

# SEAN ELIAS

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## SUMMARY

Sean Elias is a Tony Award-nominated, internationally award-winning educator, actor, and director. With a background in both performance and theatre for community development, Sean is committed to holding space for the stories of underprivileged communities to be heard, seen, and ultimately — felt. Sean Elias currently serves as Artistic Director for Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore's award-winning professional queer theatre. He is also the founding Chair of the internationally award-winning Performing Arts Department at the Jemicy School - Upper School. The Jemicy School is a private school in Owings Mills, Maryland, serving twice gifted students with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences. In addition, Sean currently sits on the Board of Maryland Thespians, an Educational Theatre Association Affiliate, where he is responsible for coordinating the statewide Thespian Festival held at Towson University.

## EDUCATION

**THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DRAMA**, New York, NY

Additional 30 graduate-level credits completed in the M.F.A. Acting Program.

**EMERSON COLLEGE** - Boston, MA

Master of Art in Theatre Education

Thesis: Theatre for Human and Professional Development

State of Massachusetts Licensed Theatre Teacher - Theatre All Levels

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS** - Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre Performance

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**CHAIR DEPT. OF PERFORMING ARTS & THEATRE COORDINATOR: JEMICY SCHOOL, UPPER SCHOOL** Owings Mills, MD, 2018 - CURRENT

Founding Department Chair of the internationally award-winning Upper School Department of Performing Arts. Responsible for all academic and artistic, ancillary, and elective performing arts programming on the Upper School campus. Additional responsibilities include the recruitment, orientation, mentoring, and advisement of students, staff, and faculty; the supervision of all faculty in the department and the administration of performance evaluations; the submission of recommendations regarding faculty reappointment and promotion; the planning, staffing, and scheduling of classes and productions; participation in the annual program review and evaluation of existing academic programs; administration of the department's budget; and serving as the department's representative and liaison with other institutions, offices, and departments. The Jemicy School educates twice gifted students with dyslexia and other related language-based learning differences.

**HEAD OF THEATRE: JEMICY SCHOOL, UPPER SCHOOL** - Owings Mills, MD, 2015 - 2018

First-ever full-time faculty member dedicated to the performing arts. Responsible for all academic and artistic, ancillary, and elective theatrical programming at the Upper School campus and directing all three of the departments internationally award-winning plays and musicals. Created the first-ever honor society on campus by chartering a chapter of the International Thespian Society. Enrolled students in multiple awards and recognition programs for the first time, including the Baltimore Theatre Awards, The Cappies of Baltimore, and the International Thespian Society. In total, the department has garnered 33 nominations, 14 wins, and a coveted invitation to perform on the International Thespian Festival Main Stage and Chapter Select Showcase Festival in just four years.

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR: TOWSON UNIVERSITY** - Towson, MD, 2014

THEA 204: CREATING COMMUNITIES OF CHANGE

This course explored various exercises in structured and improvisational theatre games to empower students as facilitators and leaders in a variety of fields. Through the philosophies and teachings of Augusto Boal and Viola Spolin, students were exposed to the methodologies and techniques necessary to build classroom, work-related, and/or community-based ensembles for enhanced learning, productivity outcomes, and/or increased civic engagement and understanding. Surpassed departmental averages on all student evaluations.

**RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST: CENTER STAGE THEATRE** - Baltimore, MD, 2013 - 2015

Center Stage, the State Theatre of Maryland, is a professional, non-profit Equity theatre. Center Stage's educational programs integrate theatre into the lives of nearly 10,000 Maryland students each season, inspiring young imaginations through programs that cultivate creative and intellectual potential while developing a practical understanding of the arts. Responsible for the facilitation of a self-designed curriculum on playwriting for students with learning differences at Baltimore's The Auburn School, The Odyssey School, and Compass Academy. Additional instruction assigned at Baltimore's Edgcombe Circle Elementary School, comprising mostly of at-risk youth, and Columbia's Long Reach High School.

**THEATRE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE/EDUCATOR: INQUILINOS BORICUAS EN ACCIÓN** - Boston, MA, 2008 - 2010

The Cacique Youth Learning Center provides low-income urban youth with the necessary resources, skills, and support to enable them to succeed in school and their personal lives. Responsible for planning and implementing daily lessons in theatre based on the organization's interpersonal development objectives and the specific needs and abilities of the student demographic. Responsible for the instructional planning, management, and evaluation procedures of the theatre curriculum and all performances. Emphasis on providing access to multimedia and computer technology to enhance learning. Facilitated classroom behavior management and disciplinary discussions with a focus on understanding and support.

