

# SEAN DANIELS

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(510) 684 8071 [SEANDANIELS@MAC.COM](mailto:SEANDANIELS@MAC.COM)

**Representation:** Leah Hamos, Gersh, 212.634.8153 [lhamos@gersh.com](mailto:lhamos@gersh.com)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Artistic Director, Merrimack Repertory Theatre**

Lowell, Massachusetts

**12/2014-Present**

Artistic Leader of a \$2.9 million LORT theatre dedicated to new work. Responsibilities included overall artistic direction, production supervision, personnel selection and artistic programming for the company. Serves as a lead fundraiser and voice in the community.

Created and implemented many nationally recognized programs for audiences (Cohort Club, Free Child Care) and Artists (Patriot Program). First three seasons broke box office records, 7 shows in the theatre's "Top 15 Best Sellers" and the Top 5 best selling days in the Box Office. Reversed a national and local trend, and had more subscribers in Year 2 than in Year 1, and then more subscribers in Year 4 than Year 3. Oversaw the largest matching gift campaign in theatre's history (donor put in 35K, then in 10's and 20's our audience matched it and exceed it, adding in 47K of their own). All of this activity inspired another donor to add \$500K to this year to help with our new play efforts, and a \$450K grant from the Barr/Klarman Foundation (the theatre's largest grant ever).

### **Artist-At-Large/Director of Artistic Engagement**

Geva Theatre Centre, Rochester, NY

**08/2012-02/2015**

Direct and create Mainstage and second space shows for the \$7 million LORT theater. Create and run nationally recognized innovative audience engagement program The Cohort Club, a full immersion program for community members to learn more about the creating of a show. This program was lauded for leading to a higher level of appreciation, fluency, donations and subscriptions amongst participants.

### **Interim Artistic Director**

**Actors Theater of Louisville, Louisville, KY**

**3/2011-10/2011**

Serve as interim artistic director of Tony Award winning \$10 million LORT theatre and co-programming responsibilities for internationally renowned Humana Festival of New American Plays. Creator and Administrator of Humana/University Partnership program.

### **Associate Artistic Director**

**Actors Theater of Louisville, Louisville, KY**

**2007-2011**

Serve as a senior level department head of the organization in overseeing the entire range of artistic, and administrative projects and programs for the \$10 million LORT theatre. Creator and Administrator of Humana/University Partnership program.. Play a large role in the cultivating, selecting, producing and directing of the plays in the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Directs 4+ shows a year. (Directed a record 17 productions including 5 Humana Festivals in his 4 seasons).

**Associate Artistic Director & Resident Director  
California Shakespeare Theater, Berkeley, CA**

**2004-2006**

Serves as a senior level department head overseeing the entire range of artistic, administrative and education projects and programs for the 3.7 million dollar company. In addition to being a resident director, also spearheads specific initiatives such as leading the theater's efforts in developing audiences and supporters under the age of 35, fundraising, board development, inter-departmental communication and creating and teaching educational programs.

**Co-Founder and Artistic Director  
Dad's Garage Theatre Company, Atl. GA**

**1995-2004**

Co-Founded Dad's Garage, a professional company dedicated to elevating awareness of the arts through ensemble-driven improvisational comedy and original theatrical works. Responsibilities included overall artistic direction, production supervision, personnel selection and artistic programming for the company. Produced over 50 productions during his tenure. Served as original Managing Director, responsible for the financial management and overall administration of the organization.

During tenure as Artistic Director, Dad's Garage has won: "Best Theatre '98, '00, '01, '02, '03" & "Best Improv Troupe '99, '00, '01, '02, '03" in *Creative Loafing Magazine*, "Best Theatre '01 & '02" by *Insight Magazine*, "Best Place To Get Art Without The Pretense '00", "Best Cheap Art '01", "Atlanta's Best Kept Dating Secret '03" by *atlantacitysearch.com*, "Best Place To Laugh '99" by *Atlanta Magazine*, "Best Theatre '98" in *Southern Voice*, and "Best New Arts Organization '98" by the Atlanta Arts & Business Council. Dad's Garage has also received praise in such magazines as: *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *American Theatre*, *People Magazine* and on the BBC.

