

CV Alex Howarth- Theatre Director

Alex is a multi-award-winning theatre director and writer based in London. He was named as one of 'Ten Stage Sensations to Watch Out For in 2023' by *The Guardian*. He is the first director in history to have his work performed at the United Nations.

Coming from the North West and a background of working in care, Alex is passionate about amplifying under-represented and northern voices. His play *Cassie and the Lights* was based on a true story and interviews with children in the care system and is currently being developed for television. Nominated for the BBC Writer's Room Popcorn Award and the SitUp Award for social change, it transferred to 59E59 Theaters, Off Broadway New York and is published by Nick Hern Books.

A former drama therapist for the charity Sense, he has worked extensively with disabled artists, and recently co-created one man show *Strictly Lawrie* with Lawrie Morris (Growing Up Downs, BBC). His play about a girl with autism *We Live By the Sea* received Critic's Pick and Top Theatre of the Year in the New York Times, won the Best Theatre Award and the Critics Choice Award at Adelaide Festival, and the Grahame F. Smith Peace Foundation Award for promoting human rights through theatre, and was nominated for the Fringe First and the Off West End Awards for Best Production and Best Ensemble.

He was the assistant director on *La Traviata* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and regularly directs at drama schools including Arts Educational Schools, Italia Conti, Central School of Speech and Drama, Mountview, and Chichester Conservatoire. He adapted and directed the world stage premiere of *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, alongside the movie's writer and director, Oscar nominee Peter Hedges.

He is the Artistic Director of multi-award winning Patch of Blue, who create original theatre pieces with live music.

He strives to create ensemble-led theatre that is playful, fresh and moving.

SELECTED CREDITS AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

***La Traviata* (dir. Richard Eyre, Revival Dir. Barbera Lluch, The Royal Opera House, 2020)**

Orpheus In the Underworld (dir. Jeff Clarke, Salisbury Playhouse and Buxton Opera House, 2019)

Twelfth Night (dir. David Thacker, Octagon Theatre Bolton, 2013)

The Complete Works Of Shakespeare- Abridged (dir. John Paten, Madinat Theatre Dubai, 2013)

Avenue Q (dir. Eddie Dredge, Theatre Royal Windsor, 2013)

SELECTED CREDITS AS ASSOCIATE / RESIDENT DIRECTOR

***If / Then* (West End Premiere, Workshop and Industry Presentation, 2022)**

***Romeo and Juliet* (dir. Polina Kalinina, The Tobacco Factory and International Tour, 2015)**

A Christmas Carol (dir. John Martin, Trinity Theatre, 2014)

SELECTED CREDITS AS DIRECTOR

***Lifeline* (Director, Signature Theatre New York, 2024)**

***Cassie and the Lights* (Director & Writer, Southwark Playhouse 2024, 59E59 Theaters Off Broadway New York 2023, Edinburgh Fringe 2022, Heaven Creation Theatre China, VAULT & Adelaide Festivals 2020)- WINNER**

Excellent Play Award- Central Academy Awards China, and Best Theatre- Adelaide Festival- NOMINATED BBC Writer's

Room Popcorn Award, Sit Up Award for social change

A Brief List of Everyone Who Died (Finborough, 2023)

Outlier: A New Opera (Tete a Tete Festival, 2022)

The Greatest Hits of Lily and John (The Other Palace, 2022)

Jane Eyre (National Tour, 2021)

A Brief List of Everyone Who Died (World Premiere Rehearsed Reading, Finborough Theatre online, 2021)- FINALIST-
OnComm Award (Off West End Award for online theatre)

Misterman (New Wimbledon Studio and Brockley Jack Studio, 2019)

***Chemistry* (European Premiere, Finborough, 2019)**

Flight To Neptune City (Southwark Playhouse, 2019)

The Fall (Old Red Lion, The Actors Centre and live streamed, 2018-2020)

***We Live By the Sea* (Brits Off Broadway 59E59 Theaters- New York Times Critics Pick and Best Theatre of the Year, SoHo Playhouse Off-Broadway, Arts Theatre West End, The Royal Croquet Club Australia, China tour, 2016-2018) - WINNER Best Theatre, Critic's Choice & Peace Foundation Awards at Adelaide Festival**

The Red Light, Dirty Laundry (Union Theatre, 2018)

***Two Sides* (The Arcola, 2017)**

***Back To Blackbrick* (Director & Adaptation, Arts Theatre West End and National Tour, 2016-2017)**

***The Memory Show* (European Premiere- Drayton Arms Theatre, 2016)**

The School For Husbands (National Tour, 2015)

Arabian Nights (Souk Al Jubail, United Arab Emirates, 2015)

***Medea* (Guildhall Amphitheatre, 2015) - WINNER- Owle Schreame Award for Classical Theatre**

Beans On Toast (Director & Lead Deviser- Theatre 503 and touring, 2014) - WINNER - IdeasTap Edinburgh Award

Sitting Up For Michael, C.L.G (The White Bear, 2014)