**THEATRE SPECIALIST, WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL (Student Teaching)** - Wellesley, MA 2009

Wellesley High School is a community of learners committed to the core values of academic excellence, caring and cooperative relationships, respect for human differences, and commitment to the community. Thus, all theatre curriculum facilitated through the student teaching experience was guided by a desire for the students to increase their socio-political awareness and understanding. Improvisation, playmaking, generative theme drawing, and character analysis and development were catalysts for self-discovery, research, and individual and group transformation. Developed and implemented lesson plans for 9th - 12th-grade levels, administered evaluations, and analyzed student performance. Fostered a classroom environment conducive to learning and promoting excellent student/teacher interaction.

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, IRON CROW THEATRE** - Baltimore, MD, 2015 - CURRENT

Responsible for conceiving, developing, and implementing the artistic vision and focus of the theatre and for major decisions regarding all programmatic and ancillary operations in support of Iron Crow Theatre's mission. Responsible for hiring artistic staff: artists, directors, performers and actors, stage managers, designers, etc. In partnership with the Managing Director, actively involved in managing the theatre's annual budget and relationships with various funding bodies (charities, government, foundations, sponsors, trusts, etc.). Responsible for the most substantial growth in the annual budget in the history of the theatre and for the 79 awards and nominations the theatre has received to date, including Best Breakout Theatre from Baltimore Magazine and numerous Best Direction and Best Musical awards. Responsible for the contracting of Equity Artists for each production in the theatre's season for the first time in history. Additionally, assisted in coordinating the long-range strategic planning, annual planning, and goal setting of the theatre. Acted as the representative of and advocate for the theatre with government agencies, insurance companies, community, and local business groups and arts organizations. Created the theatre's first-ever large-scale education campaign, formalized the internship program, and commissioned a queer musical set to tour middle and high schools across the state of Maryland.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IRON CROW THEATRE** - Baltimore, MD, 2014 - 2015

Responsible for all administrative and financial operations in support of Iron Crow Theatre's mission. Additionally, the Executive Director was responsible for major decisions regarding personnel management, financial management, and human resources management. Responsibilities included assisting in the development of the theatre's annual season and securing the rights to present the chosen season from the royalty house or publisher-agent. In collaboration with the Artistic Director, the Executive Director developed the theatre's annual season budget and coordinated the long-range strategic planning, annual planning, and goal setting of the theatre. Planned, directed, and implemented a comprehensive development program that generated individual donor, foundation, and corporate support. Managed the annual budget and hired, supervised, and evaluated critical technical/administrative personnel. Managed contracts and contract negotiations for all hired staff while directing all organizational operations.

**HUMAN RESOURCES: ON-BOARDING, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT, APPLE** - New York, NY, 2008 - 2015

Pioneered, designed, and facilitated both a quarterly off-site training program focused on cultural development and employee engagement drawing on the use of Theatre Education techniques (Forum Theatre, Cop in the Head, In-Role Drama) as well as designing and implementing "Workshops for our People", a recurring monthly training program offering leader-led, cross-divisional collaboration. Most passionate in partnering with employees to assess their abilities as related to their desired goals, objectives, and outcomes, then creating plans to achieve success. One of four members on a highly collaborative In-Store HR Team, tasked with promoting employee engagement within Apple's culture of accountability, feedback, personal development, and innovation. Supported benefits education, training, and development of current and new employees, internal communication, and market recruiting efforts for multiple Flagship retail locations. Responsible for the innovation of multiple internal systems and processes, informing executive leadership of results. Familiar with various Federal, State, and local employment, equal employment, and non-discrimination laws.

**PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR, THE CRADLE WILL ROCK** - New York, NY, 2010

Conceptualized, produced, and directed the New York revival of *The Cradle Will Rock* at the historic Theatre 80. Responsible for all financial and managerial aspects of the production in service of the creative realization of the dramatic piece. This included financial/business planning, production scheduling, marketing and research, artist contracts and union negotiations, company management, artistic direction, hiring and staffing of the creative team, casting, and artistic direction of the piece itself.

**THE LARAMIE PROJECT** - Jemicy School, Owings Mills, MD

Maryland State Thespian Festival, 2020 - State Champions. International Thespian Festival, 2020 - Chapter Select Showcase.

**PETER AND THE STARCATCHER** - Jemicy School, Owings Mills, MD

International Thespian Festival, 2019 - Main Stage Invited Production.

**BARE** - Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD

MD Theatre Guide #1 Show of the week, December 2019. Record-breaking and award-winning production for Iron Crow Theatre.

*Full directing résumé available upon request.*

**CAPS FOR SALE: NATIONAL TOUR & OFF-BROADWAY** - Adventure Theatre, DC / New Victory Theatre, NYC

**COMPANY MEMBER, EQUITY REPERTORY SEASON** - The Forestburgh Playhouse, NY

Various roles and understudy assignments including *The Producers*, *Gypsy*, *Cabaret* and *The King and I*

**COMPANY MEMBER, EQUITY ALTERNATING REPERTORY SEASON** - The Weathervane Theatre, NH

Various roles and understudy assignments including *Evita*, *Guy & Dolls*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Wizard of Oz*

*Full performance résumé available upon request.*

DIRECTING  
EXPERIENCE

HIGHLIGHTS

PERFORMANCE  
EXPERIENCE

HIGHLIGHTS

**SKILLS** Excellent command of both Mac and PC platforms. Excellent oral, written communication, and human relations skills. Ability to apply knowledge and experience of current research, theory, and practice to instructional programs. Ability to establish and maintain effective and authentic relationships with students, colleagues, and various stakeholders. Excellent graphic design capabilities for both online and printed materials. High attention to detail with a demonstrated ability to handle ambiguity and pressure with grace. Able to teach virtually and/or in a hybrid environment.