**Free-Lance Director**

**1995-Present**

Has directed at Manhattan Theatre Club (*The Lion*, Drama Desk Award & Theatre World Award, nominated for Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle), Lynn Redgrave (NYC), 59E59 (NYC, *I and You*, nominated for Outer Critics Circle), The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), St. James (West End, London - *The Lion*, winner of Best New Musical), Merrimack Repertory Theatre (*My 80 Year Old Boyfriend*, Kleban Award) Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Old Globe, The Geffen, Arena Stage, Portland Center Stage, Geva Theatre, Playmakers Rep, A.C.T., Cleveland Play House, Milwaukee Rep, Alliance Theatre, California Shakespeare, Dad's Garage Theatre Company, Swine Palace, City Theatre, Neo-Futurists, Aurora Theatre, Crowded Fire and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

He has developed new work with Eugene O'Neill Center, Baltic American Playwrights Conference in Hiiumaa, Estonia, Public Theatre, Ars Nova, PlayPenn, Lark, PlayLabs, Asolo Rep, Goodspeed Opera, Weston Playhouse, Cape Playhouse, Bay Area Playwrights, Magic Theatre and others.

Has developed new plays with many delightful playwrights including: 2 Time Tony Award winner's: Greg Kotis & Mark Hollmann (*Urinetown*), & Trey Parker and Matt Stone (*Book of Mormon*), Pulitzer Prize Finalist Kristoffer Diaz, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa (*Glee*, *Big Love*, *Spiderman*), Benjamin Scheuer, Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, Carly Mensch

(*GLOW*), Dan Dietz (*Westworld*), Jordan Harrison (*Orange Is The New Black*), Deborah Stein, Deborah Zoe Laufer, James McLindon, Steve Yockey Lauren Gunderson, Jake Jeppson (at the Baltic/American Playwrights Conference in Hiiumaa, Estonia), Wendy MacLeod, Tracy Thorne, and Monty Python's Graham Chapman (though he was dead at the time, so we needed assistance from John Cleese and Michael Palin).

Has been named "One of the top fifteen up & coming artists in the U.S., whose work will be transforming America's stages for decades to come." & "One Of 7 People Reshaping And Revitalizing The American Musical" by American Theatre Magazine. He's been named "Best Director" repeatedly in Atlanta and the Bay Area. His productions have been named "Best Production" and broke box-office records in Atlanta, the Bay Area, Rochester, NY and London, England.

### **Writer**

Work has appeared at Merrimack Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, City Theatre, Dad's Garage Theatre Company, been workshopped at Theatrical Outfit and has been commercially optioned by 5 Time Tony Nominee Tom Kirdahy for of an Off-Broadway run in 2018.

He has gotten permission from the Jack Kerouac Estate to be the first writer to adapt a Kerouac novel into a play, which will premiere in 2019.

### **Educator**

Adjunct Professor at University of Rochester and Rider University, Guest Lecturer at Florida State University, and University of Texas at Austin. Taught classes at Berkeley Repertory Theater, Cal Shakes, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Dad's Garage, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Abused Women & Children, and Golden Isles Arts & Humanities in Brunswick, GA.

### **Board Member** *(past and present)*

Black Lives, Black Words (advisory), Young Not Profit Network (national board), Lowell Cultural Council (granting organization), Atlanta, Regional Arts & Culture Leadership Alliance (serve with Mayor Franklin and others to provide a link between arts and economic development), Atlanta Regional Arts Task Force, Atlanta Arts and Business Council, Atlanta Coalition of Theatres (past Vice-President), Zoetic Dance Ensemble (former Board President), Dad's Garage, Abused Women and Children, First Night Atlanta (past Community Outreach Chair) & WXIA-NBC-Channel 11 (past member of Arts Advisory Board), First Glance (Atlanta's New Works Festival), sits on National Playwrights Conference Artistic Council.

### **Theatre Review Panelist**

National Endowment of the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, O'Neill Theater Conference, Lowell Cultural Council, Society of Directors and Choreographers, Georgia Council For The Arts, City of Atlanta/Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Fulton County Arts Council, Public Theater Emerging Writers Group