

Curriculum Vitae

Katrin Hilbe

Stage director, writer, producer

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EDUCATION

1986-1993 University of Berne (Switzerland), BA and MA in Philosophy and Musicology with minors in English and American Literature.

Languages: German, English, Italian, French.

AWARDS, POSITIONS & AFFILIATIONS

- **The Hilton Edwards Award** for best adaptation and best direction of “St Joan” by Julia Pascal, at the Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival, 2015.

- “**Best Opera Production 2012**” of the Big Easy Classical Arts Award, New Orleans, for “Salome” by Richard Strauss, New Orleans Opera Association, 2012.

- President of **IG Kunst und Kultur in Liechtenstein**
- Past President of the **League of Professional Theatre Women**,
- Full Member of **SDC**
- Associated Member of the **Dramatists Guild of America**.
- Member of the **Playwrights Directors Unit of The Actors Studio**
- Member of **Theater Resources Unlimited**, alumna of **TRU producer mentorship program**, division of self-producing artists (SPA).

- First Assistant Director and Remounter of Richard Wagner's “Der Ring des Nibelungen” at the **Bayreuther Festspiele**, direction: Tankred Dorst, 2007 - 2010.

- Alumna of the **Directors Lab West**, year of 2007.
- Fellow of **1st International Opera and Media Workshop Werdenberg**, Switzerland.

DIRECTING

United States

In Person:

- “Alexsei’s Quest” by George Pfirrmann, **MTC Studios**, New York City, November 8th, 2024.
- “Todas las mariposas negras mueren en el mar” by Heni Roig Monge (in Spanish), **Cimientos Staged Reading Series**, IATI Theatre, New York City, June 7th, 2024..
- “Pistachio Pier” by George Pfirrmann, **Cameo Studios & Streaming Musicals Studio**, New York City, June 1- 4, 2024.
- “Sight Unseen” by Donald Margulies, **NY Society for Ethical Culture**, New York City, April 20 & 21, 2024.
- “Jersey Stories” by George Pfirrmann, **Streaming Musicals Studio**, New York City, April 8th, 2024.
- “Gunned” by Jennifer Houlton, **Ego Actus Reading Series**, Episcopal Actors Guild, New York City, March 24th, 2024.
- “This Neighborhood” by Christopher Daftsios, **New Jersey Repertory Company**, Long Branch, New Jersey, November 20th, 2023.
- “Tamales de Piña” by Marielle Vizcarra, **Cimientos Staged Reading Series**, IATI Theatre, New York City, June 11th, 2023.
- “Last Ascent” by Kristin Idaszak, **New Jersey Repertory Theatre**, Long Branch (New Jersey), May 22nd, 2023.
- “A Kid like Jake” by Daniel Pearle, **The NY Society for Ethical Culture**, New York City, May 21 & 22, 2023.
- “The Great Understanding” by Jennifer Joy, **LPTW Julia’s Reading Room Series**, New York City, November 15, 2022.
- “Hillary and Clinton” by Lucas Hnath, **The NY Society for Ethical Culture**, New York City, November 13 & December 11, 2022.
- “The Space Between” by Tommer Peterson, **Cimientos Festival**, IATI Theatre, New York City, June 8th, 2022.

- “Exodus Redux“ by Peggy Chane, **LaMama Umbria series**, LaMama Galleria, New York City, May 1st, 2022.
- “unsafety“ by Rebekkah Lopatto, New Perspectives Theatre Company & Queens College, New York City, April 28th, 2022.
- “Adapt or Die“ by Robin Rice and "In the Ladies" by Ann Timmons, 1st Luna Reading Series, **Playwright Circle of LPTW**, New York City, February 9th, 2020.
- “Superstars“ by Glory Kadigan, DARK PLANET, **Planet Connections Theatre**, New York City, February 6 - 21, 2020

Virtual Pandemic Interludes 2020 - 2022:

