

MELISSA BELL

Playwright / Theatre Maker

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Website: www.TheMelissaBell.com ** Instagram @themelissabell ** Twitter @MelissaBell_wtr ** New Play Exchange (NPX)

ARTIST STATEMENT I write forward-looking plays with a nod to the past while exploring women's agency and action as they navigate their power and repression. Truth matters, so I write about people who lie. My plays explore obsession, betrayal, revenge, & recovery.

AWARDS

Nominated "Best Adaptations & Modernizations" by New York Shakespeare: LADY CAPULET	2020 & 2021
ScreenCraft Playwriting Competition: Quarter Finalist: LADY CAPULET	2021
Women in the Arts & Media Coalition Collaboration Award: Honored Finalist with Tannis Kowalchuk: COURAGE	2019
Henley Rose Playwright Competition for Women: Finalist: LADY CAPULET	2017
Pegasus PlayLab, Central Florida University: Finalist: LADY CAPULET	2019
Winner: Diana Amsterdam's Story Skills Contest	2019
TRU (Theatre Resources Unlimited) Reading Series: Semi-Finalist LADY CAPULET	2017
TentSquare West Side Stories Monologue Challenge: Honorable Mention: PLAYGROUND PLACENTA	2015
CREATIVE ASSOCIATE Farm Arts Collective: featured in the NY TIMES , Arts: Aug 14, 2021	Since 2018

PRODUCTIONS

LADY CAPULET Central Park, NYC, Directed by Emily Gallagher, Barefoot Shakespeare Company "Tantalizing" "Juicy" – RoundtheWorldStage.com #QualifyingProduction@ParityProds #aroseasthorns * Watch Trailer	Premiere, Aug 2019
Bernie Wohl Center, NYC, Awarded City Artist Corps Grant (NYFA). Directed by Emily Gallagher	Oct 2021
Farm Arts Collective, Main Stage, Damascus PA. Directed by Emily Gallagher	Sept 2021
WHAM! Festival at Goddard Riverside, NYC: <i>Virtual</i> . Directed by Emily Gallagher (Extended)	March 25-April 4, 2021
Norwalk Library CT: <i>Virtual</i> . Directed by Emily Gallagher	January 28, 2021
CreateTheater, NYC: <i>Virtual</i> . Directed by Emily Gallagher	September 21, 2020, & March 29-30, 2021
Advice to the Players, Studio Series. Directed by Caroline Nesbitt, founder. Sandwich, NH	July 25, 2020
Turn To Flesh Productions 5th Annual Staged Reading Series, El Barrio Art Center, Directed by Emily Gallagher	July 15, 2018
29th St Playwrights Collective New Works Series, Bernie Wohl Center, Directed by Cristina Lundy	May 2017
DREAM ON THE FARM featured in the NY TIMES , Farm Arts Collective, Directed by Tannis Kowalchuk	2020, 2021
COURAGE based on "Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht, a site-specific, immersive theater journey Directed by Tannis Kowalchuk; Playwrights Melissa Bell and Mark Dunau, Composer Rima Fand Produced by NACL Theatre. Featuring Debra Winger. (Video samples upon request), in the Catskills and NY "Wildly imaginative, stunning" <i>River Reporter</i> — "Makes a lasting impression" <i>Sullivan County Democrat</i>	2016 & 2017
DEVIL & THE DEEP a Musical Reimagining of Robert Louis Stevenson's <i>Treasure Island</i> World Premiere	Jun 11-27, 2015
Music & Lyrics by Graham Russell (Air Supply) and Katie McGhie; Book by Melissa Bell Produced by Theatre East; Directed by Lisa Devine at Stage 43 (aka Mint) #Qualifyingproduction @parityprods "...Daunting, exciting, and ambitious..." — <i>Theatrescene.net</i>	

READINGS Staged and Virtual

GAME BOY TRUSPEAK : Hear Our Voices, Bob Ost, producer, Feat Tony Awardee Cady Huffman, Dir Briyanda Minx, Virtual Directed by Anna Lathrop, The Future is Female Festival, NYC, Bernie Wohl Center, Mar 2017	Feb 2021
REMIX 29PWC New Works Series, Director Margie Haber, Feat: Kimberley Shoniker (virtual) Watch Trailer Inkubator New Works Development Laboratory, Olney, MD, online podcast, Sept 2019	Jan 2021
ZOE COMES HOME Produced by Cate Cammarata for CreateTheater Monday Night Readings (virtual)	Mar 2020
PLAYGROUND PLACENTA — "Humorous" — <i>The Progressive</i> 100 Cooks in the Kitchen Film Festival, produced by The Neo-Futurist Theater, Chicago IL https://vimeo.com/423340892	Aug 2021
NIRH & Repro Freedom Arts Presents: Readings, Resilience, and Reproductive Freedom, Zoom MotherLode Festival at the Actors Temple, NYC, Oct 2018; Reproductive Freedom Festival & Livestream, NYC, Mar 2016;	May 2020
ANGEL OF HOPE Directed by Mario Sprouse, Marble Church Summer Arts Festival, NYC	June 2017
LOVE, SEX, ANARCHY Directed by Luke Tudball, Tasty Monster Productions Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY	Oct 2016
29th St Playwrights Collective New Works Series, Bernie Wohl Center, NYC	Mar 2016
National Museum for Women Artists, Washington DC (Excerpts), and Corner Store Arts Center, Washington DC	Mar 2015
Shetler Stage 54, NYC	Feb 2015
EMPTY ROOM Salon Series, Theatre East, Directed by Judson Jones	Aug 2013

LOST IN LOVE, A New Musical Based the Hits of AIR SUPPLY

Music & Lyrics by Graham Russell (& others) Book by Melissa Bell "Newly created songs mix with Air Supply classics like "All Out of Love" and "Sweet Dreams" to tell the comic tale of a conniving matchmaker, an Italian prince looking to marry for money, and the childhood sweetheart who unexpectedly comes back into his life." — <i>Playbill.com</i>	
Triad Theatre: One-Night-Only Event to Benefit THE ACTORS FUND, Produced by Rick Newman, Peter Martin WATCH TRAILER featuring Constantine Maroulis, Andrea McArdle, and Graham Russell	June 2012

ONCE REMOVED, A Musical. Book by Melissa Bell, Music and Lyrics by Graham Russell, Snapple Theater, Dir: Robyn C. Lee

Oct 2010

PUBLISHED

"Montague's Garden Monologue" from LADY CAPULET Best Men's Monologues of 2020, Smith & Kraus	2021
ICEBOX PLACENTA Best Women's Monologues of 2019, Smith & Kraus p20	2019
PLAYGROUND PLACENTA Short Plays on Reproductive Freedom, Amazon, 2018, and W42ST Magazine, Nov 2015	

OTHER

29th Street Playwrights Collective AKA 29PWC, Resident Playwright www.29thstreetplaywrightscollective.org	Since 2015
Sunburst Productions producer Stevie Phillips (Whorehouse B'way) on new musical development	Since 2011
Dramatist Guild Member since 2011; Theatre Resources Unlimited - TRU Member since 2012.	
EDUCATION: Columbia University BA, English, Writing Concentration. GS 1993, Magna Cum Laude, Owl Award, Columbia Alumni Medalist 2006.	