

SEAN ELIAS

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SUMMARY

Sean Elias currently serves as the Artistic Director for Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore's award-winning professional queer theatre. Simultaneously, Sean also serves as the Chair of the internationally award winning Performing Arts Department at the Jemicy School - Upper School. A Tony Award-nominated and internationally award-winning theatre educator, administrator, director, Equity actor, and practitioner, Sean has had the distinct privilege to lead artistic and creative teams in multiple capacities within numerous award-winning professional and educational theatrical productions. With a background in theatre for community development, his work aims to elevate the experiences of underprivileged communities while promoting both an understanding of craft and socio-political context in hopes of increasing our collective civic engagement.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING

Bare

Music by Damon Intribartolo. Lyrics by Jon Hartmere
Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD, December 2019

REVIEWS

"A thought provoking and exquisitely executed production. Utterly lovely to look at and to listen to." - **Baltimore Independent Theatre Review**

"Definitely an entertaining evening of revelations and in-your-face talent...Director/Choreographer Sean Elias has done his usual excellent job guiding the company of 14 through the action. The pace quick-stepped through two acts and left no emotion unexplored." - **MD Theatre Guide**

"Iron Crow's *BARE* provides audiences with a critical piece of art produced in the history of this movement..." - **DC Metro Theatre Arts**

AWARDS:

#1 Show of the Week - MD Theatre Guide

Baltimore Independent Theatre Review Nomination: Best Musical

Named 1 of 16 Shows to See by Baltimore Fishbowl

A New Brain

Music and Lyrics by William Finn
Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD, May 2019

REVIEWS

"...staged with smartness and sparkle by Iron Crow Theatre under the direction of Sean Elias." - **DC Theatre Scene**

"...director Sean Elias' blocking was...very clever, appropriately quirky, and pleasing to the eye...this charming piece of theatre is not one to miss..." - **MD Theatre Guide**

"...often stunning to hear. Likewise, all of the big solo numbers were expertly fielded...it will indeed send you out happy...a powerful theme, well-conveyed in the new Iron Crow Theatre revival..." - **Broadway World**

AWARDS:

#1 Show of the Week - MD Theatre Guide

The Rocky Horror Show

Music and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien

Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD, December 2018, October 2017, October 2016

REVIEWS

"It's hard to imagine a more thoroughly enjoyable theatrical experience, pure fun embracing differences and celebrating sexuality. Don't dream it, see it." - **DC Metro Theatre Arts, 2018**

"Directed by Artistic Director Sean Elias, Iron Crow Theatre does this horror/fantasy classic justice...Iron Crow's "*Rocky*" production is well worth seeing, so grab your fishnets, corsets and high heel shoes..." - **MD Theatre Guide, 2017**

"Having reviewed Iron Crow's first show of their season and now this, I am extremely impressed with their high production values and organization. This is a serious theatre company and they deserve our support...When I was just a wee queerling, I went to see *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at a mall in a suburb of Richmond, Virginia, almost every Saturday at midnight. And I saw the 2000 Broadway production. I can confidently say, without hesitation, that I have never had as much fun seeing this material as I did seeing Iron Crow's version." - **DC Metro Theatre Arts, 2016**

AWARDS:

Best Musical in Professional Theatres - DC Metro Theatre Arts

Best Direction in Musicals in Professional Theatres - DC Metro Theatre Arts

Best Performances in Musicals in Professional Theatres - DC Metro Theatre Arts

The Cradle Will Rock

Music and Lyrics by Marc Blitzstein

Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD, September 2017

REVIEWS

"The direction by Sean Elias is propulsive and often clever, the cast is uniformly connected to the work's heart...from the wonderfully wacky "Honolulu" song to the rousing ensemble numbers (bracingly staged here)...I suspect Blitzstein would have loved, *The Cradle Will Rock* remains a music theater gem. It's great that Iron Crow is giving it such thoughtful attention." - **The Baltimore Sun**

"...a spirited revival by Iron Crow Theatre...robust...dynamic..." - **WYPR**

"Iron Crow Theatre is on fire right out of the gate with its fantastic season opener...Under the expert direction of Artistic Director Sean Elias, this Brechtian revival hits all the right notes...This historic musical marks an excellent beginning for Iron Crow's 2017/18 Season of Identity...*The Cradle Will Rock* - with its superlative cast, beautifully synchronized choreography, and inspired direction by Iron Crow Artistic Director Sean Elias - must appear on your schedule for this weekend. Truly, the only complaint I have about this production is that it won't be around for longer." - **DC Metro Theater Arts**

"Able directed by Sean Elias, Iron Crow's Artistic Director, this tight, well-paced production moves Iron Crow another step forward..." - **MD Theatre Guide**

"Iron Crow's production, under the dynamic direction of Sean Elias,...thrilling and moving...You think you're in for a reenactment of a historical night of American theater, but then *The Cradle Will Rock* gets rolling and before long you're plunged into a musical production from Iron Crow Theatre that is scarily germane and leaves you feeling rattled and exhilarated and thinking maybe you should have worn your pink pussy hat...By the time the on-fire cast

sings the last line of the show—"The cradle will ROCK!"—with fists upraised, you want to run to the streets and start a rebellion. Elias and the Iron Crow company do a fine job expressing the historical significance of the musical, but also freshly fan the flames of revolution for all Americans." - DC Theatre Scene