- “Horseshoe Empire“ by Margo Hammond, Zoom reading, Playwrights Directors Unit of the Actors Studio, January 26h, 2022.
- “The Wind“ by John Jiler, Zoom reading, Playwright Directors Unit of the Actors Studio, January 12th, 2022.
- “Philosopher's Joke“ by Scott Sickles, Zoom reading, Articulate Theatre Company, August 2nd, 2021.
- “Jung's Chair“ by Tom Block, Zoom reading, Friday Night Footlights, **Dramatists Guild of America**, August 21st, 2020.
- “Aphrodite's a Bitch“ by Glory Kadigan, “Bigger than Pretend“ by Robin Rice, “Scapegoat“ by Jerry Polner, Zoom readings, RISING Festival, **Planet Connections Theatre**, August 18th, 2020.
- “Actuary Day“ by Tom Block, Zoom reading, Cimientos Festival, **IATI Theatre**, June 18th, 2020.
- “Annika's Gift“ by Margie Semilof, Zoom Production, Women in Comedy series, **Kairos Italy Theatre** in association with **Casa Italiana, NYC & Rome**, May 18th, 2020.
- “Damage“ Trilogy by Glory Kadigan, Zoom production, **Planet Connections Theatre**, May 11th, 2020.
- “Project Playwright“ Zoom production curated by **David Hanson**, February 23 - 26, 2020

In Person:

- “Duck“ by Tom Block, produced by the **Human Rights Art Festival** at IRT, New York City, October 18 - November 3 2019
- “Three Exits“ by Gino Dilorio, reading for the **Playwrights Directors Unit** of the Actor studio NYC, May 22nd, 2019.
- “Atalanta K.O. “ by D. L. Siegel, reading, produced by **Multistages**, part of their New Works Finalists Festival, ART NY, New York City, May 11, 2019.
- “Richard II“ by W. Shakespeare, staged reading, produced by **C.A.G.E. theatre company** as part of their reading series 8 Plays/8 Months, DeSotelle Studios NYC, New York City, March 23rd, 2019.
- “Blood World“ by Jennifer Houlton, reading for the **Playwright Director's Unit** of The Actors Studio, New York City, March 20, 2019.
- “Eenie Meenie Miney No“ by Jaisey Bates, produced by **The Articulate Theatre Company**, as part of their Articulating the Arts festival, New York City, March 3 - 6, 2019
- “Singleton“ by Jay Strong, Sunday@6 series of the **Workshop Theater Company**, New York City, December 6, 2018,
- “Gertrude and a Companion“ reading drama by Win Wells, produced by the **Howland Cultural Center**, Beacon NY, November 30th, 2018.
- “Horny Bastards“ by Sam Graber, staged reading, produced by the Human Rights Art Festival, **The Wild Project**, New York City, November 17, 2018,
- “Clown Alley” by Gino di Lorio, "Zazu" by Michael Tucker, Theater Brut Festival, produced by **NJ Repertory Theater**, September 21 -30, 2018,
- “The Brothers Khan: An American Story“ by George Pfirrmann, Theater at the 14th Street Y, produced by **AnnaBell Productions**, Broadway Bound Theater Festival, New York City, August 15 - 18, 2018.
- “The Mahagonny Songspiel“ by Kurt Weill, The Howl Arts Collective, NYC, produced by **Downtown Music Productions Inc.**, New York City, March 29, 2018.
- “Ful Nabit“ by J. Thalia Cunningham, Theatre Brut Festival, produced **New Jersey Repertory Theater**, October 10, 2017.

