR / TEACHER

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## Education

### **M.F.A. in Directing**

University of California, San Diego  
May 2017

### **B.F.A in Theatre, with Art History minor**

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts  
June 2011, with honors

### **Liberty High School**

Brentwood, CA  
June, 2008, 4.05 GPA, 6th in high school class of 550

## Teaching Experience

### **O'Neill National Theatre Institute**

#### **Advanced Directing Teacher**

#### Crafting a Concept, Spring, Summer & Fall 2020

Teaching directors about what it means to create and execute a production concept for a classic and contemporary production, using plays such as *Gloria*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The America Play*, *Three Sisters*, and *Waiting for Godot*

#### **University of California, San Diego**

#### ***Instructor / Graduate Teaching Assistant***

#### Introduction to Acting, 2015 — 2016

A beginning course in the fundamentals of acting: establishing a working vocabulary and acquiring the basic skills of the acting process. Through Viewpoints, the student explores the imagination as the actor's primary resource, and the basic approach to text through action.

#### Introduction to Theatre, 2014

An introduction to fundamental concepts in drama and performance. Students are given a condensed history of theatre and performance while asked to see live theatre and discuss the work.

**University of California, San Diego**  
***Instructor / Graduate Teaching Assistant (cont.)***

Public Speaking, 2017

This course is designed to establish a clear understanding of the fundamentals of effective oral communication. Using skills from voice and speech techniques, as well as the basics of acting, this course uses theatrical vocabulary to prepare students for public speaking events.

**Hangar Theatre Acting Conservatory**  
***Guest Instructor***

Improvising Shakespeare, 2013

This course prepares the artist for the challenging task of understanding “living thought” in Shakespeare’s work. Students are challenged to think of Shakespeare’s text not as poetry, but as active, alive, and dynamic thinking out loud.

Contemporary Acting Scene Study, 2013

Introduces artists to the works of Annie Baker, Young Jean Lee, Sarah Kane, Brandon Jacob-Jenkins, Jaclyn Backhaus and Samuel D. Hunter through an intense focus on text analysis and developing a working groundplan.

**New York University**  
***Teaching Assistant***

Chekhov Scene Study, 2012

Practical exercises, discussion, text analysis, and scene work on the writings of Anton Chekhov. This course dives deep into Stanislavsky methods of text analysis, actor preparation, given circumstances, and subtext.

**Playgarden Montessori Pre-School**  
***Head Teacher***

Montessori Pre-School in Tribeca, 2011 - 2014

Experience working with children under Montessori guidelines and practices. Teaching experience for three years in which I created curriculum and lead classrooms of twelve kids with an assistant teacher. Montessori certified in White Plains, NY.

**Directing Experience****Professional Theatre Directing, 2012 — Present**

<i>I am a positive person</i>	by Danny Rocco	Zoom (Atlantic Theater)	2020
<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> (postponed due to COVID-19)	by Tennessee Williams	NYU, Strasberg, NY	2020
<i>The Brewery</i>	by Manning Jordan	Dixon Place, NY	2020
<i>The Straights</i>	by T. Adamson	JACK, NY	2019
<i>You're Gonna Be Famous</i>	by York Walker	Atlantic Theater School, NY	2019
<i>The Funfair</i>	by Simon Stephens	Cal State Long Beach, CA	2018
<i>Larvae</i>	by Kelsey Torstveit	The Alchemical, NY	2018
<i>Pick a Color</i>	by Emily Feldman	Dixon Place, NY	2018
<i>Machinalia</i>	by Steph Del Rosso	JACK, NY	2017
<i>Confirmation</i>	by Chris Thorpe	Ubuntu, Oakland CA	2017
<i>House &amp; Variations</i>	by T. Adamson	Dixon Place, NY	2014
<i>Blasted</i>	by Sarah Kane	Duo Theatre, NY	2013
<i>Breathless</i>	by Jean-Luc Godard	Hangar Wedge, NY	2013
<i>A Year with Frog and Toad</i>	by Robert & Willie Reale	Hangar Kiddstuff, NY	2013
<i>The Birthday Party</i>	by Harold Pinter	14th Street Y, NY	2012

**University of California, San Diego Directing, 2015 — 2017**

<i>Strange Men</i>	by Will Snider	Wagner New Play, UCSD	2017
<i>Machinalia</i>	by Steph Del Rosso	IDEAS Fest, UCSD	2017
<i>Vieux Carré</i>	by Tennessee Williams	Thesis Production, UCSD	2016
<i>Go. Please. Go.</i>	by Emily Feldman	Wagner New Play, UCSD	2016
<i>Rhinoceros</i>	by Eugene Ionesco	2nd Year Project, UCSD	2015
<i>Death of a Driver</i>	by Will Snider	Wagner New Play, UCSD	2015
<i>Lear</i>	by Young Jean Lee	Studio Project, UCSD	2015