AWARDS:

#1 Show of the Week - MD Theatre Guide

Edith Can Shoot Things & Hit Them

Written by A. Rey Pamatmat

Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD, November 2016

REVIEWS

"...ably directed by Iron Crow's Artistic Director Sean Elias..." - DC Metro Theatre Arts

"The production values are above what you'd expect from such a small venue..." - DC Theatre Scene

"Well directed by Sean Elias... *'Edith'* hits the mark thanks to strong acting by the three-person cast..." - MD Theatre Guide

Iron Crow Theatre is having a great year...it's clear the new leadership of Iron Crow is doing something right. Talented actors and a creative team that refuses to skimp regardless of the length of the run make *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, hit the mark. Grab some tickets and head down to Baltimore Theatre Project and enjoy Iron Crow's latest success." - DC Metro Theatre Arts

"This is yet another good production from Iron Crow's Season of Dark Play. Only a few performances remain, so hurry. *"Edith"* is a sure shot." - MD Theatre Guide

"a far-too-short run...It's a refreshing take on young love from a gay perspective...well directed by Sean Elias." - DC Theatre Scene

The Wild Party

Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore, MD, September 2016

REVIEWS

"...a web of debauchery that is fantastically entertaining and totally fascinating..a larger than life production, bursting at the seams with inventive touches, great pacing, and a sharp eye for details. Sean Elias' vision for this production of *The Wild Party* makes it crystal clear why we need him, and Iron Crow, around for a long, long, long time." - MD Theatre Guide

"Director Sean Elias shifts the show's perspective to what he calls a "sense of queerness," and the result removes the period piece limitations, giving the production a tingling freedom and daring. - DC Theatre Scene

"Go big or go home,' they say, and Iron Crow has done that with this impressive and uncompromising season opening production of *The Wild Party*." - DC Metro Theatre Arts

"What can I say? It's the show to see in Baltimore right now and the Crows are the ones to beat. You'd be a fucking fool to miss it." - The Bad Oracle

"Deceptively delicious and deviously delightful there is so much more than meets the eye when it comes to ICT's first musical theatre production in over half a decade." - TheatreBloom

"The atmospheric, determinedly racy approach underlines the wild in *'Wild Party'*." - The Baltimore Sun

AWARDS:

#1 Show of the Week - MD Theatre Guide

Top 10 Stage Productions of 2016 - Baltimore City Paper

Best Direction in Musicals in Professional Theatres - DC Metro Theatre Arts

Best Performances in Professional Theatres - DC Metro Theatre Arts

The Cradle Will Rock

Music and Lyrics by Marc Blitzstein

Theatre 80, New York, NY, September 2010

**EDUCATIONAL
DIRECTING**

The Laramie Project

Written by Moisés Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theater Project

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, October 2019 (Revived January 2020)

AWARDS:

Maryland State Thespian Festival 2020 - Chapter Select (State Champions)

Outstanding Vocal Work

Outstanding Ensemble

Virtual International Thespian Festival 2020 - Chapter Select Showcase

Into the Woods

Music and Lyrics By Stephen Sondheim

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, May 2019

AWARDS:

Baltimore Theatre Awards - 10 Nominations including Best Musical and 5 wins

Best Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Musical

Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical

Best Set Construction of a Musical

Best Props in a Musical

Best Special Effects in a Musical

An Act of God

Written by David Javerbaum

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, February 2019

Peter and the Starcatcher

Written by Rick Elice

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, September 2018 (Revived June 2019)

AWARDS:

International Thespian Festival 2019 Main Stage Invitee (1 of 11 across the US and Canada)

The Cappies of Baltimore - 10 Nominations included Best Play and 1 Win

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role

An Inspector Calls

Written by J. B. Priestley

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, May 2019

Little Women: The Broadway Musical

Music by Jason Howland, Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, January 2018

AWARDS:

Baltimore Theatre Awards - 8 Nominations including Best Musical and 7 wins

Best Musical

Best Performance by a Lead Actress in a Musical

Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical

Best Ensemble in a Musical

Best Makeup Design of a Musical

Best Special Effects in a Musical

Best Stage Crew of a Musical

Much Ado About Nothing

Written by William Shakespeare

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, October 2017

AWARDS:

The Cappies of Baltimore - 4 Nominations and 1 win

Best Comic Actor in a Play

Little Shop of Horrors

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, May 2017

Proof

Written by David Auburn

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, February 2017

AWARDS:

Maryland State Thespian Festival, 2017

Best Physical Work

The Crucible

Written by Arthur Miller

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, October 2016

You Can't Take It With You

Written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

Jemicy School - Upper School, Owings Mills, MD, April 2016 (Revived 2018)

AWARDS:

Maryland State Thespian Festival, 2018

Best Technical Crew

Best Sound

Best Props

Best Hair & Makeup

EDUCATION

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

MEMBERSHIP

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION - New York, NY

Equity Actor, performance resumé available upon request.

EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION

Professional Member

AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE AND EDUCATION

Professional Member

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT MARYLAND & DC SCHOOLS

Professional Member

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

VOYAGE BALTIMORE: 2021 RISING STAR

Selected as one of 30 Baltimore Visionaries by Baltimore Magazine.

BALTIMORE MAGAZINE: 2018 BALTIMORE VISIONARY

Selected as one of 30 Baltimore Visionaries by Baltimore Magazine.

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.

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