- “Dear Jane“ by Joan Beber, The Clurman Theater on Theater Row, NYC, produced by **Undercover Productions LLC**, New York City, July 27th – August 26, 2017.
- “Buried in Time“ by Kristine Niven, Theatre 54, NYC, produced by **AND Theatre Company**, New York City, April 26 - May 7th, 2017.
- “Eileen O’Malley and the Changeling“ by Eric Percival, Tales in Time festival, produced by **The Articulate Theatre Company**, New York City, April 24 - 27, 2017.
- “Ditmas” by Glenn Alterman, Gay Pride and Prejudice Festival, produced by **The Village Playwrights**, June 22, 2016, and produced by AND Theatre Company in the Boxers & Briefs Festival, New York City, February 3 - 26th, 2017.
- “Hades” by Anne Phelan, produced by **Dramahound Productions**, New York City, June 18, 2016.
- “Scrutable” by Karen Rousso, In Her Name: a weekend of women’s stories, produced by **Bondrov Productions**, New York City, April 16&17, 2016.
- “First, Do No Harm” by J. Thalia Cunningham, concert readings, produced by **The WorkShop Theater Company**, January 21&22, 2016, and by **Red Fern Theatre Company**, New York City, March 4, 2016.
- “In Bed with Roy Cohn”, by Joan Beber, The Lion Theater on Theater Row, NYC, produced by **Undercover Productions LLC**, New York City, August 25 – October 3, 2015.
- “912OZ” by Lloyd Pace, developed and produced by **Sanctuary: Playwrights Theatre**, at TheaterLab, New York City, July 2 – 12, 2015.
- “The Barmaid 1” and “The Barmaid 2” by Allan Knee for The Icon Plays, produced by **Ego Actus**, New York City, November 6 – 22, 2014
- “The Barmaid 2” by Allan Knee and “What Price Beauty?” by Tom Dulack, “Articulating the Arts – Off the Wall”, produced by **Articulate Theatre Company**, New York City, September 13, 14, 2014
- “The Barmaid” by Allan Knee, “Articulating the Arts” produced by **Articulate Theatre Company**, New York City, March 17, 18, 2014
- “Danny and the Therapist“ and “Comic Book“ by Tom Block, Performance on book, **14th Street Y**, New York City, December 18, 2013
- “Unprimed“ by John McKinney, produced by **The WorkShop Theater Company**, New York City, December 5-21, 2013

- “The German Bitch” by David M. Mead, produced by **The WorkShop Theater Company** in their one-act festival YOU ARE HERE!, New York City, May 2- 18, 2013.
- “The Bar Play Quintet” by Allen Davis III, Produced by **The Dramatic Question Theatre**, January 17/18 and 24/25, 2013, at Jimmy’s no. 43, New York City.
- “We Are Now”, by Bob Jude Ferrante and the Next Stage Company, produced by **Sanctuary Playwrights**, New York City, Oct 27 – Nov 17, 2012.
- “Memory” and “Stalowa Wola” by Christopher Kloeble, in-house reading, **New York Theatre Workshop**, New York City, October 1, 2012.
- “You Are Here” Prototype II, by Bob Jude Ferrante and company, produced by **Sanctuary Playwrights**, reading at CAP 21, New York City, August 8th, 2012.
- “Searching for a New Sun” by Robin Rice Lichtig, staged reading, **Planet Connections Festival**, New York City, June 21, 2012.
- “Family Offline” by Micaela Mihailov, staged reading, **Immigrants’ Theatre Project**, co-presented with the Romanian Cultural Institute in NY, New York City, May 24, 2012.
- May 23, 2012, Prototype 1, “Are we Free (Yet)?”, produced by **Sanctuary Playwrights, Next Stage**, New York City, May 23, 2012
- “Salome” by Richard Strauss, produced by the **New Orleans Opera Association**, New Orleans, March 2 & 4, 2012.
- “Red Pumps at Ground Zero” by Allen Davis III, reading produced by **The Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre’s Professional Playwright’s Unit**, The 2011 Festival of New Play Readings, New York City, July 29, 2011
- “Eleemosynary” by Lee Blessing, Produced by the **WorkShop Theater Company**, a benefit performance-on-book, at the Players Club, New York City, April 29th, 2011.
- “The Highwayman” by Kathryn Paulsen, reading produced by **the NY Women in Film and Television**, New York City, March 24, 2010
- “Oasis” by Allen Davis III, at Klimat, produced by **The Dramatic Question**, New York City, Premiere November 5, 2010.
- “Somewhere waiting for you” by Kathryn Paulsen, a staged reading, at **The WorkShop Theater**, New York City, October 26th 2010.

