

# Sam Helfrich

Theatre and Opera Director  
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NYU/Tisch School of the Arts

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## PROFESSIONAL WORK

### OPERA (Stage director)

<b>Alcina</b> , Handel	2025
Mannes College Conservatory, NY	
<b>Legend of the Ring</b> (from <i>The Ring Cycle</i> ), Wagner	2024
West Edge Opera, CA	
<b>Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi</b> , Puccini	2024
NYU Steinhardt Vocal Arts, NY	
<b>The Flying Dutchman</b> , Wagner	2023
Pittsburgh Opera, PA	
<b>The Magic Flute</b> , Mozart	2023
Morelia Summer Opera Festival, Mexico	
<b>Cosmic Cowboy</b> , Ruehr/Jacobs	2022
White Snake Productions at the Paramount Theater, Boston, MA	
<b>Angels in America</b> , Eötvös	2022
Salzburg Landestheater, Austria	
<b>Elizabeth Cree</b> , Puts/Campbell	2021
West Edge Opera, CA	
<b>Three to See</b> , NYU Operalab Composers	2019
NYU/Steinhardt Vocal Arts, NY	
<b>Permadeath</b> , Dan Visconti	2018
White Snake Productions at the Majestic Theater, Boston, MA	
<b>Why is Eartha Kitt Trying to Kill Me</b> , Jeffrey Smith	2018
Urban Arias, VA	
<b>The Magic Flute</b> , Mozart	2018
Indianapolis Symphony, IA	
<b>The Summer King</b> , Daniel Sonenberg	2018
Michigan Opera Theater, MI	
<b>Creation</b> , Haydn	2017
Pittsburgh Symphony, PA	
<b>Angels in America</b> , Péter Eötvös	2017
New York City Opera, NY	
<b>The Summer King</b> (world premiere), Daniel Sonenberg	2017
Pittsburgh Opera, PA	
<b>Madama Butterfly</b> , Puccini	2017
Palm Beach Opera, FL	
<b>St John Passion</b> , Bach	2016
Pittsburgh Symphony, PA	
<b>Embedded</b> (World premiere), Soluri/Brevoort	2014-2016
Fargo-Moorehead Opera, ND / Fort Worth Opera, TX	
<b>Orphée aux Enfers</b> , Offenbach	2015
Virginia Opera, VA	
<b>Enemies, A Love Story</b> (world premiere), Ben Moore	2015
Palm Beach Opera, FL	

<b>Cavalleria Rusticana</b> , Mascagni String Orchestra Of Brooklyn, St Ann's Church, NY	2015
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Pittsburgh Opera, PA	April 2014
<b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> , Strauss Virginia Opera, VA	February 2014
<b>Dead Man Walking</b> , Heggie Eugene Opera, OR	March 2013
<b>A Streetcar Named Desire</b> , Previn Virginia Opera, VA	February 2013
<b>Kepler</b> (American premiere), Glass Spoleto Festival/USA, SC	May 2012
<b>Nixon in China</b> , Adams Eugene Opera, OR	March 2012
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Virginia Opera, VA	February 2012
<b>Messiah</b> (fully-staged), Handel Pittsburgh Symphony, PA	December 2011
<b>The Secret Agent</b> (world premiere), Dellaira Armel Opera Festival, Hungary	October 2011
<b>La Bohème</b> , Puccini Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Festival, NY	June 2011
<b>Les Indes Galantes</b> , Rameau Boston Baroque, MA	May 2011
<b>The Secret Agent</b> (world premiere), Dellaira Center for Contemporary Opera, NY	March 2011
<b>Don Giovanni</b> , Mozart Yale Opera, CT	February 2011
<b>Così fan tutte</b> , Mozart Delaware Valley Opera, NY	July 2010
<b>The Turn of the Screw</b> , Britten Boston Lyric Opera, MA	Feb 2010
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Portland Opera, OR	November 2009
<b>Eugene Onegin</b> , Tchaikovsky Pittsburgh Opera, PA	September 2009
<b>The Consul</b> , Menotti Glimmerglass Opera, NY	July 2009
<b>Louise</b> , Charpentier Spoleto Festival/USA, SC	May 2009
<b>Der Freischutz</b> , Weber Opera Boston, MA	October 2008
Opera Scenes Santa Fe Opera, NM	August 2008
<b>Amistad</b> , Davis Spoleto Festival /USA, SC	May 2008
<b>Aida</b> , Verdi Opera Omaha, NE	April 2008
<b>Semele</b> , Handel Opera Boston, MA	February 2008
<b>Le Comte Ory</b> , Rossini Juilliard Opera Center, NY	November 2007
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Glimmerglass Opera, NY	July 2007

