

# Shelby R. Seeley

Director | Developer  
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## Education

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

## Director

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

## New Work Development (Staged Readings)

TRAGEDY SOUND	Flint Repertory Theatre	<i>Workshop</i>
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	<i>Workshop</i>

## Assistant Director

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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

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*Producing Artistic Director & Literary Manager*| Theatre NOVA January 2025-Present  
*Associate Artistic Director & Literary Manager* March 2023-January 2025

- 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 + produced 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.