- “A Midsummer Night's Dream“ by William Shakespeare, an AEA Showcase production, at the 45th Street Theatre, produced by the **Michael Chekhov Theatre Company**, New York City, April 22, 23, 25, 26, 2010.
- “The World Improver” by Thomas Bernhard, produced by **The Medicine Show**, a staged reading, New York City, March 14 and 16, 2010.
- “Danton’s Death, Take 1” by Georg Büchner, staged reading, in a new translation by Katrin Hilbe, at the 45th St. Theatre, produced by **ManyTracks** and **MCTC**, New York City, December 8, 14, 15, 2009.
- “3 Abortions” by Jonathan Reynolds, staged reading, produced by the **29th Street Rep** for their “Brutal Plays” reading series, New York City, September 27, 2009.
- “Death of a Government Worker” by Jonathan Pereira, at the WorkShop Theater Company, produced by **The WorkShop Theater Company**, New York City, Premiere June 11, 2009.
- “Ring them Chimes” by Allen Davies III, staged reading, **The New Dramatists**, New York City, June 8, 2009.
- “Liteo-Game” (Hayley Heaton), “Solipsims” (Tony Moore), “Stolen Identity” (Steve Ghent) for the “Eight Minute Madness” Annual Festival of short plays, produced by **Turtleshell Productions**, New York City, February 25 – March 14, 2009.
- “Mary the Third” by Rachel Crothers, at the **West End Theatre**, produced by “Woman Seeking”, New York City, November 14 - December 7th, 2008.
- Reading of “The Man in the Newspaper Hat” by Hayley Heaton, at the **WorkShop Theater Company**, New York City, November 9th, 2008.
- “Ring them Chimes” by Allen Davis III, The 2008 Reading Series by the Professional Playwrights Unit of **The Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre** in New York City, May 27th, 2008
- “Allison’s House” by Susan Glaspell, series of staged readings of the first women playwrights to win a Pulitzer Prize, **The WorkShop Theatre Company**, New York City, February 28 to March 1, 2008
- Director of scenes from Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” and “King Lear” for the annual WILL-A-THON at **The Workshop Theater Company**, New York City, April 23 – 28, 2007.
- “Creditors” by August Strindberg, **Wavelet Theatre**, New York City, Premiere April 9, 2006

- Co-direction and dramaturgy for “Kabbalah” by Tuvia Tenenbom, produced by the **Jewish Theater of New York**, New York City, Premiere November 19, 2005
- “Good Opinions” by Anne Fizzard, **Midtown International Theatre Festival**, New York City, Premiere July 23, 2005
- “Salome” by R. Strauss at **Kentucky Opera**, Louisville Kentucky, Premiere March 12, 2004.

Europe

- “Extrawurst” by Dietmar Jacobs & Moritz Netenjakob, produced by **Theater Karussell & TAK Theater Liechtenstein**, performances: TAK Theater Liechtenstein (Liechtenstein), February 24th - March 3rd, 2023, Altes Kino Mels (Switzerland), April 24th, 2023, Klostertorkel Maienfeld (Switzerland), May 12 & 14, 2023, Zeltainer Unterwasser (Switzerland), May 25, 2023.
- “Hänsel und Gretel“ by E. Humperdinck, produced by the **Berlin Opera Academy**, Berlin (Germany), August 31 & September 1st, 2022.
- “Alles ist Plüsch - ein Leben in Seufzern“, multi-media performance, devised and scripted by Fiese Matenten Kollektiv für Theater und Performance, Martina Morger, and Katrin Hilbe, produced by **Fiese Matenten, Gasometer Triesen, TAK Theater Liechtenstein**, November 27 - December 4th, 2021.
- “Die Fledermaus“ by Johann Strauss, produced by the **Berlin Opera Academy**, Kandersteg (Switzerland), June 21 - July 22, 2021. Moved from its original date 2020.
- “Was bin ich wert?!“, solo show, devised and scripted by Katrin Hilbe, produced by **junges Theater Liechtenstein**, October 12th, 2020 - February 28th, 2021.
- “Macbeth Perspectives“, part of the artistic exhibit **Kunst Kann**, theatrical film installation. August 11th, 2020, ongoing traveling exhibit at Kunstraum Engländerbau, Liechtenstein, Haus am Lützwoplatz, Berlin (Germany), Bildungshaus St. Hippolyt, St. Pölten (Austria), Südtiroler Landesmuseum für Kultur- und Landesgeschichte Schloss Tirol (Austria).
- “Identität Europa“, co-production between **TAK Theater Liechtenstein, Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar** and **Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg**, performing in Liechtenstein, at the German Theaterfestival Prag, Weimar and Luxembourg, September 14, 2019 - May 8, 2012.
- “Die Zauberflöte“ by W.A. Mozart, for **Berlin Opera Academy**, June 21 - July 19, 2019
- “Fägfüür” by John Patrick Shanley, translated by Katrin Hilbe, produced by **Schlösslekeller** and **ManyTracks Inc.**, Schlösslekeller, Vaduz (Liechtenstein), Spielboden, Dornbirn, (Austria) and Keller 62, Zürich (Switzerland), September 11 - September 24, 2017,
- “Fremd bin ich eingezogen...”, devised music theatre piece, based on Schubert’s “A Winter Journey” and Georg Büchner’s novella “Lenz”, produced by **Theater Konstanz** (Germany), October 23 – December 25, 2015