**New York University Directing, 2009 — 2011**

<i>XIX</i>	by Jessica Almasy	Thesis Production, NYU	2011
<i>The Happy Journey...</i>	by Thornton Wilder	2nd Year Project, NYU	2009

**Artistic Directing, MultiPurposeRoom, 2010 — 2014**

<i>Televise THIS!</i>	by MultiPurposeRoom	440 Studios, NY	2010
<i>Buildings</i>	by MultiPurposeRoom	FAB Fest, LaMama, NY	2012
<i>YEAR of the HIPPO</i>	by MultiPurposeRoom	Space on White, NY	2013

## Selected Readings, 2012 — 2017

<i>Swimming Circles</i>	by Phillip Himberg	Diversionsary Theatre, CA	2017
<i>Incidental Friends</i>	by Liliana Padilla	UCSD, CA	2015
<i>Borealis</i>	by Bennett Fisher	UCSD, CA	2015
<i>The Strangest Thing</i>	by Wendy Dann	Hangar Theatre, NY	2013
<i>Serendipity</i>	by Melissa Vogt-Patterson	The Tank, NY	2012

## Assistant / Associate\* Directing Experience:

<i>The Pain of My Belligerence</i>	dir. Trip Cullman	Playwrights Horizons, NY	2019
<i>Cambodian Rock Band</i>	dir. Chay Yew	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	2019
<i>I Was Most Alive with You</i>	dir. Tyne Rafaeli	Playwrights Horizons, NY	2018
<i>Angels in America*</i>	dir. Tony Taccone	Berkeley Repertory, CA	2018
<i>The Donna Summer Musical</i>	dir. Des McAnuff	La Jolla Playhouse, CA	2017
<i>Waiting for Godot*</i>	dir. Gábor Tompa	UCSD, CA	2017
<i>The Last Tiger in Haiti</i>	dir. Joshua K. Brody	La Jolla Playhouse, CA	2016
<i>Up Here</i>	dir. Alex Timbers	La Jolla Playhouse, CA	2015
<i>The Babylon Line</i>	dir. Terry Kinney	Powerhouse Theatre, NY	2014
<i>Straight White Men</i>	dir. Young Jean Lee	Park Ave Armory, NY	2013
<i>Lear</i>	dir. Rachel Chavkin	NYU, NY	2012
<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	dir. Robert Moss	NYU, NY	2011

**Fellowships & Awards**      **2019-2020 O’Neill / NNP National Directors Fellowship**  
5th Cohort

**2017-2018 Manhattan Theatre Club Directing Fellowship**

**2018 Stage Directors and Choreographers Observership**  
*Fellow Travelers* at Bay Street Theatre

**2017 Inaugural MFA Graduate Student SDC Award**  
Stage Directors & Choreographers Foundation

**2017 Monroe Lippman Award**  
Thesis Production: Tennessee Williams’ *Vieux Carré*

**2013 Drama League Directing Fellowship**  
Hangar Theatre Directing Fellow

**2011 Drama Award at New York University**  
Excellence in Studio Work, Playwright Horizons Theater School

- Publications**                    “Ghosts, Memories & Masturbation in *Vieux Carré*”  
UC San Diego Graduate Thesis Paper 2017  
<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8340j4v4>
- Memberships**                    Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation  
Associate Membership, 2017 — Present
- Service to the University**    UC San Diego Alumni Newsletter  
Weekly email publication of UC San Diego Theatre & Dance  
Alumni News, 2015 — 2017
- UC San Diego Guide to Preuss School Theatre Students  
Pre-show dinner and discussion with Preuss High School Students  
prior to UC San Diego graduate theatre productions, 2015 — 2017
- Residencies & Workshops**    Chekhov Intensive with Yury Kordonsky  
UC San Diego, 2016
- Shakespeare Workshop with Declan Donnellan  
Hungarian National Theatre of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2016
- Korean-Language Pansori Workshop with Jaram Lee  
Hungarian National Theatre of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2016
- “Ultimate Desire” Miss Julie Workshop with Petar Todorov  
Drama League Theater Center, 2014
- MultiPurposeRoom Residency with The Field  
Dixon Place, 2012
- Additional Training**            Theatre of the Absurd with Gábor Tompa, UCSD  
Brecht and Meyerhold with Gábor Tompa, UCSD  
Directing Film with Gábor Tompa, UCSD  
Shakespeare with Marco Barricelli, UCSD  
Tennessee Williams Intensive with Kim Rubinstein, UCSD  
Viewpoints with Theresa McCarthy, NYU  
Devising Theatre with Rachel Chavkin & the TEAM, NYU  
Form and Content with Dan Safer & Witness Relocation, NYU  
Meisner Acting Technique with Jessica Almasy, NYU

## References

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**Gábor Tompa**, Head of Directing  
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