Dear Santa (The Capitol, Horsham, 2013)

[title of show]-UK Professional Premiere (Assembly Edinburgh 2012)

WORK IN DRAMA SCHOOLS

Once Removed* (Arts Ed, 2024), *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (ICTheatre, 2024), *Sweeney Todd* (Italia Conti, 2022), *Outlier: A New Opera* (Trinity Laban, 2022), ***Richard II* (Central School of Speech and Drama, 2021), *The Clockmaker's Daughter, Fiddler on the Roof* (Chichester Conservatoire, 2023 and 2021), *Let The Right One In, A Monster Calls, Citysong, Lord of the Flies* (Institute of the Arts Cumbria, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019), *The Laramie Project* (University of Chester, 2021), *Acting Showcase* (Identity School of Acting, 2017), Acting through Song Tuition (Associated Studios), ***What's Eating Gilbert Grape* (Director & Adaptation) World Stage Premiere- Mountview Academy, 2014), *Loserville, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Wind in the Willows* (Liverpool Theatre School, Epstein Theatre, 2016, 2017, 2018)***

OTHER DIRECTING WORK

Jack and the Beanstalk (Writer and Director- Applecourt Arts, 2022), *Doing It* (Adelaide Fringe, 2023 and 2021), *Annie* (Barn Theatre, 2019), *Pirmania! The Swashbuckling Pirate Musical* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse and Underbelly Edinburgh, 2019), *Junk* (Old Red Lion, 2019), *Mabel* (Lion and Unicorn, 2019), *Oh! You Pretty Things* (Southwark Playhouse, 2018), *The Tortoise and the Hare* (Director & Writer, National Tour, 2017), *When We Ran* (Director & Lead Deviser, The Pleasance Edinburgh, 2017), *Snow White* (Co-director, The Hexagon, Reading, 2016), *Oliver!* (Co-director, Trinity Theatre, 2016), *Spring Awakening* (Duke St Theatre, 2014), *Café Nation* (World Premiere, Cockpit Theatre, 2013), *Beans on Toast* (Karamel, 2012) and *Rain Man* (Karamel, 2012).

AS WRITER

***Cassie and the Lights* (Heaven Creation Theatre China, Vault Festival & Adelaide Festival, 2020, Edinburgh Fringe 2022)**, *Sirens* (National Tour, 2019), *In Stars* (Workshop, 2017) and *Saving Elowen Green* (in development). Adaptations include ***What's Eating Gilbert Grape* (World Stage Premiere- Mountview, Bridewell Theatre, 2014)**, ***Back to Blackbrick* (Arts Theatre West End and National Tour, 2016)** and *Safelight* (in development). Lead deviser on *We Live By the Sea*, *When We Ran*, and *Beans On Toast*.

AS MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Aladdin (Pearce Suite Theatre, Maidenhead, 2017).

WORKSHOPS

Lifeline (Chichester Conservatoire, 2024), *Strictly Lawrie* (Nutshell Arts Centre Winchester, 2022), *The Greatest Hits of Lily and John* (The Other Palace, 2022), *Humanity Dick* (Tuscany, 2020 & 2021), *A Partnership* (Wildcard Studios, 2021), *In Stars* (Zoo Co, 2017), *The Artificial Brain* (The New Diorama, 2016).

OBSERVERSHIPS

***The Kite Runner* (dir. Giles Croft, National Tour, UK Productions, 2018)**, ***La Traviata* (dir. Richard Eyre, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, 2016)** and Crossroads Pantomimes 2015/16.

AWARDS

'**Excellent Play**' Award at the Central Academy Awards, China and **Best Theatre at Adelaide Festival**, Australia for *Cassie and the Lights*, **Best Theatre, Critic's Choice and Peace Foundation Awards** at Adelaide Festival, Australia for *We Live By the Sea*, the **Owle Schreame Award for Classical Theatre** for *Medea* and the **IdeasTap Edinburgh Award** for *Beans on Toast*. Nominations include **Off West Awards** for Best Production and Best Ensemble for *We Live By the Sea*, Best Newcomer for *Jack and the Beanstalk*, an **OnComm** nomination for *A Brief List of Everyone Who Died* (Finalist), and The **BBC Writer's Room Popcorn Award** and the **Sit Up Award** for social change for *Cassie and the Lights*.

OTHER SKILLS

Basic British Sign Language (Certificate in 'Introducing British Sign Language' from British-Sign), **Piano (Grade 8 and excellent sight reading)**, Voice (Grade 8) and professional experience in primary education and drama therapy with people with disabilities.

TRAINING - Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts - PG (Dip) Theatre Directing

'a sure sense of tone- the director, Alex Howarth, comes up with a tight, imaginative staging, doing wonders for instance, with simple projections..he creates an expansive world out of seemingly little'

The New York Times



REFERENCES

Andy Wright- Course Leader Musical Theatre Performance- Chichester Conservatoire

Jeff Clarke- Artistic Director, Opera Della Luna- operadellaluna@aol.com