- “St Joan” by Julia Pascal, co-production between **ManyTracks, Pascal Theatre Company** and **Add2**, at the **Courtyard Theatre, London**, May 7 & 8, 2015, **The Players Theatre, Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival**, May 11 – 17, 2015, and at **Gasometer, Triesen (Liechtenstein)**, May 22, 2015.
- “Die Schumann Sonate“, an exploratory projection into Robert Schumann's head during his last years at the mental asylum in Eendenich. Music theatre, developed by Patrick Leresche, February 22 & 23, 2015, **TAK - Theater Liechtenstein**, March 1, 2015, **Theater Tabourettli Basel**, March 5 – 8, 2015, **Theater Stok**, Zürich.
- “St Joan”, by Julia Pascal, co-production between **ManyTracks, Pascal Theatre Company** and **Add2**, **The Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, August 1-24, 2014, Bedlam Theatre.
- “Breaking the Silence” by Rivka Bekerman-Greenberg, **The Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, July 31-Aug 26, 2013, C Venues.
- “A Winter Journey”, original Rock/Pop adaptation of Franz Schubert’s “Winterreise”, original book by Katrin Hilbe, produced by **S.J.H.International & Inbrook**, Theater de Cameleon, Amsterdam, November 10, 11, 2012.
- Fellow and director of the “Fraktale Sommernacht”, produced by the **International Lab for Oper and Media Castle Werdenberg**, in Werdenberg, Switzerland, March - September, 2010, performances Sept 18, 19, 25, 26, October 2, 3, 2010.
www.iow.schloss-werdenberg.ch
- “The Last Virgin” by Tuvia Tenenbom, produced by the **English Theatre** in Frankfurt a.M. (Germany), Premiere September 14 2006;
- “Falstaff” by G.Verdi at the **Opera Frankfurt**, Premiere October 7, 2000. Revival with complete new cast: November 1, 2003.
- “Die schöne Galathée” by Franz von Suppé at the **City Theatre St.Gallen** (Switzerland), Premiere December 22, 2001
- Two of the “Five Movements” for the **Opera Frankfurt**, original productions of five short pieces of new opera by young composers, Premiere June 23, 2001
- “Enrico” by Manfred Trojahn at the **State Theatre Darmstadt**, Premiere May 6, 2001
- “Don Giovanni I,11-13; drei szenische Behauptungen“, at the **Opera Frankfurt**, Premiere March 22, 2000

- “Prima la musica, poi le parole” by A.Salieri at the **Opera Frankfurt**, Premiere June 28, 1999
- “Pelléas et Mélisande” by C.Debussy at the **City Theatre Würzburg**, Premiere April 22, 1998
- “An der schönen blauen Donau“ by Franz Hummel at the **City Theatre Würzburg**, Premiere May 8, 1996
- “Erwartung“ by A.Schönberg and “Lebendig Begraben“ by Othmar Schoeck at the **wiener taschenoper**, Premiere March 23, 1994.

