

Shelby R. Seeley

Director | Developer
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shelbyrseeley.com

Education

Yale University Summer Session- Certificate in Directing	2021
The Kennedy Center- Directing Intensive (Raymond Caldwell, Nicole Watson)	2021
Eastern Michigan University- BS Theatre Arts	2020

Director

BERNHARDT/HAMLET	Open Book Theatre Company	
IN SEARCH OF THE MOTHMAN	Theatre NOVA	World Premiere
DEATH OF A DRIVER	Theatre NOVA	
MISS NELSON IS MISSING	Fargo-Moorhead Theatre	February 2025
LOVEBIRD JAMBOREE	Planet Ant	
DRIVEWAY DATING	Open Book Theatre Company	
MAN OF LA MANCHA	The Penny Seats Theatre Company	Co-Dir. Phil Simmons
PIZZA SLUT	Boxfest Detroit	
TWELFTH NIGHT	Phoenix Theatre Productions	Co-Dir. Kellie Beck
THE GULF	Eastern MI University Lab Theatre	

New Work Development (Staged Readings)

TRAGEDY SOUND	Flint Repertory Theatre	Workshop
LORETTA'S CREMATORIUM HOUR	Samuel French 48th Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival	
FUNNY, LIKE HAHA	Flint Repertory Theatre	
IMPOSTER!	Renaissance City Repertory Theatre	
BERMUDA TRIANGLES	Independent	Workshop

Assistant Director

DEATH OF A SALESMAN	Flint Repertory Theatre	Dir. Michael Lluberes
WRONG RIVER	Flint Repertory Theatre	Dir. Jeremiah Davison
HAPPY DAYS	Flint Repertory Theatre	Dir. Kathryn Walsh

Related Experience

Associate Artistic Director & Literary Manager | Theatre NOVA March 2023-Present

- Directed and produced multiple mainstage productions.
- Produced the annual Michigan Playwrights Festival, leading a team of over 40 artists. Responsibilities included assembling the play-reading committee, curating play selection, creating production and rehearsal schedules, hiring directors and support staff, assisting with casting, and coordinating feedback sessions for playwrights.
- Conceived, developed, funded and produced the inaugural New Play Development Residency.
- Successfully aided in writing and securing grants, including a MACC Operational Grant (\$37,600 in 2024 and \$13,750 in 2023) and a Walmart Spark Grant (\$500 in 2023).
- Led marketing efforts, including managing social media campaigns, writing press releases, soliciting reviews, and organizing community outreach.
- Collaborated with Artistic Directors on season selection, casting/hiring decisions, and contract negotiations.
- Served as a play reader and scorer for the National New Play Network Showcase, providing critical evaluation for new works.

Playwright's Assistant, THE FUTURE IS FEMALE | Flint Repertory Theatre February 2023

- Served as an external perspective with focus on the script for playwright Nandita Shenoy while she performed in the leading role of the World Premiere production.
- Attended rehearsals to take detailed notes, capturing director and actor feedback for the playwright and keeping Nandita's notes as she rehearsed.
- Synthesized rehearsal observations into actionable insights, aiding the playwright in refining script and dialogue.
- Served as a creative sounding board and provided constructive feedback.

Producer, SASSAFRAS AND THE CAPTAIN | NYC Fresh Fruit Festival May 2022

- **Award:** Winner of "Outstanding Production of 2022" (Fruitie Award)
- Recruited and managed the full creative team, including cast, stage manager, COVID compliance officer, assistant director, and designers (17 paid artists in total).
- Secured grant funding for 80 free COVID-19 tests.
- Supervised finances and assisted in raising over \$5,750.
- Coordinated rehearsal logistics, including booking budget-friendly spaces and securing 17 hours of donated rehearsal space in the heart of Manhattan.

Director of Theatre | Patrick Henry Middle School 2017-2023

- Produced & Directed 12 Plays and Musicals: Created a student-led theatre program to engage, enlighten, and empower students through comprehensive theatre production.
- Taught students the full play production process (onstage and off), resulting in high-quality, student-led performances and developing strong leadership skills.
- Managed program finances, increasing the budget by 300%, and recruited skilled assistants (Technical or Music Directors) for each show.
- Coordinated with school administration for material approval, space logistics, and educational objectives. Oversaw theatre productions across three district schools.
- Student Recruitment & Success: Recruited over 250 individual students, many of whom returned for multiple shows, fostering a pathway to success in the state-championship-winning high school program.