

# REBECCA WAHLS

**SHE/HER/HERS**

**THEATRE & FILMMAKER, TEDx SPEAKER**

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## MAJOR ONGOING PROJECTS

### I. *HIM* - FEATURE FILM

Directed by Rebecca Wahls

Written & Produced by Rebecca Wahls & Tess Higgins

Starring Kira Omans, Tess Higgins, Sydney Battle, Margaret Berkowitz, Lucie Solène Allouche, Kyle Prue, and Troy Baker (The Last of Us)

**LOGLINE:** The final five contestants on a reality dating show unite to confront their deceitful suitor and the producers who manipulated them into falling in love.

#### ACCOLADES:

- Panavision New Filmmaker Equipment Grant: awarded a \$250,000 camera package
- Reframe Stamp distinction for gender-balanced production
- Sylvia and David Steiner Film Fund of Carnegie Mellon University grant recipient
- Young Alumni Creative Development Award (George Mason University) recipient
- Official Selection: Sedona International Film Festival, Beloit International Film Festival

### II. *this old haunt* - A NEW MUSICAL

Created by Maggie Marie Rodgers, Rebecca Wahls, and SMJ

Music by Maggie Marie Rodgers and Dillon Feldman

Lyrics by Maggie Marie Rodgers

Book by SMJ

**LOGLINE:** Four friends reunite at their high school choir teacher's cabin in the woods in this new folk-inspired musical. Slipping in and out of time, they confront their past selves and unlock their journey forward.

#### DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

- July 2022: 29-Hour Workshop, Fort Salem Theatre
- November 2022: Academic Production, Carnegie Mellon University
- Fall 2023: Developed with the Latiné Musical Theatre Lab's Julia De Burgos Cohort, NYC
- January 2024: 29-Hour Workshop, Tisch New Theatre
- January 2024: "storm chaser" and "folklore of me" performed at Latiné Musical Theatre Lab/ Prospect Theatre Company's *NEW MUSICALS MIXTAPE* concert

## EDUCATION

### Master of Fine Arts, Directing - John Wells Fellow Carnegie Mellon University, 2023

Thesis: *this old haunt*, a new musical

Advisor: Kim Weild

Studied under: Jane Bernstein, Will Davis, Chris Klug, Justin Lucero, Melissa Martin, Marc Masterson, Narelle Sissons, Ivan Valentin Talijančić, Mei Ann Teo, Andy Wolk

### Bachelor of Fine Arts, Acting and Directing George Mason University, Magna Cum Laude, 2015

Recipient of Students as Scholars Grant for Undergraduate Research

Studied under: Rick Davis, Edward Gero, Mary Lechter, Kaiulani Lee, Kevin Murray

### Additional Training

Studio Acting Conservatory: Directing with Joy Zinoman

Signature Theatre (Arlington): Musical Theatre Directors Workshop with Matt Gardiner

## FILM

### DIRECTING & WRITING: FEATURE

|                 |   |             |      |
|-----------------|---|-------------|------|
| <b>Him</b>      | Screenplay: Tess Higgins & Rebecca Wahls  | Independent | 2023 |
|                 | *Official Selection: Sedona International Film Festival 2024; Beloit International Film Festival 2024 |             |      |
| <b>GOLEM.AI</b> | Screenplay: Alec Seymour  | Independent | 2023 |

### DIRECTING & WRITING: SHORT

|                     |   |                            |      |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|------|
| <b>Dissonant</b>    | Screenplay: Kevin Murray                              | Little Victory Productions | 2023 |
| <b>Last</b>         | Screenplay: Rebecca Wahls                             | Independent                | 2022 |
|                     | *Official Selection: Awesome Com Short Film Fest 2023 |                            |      |
| <b>#cottagecore</b> | Screenplay: Rebecca Wahls                             | Hand Me Down Films         | 2021 |

## THEATRICAL

### DIRECTING: NEW PLAYS

|   |  |   |      |
|---|--|---|------|
| <b><i>this old haunt, a new musical*</i></b>  | Maggie Marie Rodgers, Rebecca Wahls, and SMJ | Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA | 2021 |
| <b><i>Pass It On</i></b>                      | Alec Seymour                                 | Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA | 2021 |
| <b><i>Memory Card</i></b>                     | Alec Seymour                                 | Carnegie Mellon University- Digital       | 2020 |
| <b><i>Spills</i></b>                          | Ruthie Rado                                  | Who What Where, Takoma Park MD            | 2020 |
| <b><i>somewhere in the future dark</i></b>    | John King                                    | Rorsharch Theatre, Washington DC          | 2019 |
| <b><i>Swings and Slides</i></b>               | Z.Wilcox/A.Reid                              | Acting for Young People, Fairfax VA       | 2017 |
| <b><i>We Found the Wild Things</i></b>        | Andrew Reid                                  | Who What Where, Washington DC             | 2017 |
| <b><i>Gottagethere/Whateverittakes</i></b>    | Lori Fischer                                 | Source Festival, Washington DC            | 2017 |
| <b><i>Some People Say</i></b>                 | Mark Saunders                                | Source Festival, Washington DC            | 2017 |
| <b><i>Dark Times at Grimesville High</i></b>  | Conor Kyle                                   | Capital Fringe, Washington DC             | 2016 |
| <b><i>Billy Shakes and the Big Screen</i></b> | Rebecca Wahls                                | Acting for Young People, Fairfax VA       | 2016 |
| <b><i>The Ninja Play</i></b>                  | Aaron Sulkin                                 | George Mason University, Fairfax VA       | 2014 |
| <b><i>Seeking Sincerity</i></b>               | Tristian Griffin                             | George Mason University, Fairfax VA       | 2012 |