PRODUCING & DIRECTING

- “A Watch of Nightingales“ by Sam Graber, **ManyTracks Inc.**, developmental reading, January 18, 2020.
- “Shooter “ by Sam Graber, Tour Europe, produced by **ManyTracks Inc.**, Theater Konstanz (Germany), TAK Theater Liechtenstein, OnStage! Festival Rome (Italy), January 16 - 23, 2019.
- “Shooter“ by Sam Graber, TheaterLab, NYC, produced by **ManyTracks Inc.**, March 8 - 31, 2018.
- “Fägfüür”, **ManyTracks Inc.** in conjunction with **Schlösslekeller Vaduz**, September 4 - 25, 2017
- “The Savannah Disputations” by Evan Smith, Produced by **Me & She Productions** and **ManyTracks Inc.**, The cell theatre, NYC, November 27 – December 20, 2015.
- “St Joan” by Julia Pascal, **ManyTracks Inc.** in conjunction with **Pascal Theatre Company** and **Add2**, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, August 2-24, 2014, The Courtyard Theatre, London, May 7 & 8, 2015, The Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival, May 11-17, 2015, Gasometer, Triesen (Liechtenstein), May 22, 2015.
- “Breaking the Silence”, by Rivka Bekerman-Greenberg, **ManyTracks Inc.**, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, July 31 – August 26, 2013.
- “The Man in the Newspaper Hat” by Hayley Heaton, **ManyTracks Inc.** in association with **Theatre Lexicon** and the **Eclectic Theater Company**, Odd Duck Studio, Nov 17 – Dec 17, 2011, Seattle.

- “Danton’s Death, Take 1”, **ManyTracks Inc.**, December 8, 14, 15, 2009.
- “The Man in the Newspaper Hat” by Hayley Heaton, **ManyTracks Inc.**, the 45th Street Theatre, New York City, March 5 - April 1, 2009.
- “American Cake”, **The WorkShop Theater Company**, October 29th – November 1st, 2008.
- “The Guest at Central Park West” by Levy Lee Simon, Assistant associate producer, **The WorkShop Theater Company**, February 20 – March 15, 2008.
- "French Kisses", short play series, Assistant associate producer, **The WorkShop Theater Company**, November 7 - 11, 2007.

UPCOMING

- “Furious Improvisations“, a collaborative immersive work by Melody Brooks, Katrin Hilbe, Tess Howsam, Daniel Jacobs & Susan Quinn about the Federal Theatre Project and its fearless artistic leader Hallie Flanagan, to be presented at the Long Island Culture Lab, March 6 - 30, 2025.
- Direction for Theater Karussell, February 2025, play TBD.
- Direction for TAK Theater Liechtenstein, opening October 13th, 2025, play TBD.
- Ongoing: Directing developmental readings for the **Playwrights Directors Unit of the Actors Studio**, December 7th, 2022: “Margot“ by Kate Katcher, October 11th, 2023: “This Neighborhood” by Christopher Daftsios, November 1st 2023: “Gunned” by Jennifer Houlton, New York City.

IN DEVELOPMENT

- “Black Mamba Waltz” by Leslie Bramm, dramaturgy & Direction, a new work.
- “Danton's Death - Take 2“ by Georg Büchner, translation Katrin Hilbe, adaptation in progress in collaboration with Rachel Halper.

WRITING

- Regular contributor for “[European Stages](#)”, a publication of the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, New York City.
- Translator of John Patrick Shanley’s “Savage in Limbo” into alemannic German, to “Fägfüür”.
- Libretto for the theatrical adaptation of Schubert’s “Winterreise”, performed as “A Winter Journey”, produced by **S.J.H. International & Inbrook**, Theater de Cameleon, Amsterdam, November 10, 11, 2012.
- Reviewer for www.reviewbroadway.com.
- Author of program book essays for the season 2003/2004 for **San Francisco Opera**. The operas discussed: “Barber of Seville” (Rossini), “The Mother of Us All” (Thomson), “Lady Macbeth of Mzensk” (Schostakovitch), “The Cunning Little Vixen” (Janáček), “Dr.Faustus” (Busoni).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- September 26 - 30, 2019, Adjudicator at the Midwestern Dramatists Conference, along with Gwydion Suilebhan, David Hanson, Darren Canady.
- 2007-2010: Principal Assistant for “Der Ring des Nibelungen” by Richard Wagner, in the production of Tankred Dorst, at the **Bayreuth Festival** (Bayreuther Festspiele)
- 1997-2002: Assistant director, house director and stage director at the **Opera of Frankfurt a.M.** (Städtische Bühnen Frankfurt, Germany)
- 1994-1997: Assistant director and house director at the **City Theatre Würzburg** (Germany)
- 1990 and 1991 Assistant director and scenes director at **Inspiration Point Fine Arts Festival** in Eureka Springs (AR), artistic director: Carroll Freeman.
- 1988: Production Assistant for the movie “Basketcase II, the House of Freaks”, directed by Frank Henenlotter. Taught me everything I need to know.