

2022 COMPLETE BIO TIMOTHY NEAR, DIRECTOR t.near@yahoo.com

Timothy Near (Theatre Director) has directed plays and musicals at major professional theatres around the U.S.: The Guthrie Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Arizona Theatre Company, Cal Shakes, Portland Center Stage, Union Square Theatre and The Public Theatre in NYC, Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, La Jolla Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ford's Theatre in D.C., L.A.'s Tiffany Theatre, Seattle's A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle's Intiman Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Z Space Below, Berkeley's Aurora Theater and Dance Mission in S.F. She directed several operas at Opera San Jose. At Center Rep in Walnut Creek she recently directed her own adaptation of Goldoni's *Mirandolina! Mistress of the Inn*, an 18th century comedy.

EARLY LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Near served as a one year Interim Artistic Director at The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta and also one year at Stage West in Springfield, Ma.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: From 1987 to 2008 Ms. Near was Artistic Director at San Jose Repertory Theatre, a 550 seat theatre where she produced over 120 plays, including 20 world premieres. For 6 years she produced a new play festival where she developed new plays that The Rep then premiered on the main stage such as *Las Meninas* by Lynne Nottage, *The Wind Cries Mary* by Phillip Kan Gotanda, *Thunder Knocking on the Door* by Keith Glover with a new score by blues icon Chris Cain and Michael Butler, *The Haunting of Winchester* by Mary Bracken Phillips and Craig Bohmler, and *Sugar Plum Fairy* by Sandra Tsing Loh.

THEATER DESIGN: Near has participated in design, funding and opening of two midsize theaters. One for Stage West in Springfield, Massachusetts and one for San Jose Rep. While she was Artistic Director at SJ Rep, she contributed significant leadership as well as artistic and technical guidance to the design and construction of a 560-seat state of the art theater facility named The Hammer Theatre.

COLLABORATIONS: Near recently helped develop and directed Kathryn Grody's *The Unexpected 3rd* in workshops at Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor and the Rosendale Theatre, NY. At SJ Rep Near worked with and presented such talents as Holly Hunter, Lynne Redgrave, James Avery ("Fresh Prince of Bel Air"), Chris Rich ("Murphy Brown" and "Reba"), Sandra Tsing Loh ("This American Life"), Lucy Liu, Rene Auberjonois ("Boston Legal" and "Star Trek"), Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker ("LA Law"), Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert (The Weavers), The Bacon Brothers, Ireland's band Lunasa, San Jose Taiko, Deaf West and the Latino comedy trio Culture Clash. Through her work with San Jose's sister city Dublin, Ireland, Timothy was able to bring the internationally renowned Abbey Theatre to San Jose to be in residence and perform in her 1999-2000 Season. Near co-produced the World Premieres of *The Sisters Matsumoto* and also *Woody Guthrie's American Song* with Berkeley Rep.

AWARDS: Timothy is the recipient of the Woman of Achievement Award in the Arts given by the San Jose Mercury News/Women's Fund and The Janet Gray Hays Award for Women in Leadership. She was named one of the "Top 100 List of Most Powerful People in Silicon Valley" three years in a row by San Jose Magazine. Near lives in the Bay Area and has received multiple local awards such as BATCC, TBA, Dean Goodman for her direction and productions. She received Hollywood Drama-Logue awards for her direction at the Mark Taper Forum and at La Jolla Playhouse as well as a recent Louis Award for her direction of *Clybourne Park*. For list of more awards see the Awards folder.

ACTING: Near began her theatre career as an actress. After studying for a year in London, she returned to the Bay Area to join the cutting-edge Circus Theatre, performing leads in such plays as *Futz*, *Tom*

Paine and *Marat-Sade*. In the 1970's and 80's she played featured roles in the TV series "The Odd Couple" and appeared in Kris Kristofferson's film "Cisco Pike." She toured Australia and much of the U.S. with The National Theatre of the Deaf where she became fluent in American Sign Language.

Near acted in many prominent theaters around the U.S. such as The Mark Taper, The Guthrie, Rep Theatre of St Louis, The Hudson Guild and The Public Theatre in NYC, The Goodman Theatre, San Jose Rep and Stage West in Springfield, Ma. She won the coveted OBIE Award in 1981 for her performance in the Off Broadway production of *Still Life* written by Emily Mann and co-starring Mary McDonnell and John Spencer. This production then moved to LA for a successful run.

SIGN LANGUAGE: In the early 1980's, making use of her sign language skills that she learned during her two years acting with NTD, she was a regular guest artist on Sesame Street where she played 'Linda's hearing friend Timi who knew sign language'. She conceived, directed and performed poetry by deaf poets for ABC Captioned News in Boston. Before any events were hiring interpreters for the deaf, Near introduced the concept of signed interpretive song and the importance of accessibility to large numbers of hearing audiences while touring with her sister Holly Near, interpreting songs for Melissa Manchester and Graham Nash at Survival Sunday at the Hollywood Bowl and through her choreography for Wallflower Order Dance Collective.

PANDEMIC: In 2020 Near was scheduled to play Betty in *The Foreigner* and to direct *Little Women*. The Pandemic brought these 2 projects to a halt. During 2020/2021 Near worked with Molly Bell as a script consultant for her new musical, *Molly Bell's Hysterical*. She directed two workshop/performances in 2021/2022.

Near served as Vice President and Governance Chair on the board of directors of the visual arts organization, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, from 2018-2021.