

Leah Raidt: Creative Leadership CV

P: 502) 468- 8544

Director. Producer. Teacher.

www.LeahRaidt.com

E: Lraidt@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Leah Raidt (she/they) is a queer Creative Leader based in Chicago, IL. Their work uplifts and advances queer, feminist perspectives and narratives. Their mission is to transform personal & collective traumas into opportunities that disrupt broken systems, build resilience, and expand our capacity for bravery & joy.

FILMMAKING: PRODUCTION

Director / Producer of *LEE BABY*— Falling Leaf Creatives (Owner & Partner), 2022-Present

Falling Leaf Creatives is a queer/trans led, Chicago-based producing entity devoted to the advancement of LGBTQ+ artists and narratives. Founded by Leah Raidt & Eli Sulkowski (he/they).

- Consult & collaborate with Eli Sulkowski on script development, editing
- Produce 3 day film shoot (October 2022) that centered queer/trans leadership & LGBTQ+ cast/crew.
- Collaborate with organizational partners: Chicago Filmmakers Fiscal Sponsorship, internship/mentorship program with DePaul University School of Cinematic Arts.
- Currently in post-production with plans to premier in June 2023

Co-creator & Lead Producer: *Rough River Lake*, narrative short-film, 2020-2023

- Fundraised \$30K through fiscal sponsorship with Full Spectrum Features, Create & manage budget
- Design & implement Community Care & Safety Plan for on-set days (3 day shoot October 2020).
- Location scout/coordinator, travel and food coordinator for all cast/crew
- Creative consultant: script development and director vision

Production Coordinator: Cap Gun Collective, EAT SH*T GOOD Concept Shoot, Winter 2022

- Mentor: Director/Producer PJ Fishwick
- Communication liaison & logistics coordinator for COVID safety, meals, craft services
- Grip Truck— comfortable driving, parallel parking & maneuvering. Support Load in/out.

Production Assistant: Lord + Thomas FCB Chicago, 3 day Commercial shoot, 2017

- Manage craft services & meals for production
- Swing to Art Department (prop making, painting) & Grip Support

TEACHING & LEADERSHIP

Small Business Owner: Private Actor Coaching & Self-Taping Services, 2015-Present

- Provide customized actor training & career consulting to actors of all ages, identities, and experience level
- Self-tape audition & editing services at home studio

Founder & Instructor of The College Audition Clinic, Actors Training Center, Wilmette, IL, 2016-Present

- Pitched, developed and launched program designed to support upper-class high school students and their parents through the competitive college audition process

Teaching Artist: The Green Room Studio Chicago, On-Camera Acting Classes, 2012-Present

- Teach On-camera acting & Breaking into the Industry classes for youth & adults

Drama Faculty: The Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts, Summer 2022/2023

- Instruct/mentor 29 high-school drama students at an immersive 3-week, gov't funded intensive arts camp
- Perform a 20 minute all-school presentation intended to empower/embolden a community of young artists

Guest Teacher: High School Training Program, The Theatre School at DePaul University, Summer 2022

- Design and lead 3 hour workshop on nervous system regulation, mindfulness and meditation for young stage management and theatre tech students

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DIRECTING: THEATRE

Reverse Missionary

Haven Theatre (The Guest House Project)

Director / Developer

Master Class

Timeline Theatre

Asst. Dir. - Nick Bowling

Birdland

Steep Theatre

Asst. Dir. - Jonathan Berry

EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Theatre School at DePaul University, *B.F.A Acting, Manga Cum Laude*, 2011

Vedic Meditation Initiator Training Program with Mark Price of Alchemy Collective, 2020-2021

- Completed 600+ hours of advanced meditation practice, including a 2 week retreat
- Anti-racism training & accountability group for Vedic Meditation teachers

The Embody Lab, Integrative Somatic & Trauma Therapies Certificate Program, 2021-2022

Scholarship recipient

- Explore a unified somatic approach to trauma-informed care: including a deeper understanding of the body's relationship with social, environmental, developmental, relational, spiritual, and cultural wounding and healing. Faculty: Dr. Peter Levine, Staci Haines, Dr. Scott Lyons, Nkem Ndefo, Dr. Peter Porges, Dr. Arielle Schwartz, Dr. Sara King, Sherri Mitchell, Susan McConnell, Dr. Albert Wong, Deb Dana, Lisa Dion, Kekuni Minton, Fresh "Lev" White, Manuela Mischke-Reeds, Nikki Myers

Chicago Director's Workshop, PROP Thtr, 2019-2020

- Selected as 1 of 5 Chicago-based directors to develop and hone unique vision and voice
- Business, Branding, Marketing, and Mastering the Art of the Pitch with Tara Branham

GRANTS & AWARDS

- *Halyna Hutchins Producer Award*, 2022 Cinema Femme Short-Film Festival for "exemplary work at managing crew and creating a safe set" for the short-film *Rough River Lake*
- 2022-2023, IL Arts Council Agency, Individual Artist Grant for *Lee Baby*
- 2022 Semi-finalist, Camera Ambassador Community Builders Grant, *Lee Baby*
- *Female Filmmaker Showcase Award* (Leah Raidt & Mary Tilden), Shortcut 100 Film Festival, Chicago, IL
- *Rough River Lake*: 2022 Best Short-Film & Audience Pick at the London International Film Festival
- 2022 KY Governor's School for the Arts Toyota Alumni Fund Grant recipient: *Rough River Lake*
- 2021 Scholarship recipient for ISTT certificate program with The Embody Lab
- 2020 Semi-finalist, Camera Ambassador Community Builders Grant, *Rough River Lake*
- 2019 KY Governor's School for the Arts Toyota Alumni Fund Grant recipient for work to develop/produce/direct one person show *Reverse Missionary* alongside creative partner Juliet Barrett

**Please contact for list of professional references and/or theatrical actor resume*