<b>The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny</b> , Weill/Brecht Opera Boston, MA	February 2007
<b>Don Giovanni</b> , Mozart Boston Baroque, MA (semi-staged)	October 2006
<b>West Side Story</b> , Bernstein Ashlawn-Highland Opera Festival, VA	July 2006
<b>The Abduction from the Seraglio</b> , Mozart Opera Omaha, NE	May 2006
<b>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</b> , Rossini Kentucky Opera, KY	February 2006
<b>Agrippina</b> , Handel Boston Baroque, MA (semi-staged)	October, 2005
<b>L'Elisir d'Amore</b> , Donizetti Berkshire Opera Company, MA	August 2005
<b>La Voix Humaine</b> , Poulenc Glimmerglass Opera, NY	July 2005
<b>The Turn of the Screw</b> , Britten Pittsburgh Opera, PA	February 2005
<b>Trouble in Tahiti</b> , Bernstein Florida Grand Opera, FL	September 2004
<b>Trouble in Tahiti</b> , Bernstein	July 2004
<b>A Hand of Bridge</b> , Barber	
<b>A Game of Chance</b> , Barab Berkshire Opera Company, MA	
<b>Mirandolina</b> , Martinu Manhattan School of Music, NY	April 2004
<b>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</b> , Rossini Wolf Trap Opera Company, VA	August 2003
<b>The Secret Marriage</b> , Cimarosa Berkshire Opera Company, MA	July 2003
<b>Rain</b> , a new opera by Richard Owen Camerata/NY, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, NY	February 2003
<b>Amahl and the Night Visitors</b> , Menotti Opera Company of Brooklyn, NY	December 2001
<b>Die Walküre</b> , Wagner Riverside Church, NY	May 2001
<b>Miss Havisham's Wedding Night</b> , Argento Hofstra University, NY	November 2000

## THEATRE

Director:

<b>In a Dark Dark House</b> , LaBute Knife Edge Productions and ART/NY	December 2019
<b>Masquerade</b> , Lermontov String Orchestra of Brooklyn at St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, NY	December 2015
<b>After The Fall</b> , Miller NYU Grad Acting, NY	October 2014
<b>Village Wooing</b> (Shaw)	June 2013
<b>A Door Must be Kept Open or Shut</b> (De Musset) Franklin Stage Company, NY	
<b>Owned</b> (World premiere), Julian Sheppard Knife Edge Productions, NY	May 2013
<b>Tape</b> , Stephen Belber Knife Edge Productions, NY	September 2011

<b>Obama</b> , Wade Savitt NY Avante Garde Theater Festival, NY	July 2011
<b>Dark Ride</b> , by Len Jenkins Bard College, NY	December 2004
<b>In A Pig's Valise</b> , a musical by Eric Overmeyer Bard College, NY	March 2004
<b>Transparency of Val</b> , by Stephen Belber La Tea Theatre, Captains of Industry, producers	July 2002
<b>5:30 PM, Tuesday</b> , by Winter Miller, PSNBC at H.E.R.E. Columbia/NYU Young Playwrights series	May 2002
<b>Packaging Sunshine</b> , MFA thesis at Horace Mann Theatre Columbia University, New York	January 2000
<b>Copywrite</b> , by Averil La Russa 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY	October 1996
<b>When the Time Is Right</b> , by Spencer Barros 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, in association with Evening Shade Theatre Company, NY	March 1996
<b>La Ronde</b> (an adaptation), by Arthur Schnitzler 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY	July 1995

Playwright:

<b>Packaging Sunshine</b> , MFA thesis at Horace Mann Theatre, NY	January 2000
<b>Aftermath</b> , 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY, directed by Tina Byrsted	November 1996
<b>A School Night</b> , Samuel Beckett Theatre (Winterfest '96), NY directed by Efrat Levin	January 1996
<b>A School Night</b> , 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY directed by Efrat Levin	November 1995

**EDUCATION**

(degrees)

<b>Columbia University School of the Arts</b> , New York, NY MFA, Theatre Arts (playwriting)	1997-2000
<b>Columbia College of Columbia University</b> , New York, NY BA, Russian Language and Literature; Magna Cum Laude	1987-1991

(non degree)

<b>Institut Francais</b> , Villefranche, France Certificate, French Language	2000
<b>42nd Street Collective Theatre Training School</b> , New York, NY Directing, Playwriting	1995-1997
<b>Universitat de Barcelona</b> , Barcelona, Spain Certificado: Spanish Studies (Language, Literature, Culture)	1993-1994
<b>Escuela de Letras</b> , Madrid, Spain Creación Literaria (Creative Writing)	1992-1993
<b>Leningrad State University</b> , Leningrad, USSR Russian Language, Literature, and Culture	1989

**TEACHING**

<b>New York University</b> , Tisch School of the Arts Department of Design for Stage and Film Associate Arts Professor, Head of Dramaturgy	2015-present
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<b>New York University</b> , Tisch School of the Arts Department of Design for Stage and Film Visiting Arts Professor	2012-2014
<b>New York University</b> , Tisch School of the Arts Department of Design for Stage and Film visiting professor (graduate scenic design thesis)	2012
<b>Shenandoah Conservatory</b> guest director/acting teacher	2012
<b>Yale School of Music/Yale School of Drama</b> Guest professor/director	2010-2011
<b>Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Program</b> (acting training/director)	2011
<b>Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Program</b> Guest director/acting teacher	2007

#### **AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS**

Der Österreichische Musiktheaterpreis (Austrian Music Theater Prize) "Best Contemporary Opera Production: <i>Angels in America</i> "	2023
NYU/Tisch School of the Arts, Travel Grant for Prague Quadrennial	2019
NY Times Best of Classical Music for <i>In the Penal Colony</i> (Glass), American Opera Projects	2011
Opera Now Magazine "25 Opera Artists to Watch"	2007
Boston Globe "best production of the year" for <i>Agrippina</i> , Boston Baroque Orchestra	2005