**TEACHING AREAS** Theatre and accessibility, Acting for majors/non-majors, playwriting, musical theatre performance, theatre history, musical theatre history, introduction to theatre, voice, and speech, public speaking, theatrical producing, theatre for socio-political impact, Forum Theatre (Augusto Boal), theatre administration, directing for the stage, and stage management.

**SERVICE** **MARYLAND THESPIANS** - Maryland  
State Chapter Board Member

**MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL** - Maryland  
Theatre Review Panelist

**2014 & 2015 YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL** - Center Stage, Baltimore, MD  
Playwright Mentor/Script Reader for honored plays

**VISIT BALTIMORE CULTURAL TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Member

**MEMBERSHIPS** **ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION** - New York, NY  
Equity Actor

**EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION**  
Professional Member

**AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE AND EDUCATION**  
Professional Member

**ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT MARYLAND & DC SCHOOLS**  
Professional Member

**AWARDS** **2020 MARYLAND THESPIANS STATE CHAMPIONS / CHAPTER SELECT**  
1 of only 30 schools from across the country to be invited to perform on the Chapter Select Stage at the 2020 International Thespian Festival held at The University of Indiana, Bloomington.

**2019 INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL MAIN STAGE INVITEE**  
1 of only 11 schools from across the United States and Canada invited to perform on the Main Stage at the 2019 International Thespian Festival held at The University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

**2019 CAPPIES OF BALTIMORE: JEMICY SCHOOL'S PETER AND THE STARCATCHER**  
10 Nominations, including Best Play. Won for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role.

**2019 BALTIMORE THEATRE AWARDS: JEMICY SCHOOL'S INTO THE WOODS**  
10 Nominations, including Best Musical. Award ceremony 6/2/19.

**BALTIMORE MAGAZINE: 2018 BALTIMORE VISIONARY**  
Selected as one of 30 Baltimore Visionaries by Baltimore Magazine.

**2018 CAPPIES OF BALTIMORE: JEMICY SCHOOL'S MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

4 Nominations. Won for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Comic Role.

**2018 BALTIMORE THEATRE AWARDS: JEMICY SCHOOL'S LITTLE WOMEN: THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**

9 Nominations. 7 wins for Best Musical, Best Stage Crew, Best Stage Management, Best Special Effects, Best Performance by a Leading Actress, Best Performance by an Ensemble, Best Performance by a Supporting Actor, Best Hair & Makeup.

**AMERICAN THEATRE WING: 2017 TONY AWARD NOMINEE - EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE EDUCATION**

**BALTIMORE MAGAZINE: 2017 BEST BREAKOUT THEATRE - IRON CROW THEATRE**

Selected as one of Baltimore Magazine's Best of Baltimore - 2017.

**CITY PAPER: TOP 10 PRODUCTIONS OF 2016**

*The Wild Party* at Iron Crow Theatre named #2

**DC METRO THEATRE ARTS: 2016 BEST MUSICAL - IRON CROW THEATRE**

Dual win for Iron Crow Theatre's *The Wild Party* and *The Rocky Horror Show*.

**DC METRO THEATRE ARTS: 2016 BEST DIRECTION OF A MUSICAL**

Dual win for Iron Crow Theatre's *The Wild Party* and *The Rocky Horror Show*.

**2016 MD THEATRE GUIDE READER'S CHOICE AWARDS: BEST PROFESSIONAL THEATRE IN THE D.C. METRO AREA - IRON CROW THEATRE**

**2016 BARRYMORE AWARD NOMINEE: OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN AN ENSEMBLE**

*Heathers! The Musical*, presented by The Eagle Theatre

**2015 HELEN HAYES AWARD NOMINEE: OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN AN ENSEMBLE**

*Oliver! The Musical*, produced by Adventure Theatre for Roundhouse Theatre.

**2013 PERRY AWARD NOMINEE: OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE**

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, presented by Pleasant Valley Productions, NJ

REFERENCES

**DR. FRANK GOLOM** Board President  
Iron Crow Theatre

**DOROTHY DELUCCHI** Chapter Director  
Maryland Thespians, an Educational Theatre Association Affiliate

**RIVER HANSEN** Department Chair, World Languages  
Jemicy School - Upper School

*Reference contact information available upon request.*