### DIRECTING: ESTABLISHED PLAYS

|  |  |   |      |
|--|--|---|------|
| <b><i>Pippin</i></b>                   | Stephen Schwartz                             | Cadence Theatre, Richmond VA              | 2024 |
| <b><i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i></b> | Henry Lewis, Henry Shields, & Jonathan Sayer | Cumberland Theatre, Cumberland MD         | 2024 |
| <b><i>Love and Information</i></b>     | Caryl Churchill                              | Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA | 2021 |

|                                |                     |                                     |      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Pippin*</b>                 | Stephen Schwartz    | Monumental Thr. Co, Alexandria VA   | 2018 |
| <b>Dido, Queen of Carthage</b> | Christopher Marlowe | George Mason University, Fairfax VA | 2014 |
| <b>The Goddess Diaries</b>     | Carol Campbell      | Capital Fringe, Washington DC       | 2013 |
| <b>Woyzeck</b>                 | Georg Buchner       | George Mason University, Fairfax VA | 2013 |

\*nominated for four 2018 Helen Hayes Awards including Best Ensemble

#### DIRECTING: CABARETS

|                                       |  |                                     |      |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Valentine's Day Shuffle</b>        |  | Acting for Young People, Digital    | 2021 |
| <b>Ugly Sweaters, Beautiful Music</b> |  | StageCoach Theatre, Sterling VA     | 2018 |
| <b>25th Anniversary Celebration</b>   |  | Acting for Young People, Fairfax VA | 2017 |

#### DIRECTING: EDUCATIONAL THEATRE

|  |                  |                                     |      |
|--|------------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Into the Woods, Jr.</b>             | Stephen Sondheim | Cadence Theatre, Richmond VA        | 2024 |
| <b>Puffs</b>                           | Matt Cox         | Acting for Young People, Fairfax VA | 2022 |
| <b>The Tempest</b>                     | Shakespeare      | Acting for Young People, Digital    | 2020 |
| <b>Billy Shakes and the Big Screen</b> | Rebecca Wahls    | Acting for Young People, Fairfax VA | 2016 |

#### DIRECTING: NEW MEDIA

**Memory Card** by Alec Seymour: 20-minute live digital horror piece co-created for Carnegie Mellon University's annual Playground Festival of independent student work, 2020

**Joe** written and performed by Rebecca Wahls for Joe's Movement Emporium in Mt. Rainier, MD

**Rebecca and Becca in Space, Seasons 1 and 2:** web series, 2020

**Midnight Tracks** by Zachary Wilcox: full-length audio play with original songs created for Who What Where Theater Collective's mobile app, 2018

#### DIRECTING: READINGS/ WORKSHOPS

|                                       |  |                               |      |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------|
| <b>Keyword: Wander</b>                | Clare Drobot                                 | City Theatre, Pittsburgh PA   | 2022 |
| <b>this old haunt, a new musical*</b> | Maggie Marie Rodgers, Rebecca Wahls, and SMJ | Fort Salem Theatre, Salem NY  | 2022 |
| <b>THE COMMAND CENTER</b>             | SMJ  | Who What Where, digital       | 2022 |
| <b>The Behavior of Other Animals</b>  | Mark J. Costello                             | Spooky Action Theatre, DC     | 2019 |
| <b>Tangier Island is Sinking</b>      | Zachary Wilcox                               | Kennedy Center, DC            | 2019 |
| <b>Him</b>                            | Tess Higgins                                 | Next Stop Theatre, Herndon VA | 2019 |
| <b>Spills</b>                         | Ruthie Rado                                  | Kennedy Center, DC            | 2018 |
| <b>The Cat Cafe</b>                   | Carol Campbell                               | Who What Where, Oakton VA     | 2018 |
| <b>Dido, Queen of Carthage</b>        | Christopher Marlowe                          | Avant Bard, Alexandria VA     | 2016 |
| <b>Danny and the Therapist</b>        | Tom Block                                    | Spooky Action Theatre, DC     | 2016 |

#### CO-DIRECTING

|                                |                    |                    |      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| <b>What's On Your Walls?</b>   | With Rex Daugherty | Solas Nua, Digital | 2020 |
| <b>A Midwinter Eve's Dream</b> | With Mary Lechter  | AFYP, Fairfax VA   | 2015 |

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTING

|                   |                    |                    |      |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| <b>Being Here</b> | Dir. Rex Daugherty | Solas Nua, Digital | 2020 |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTING

|   |                        |                                 |      |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| <b>The 39 Steps</b>                       | Dir. Nick Olcott       | Constellation Theatre, DC       | 2020 |
| <b>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</b>         | Dir. Allison Stockman  | Constellation Theatre, DC       | 2018 |
| <b>Love and Information</b>               | Dir. Michael Dove      | Forum Theatre, Silver Spring MD | 2017 |
| <b>When the Rain Stops Falling</b>        | Dir. Michael Dove      | 1st Stage, Tyson's Corner VA    | 2016 |
| <b>World Builders</b>                     | Dir. Amber McGinnis    | Forum Theatre, DC               | 2015 |
| <b>The Lieutenant of Inishmore</b>        | Dir. Matthew R. Wilson | Constellation Theatre, DC       | 2015 |
| <b>The Soldier's Tale/ Gianni Schicci</b> | Dir. Rick Davis        | InSeries Pocket Opera, DC       | 2014 |

#### PRODUCING

|   |  |                               |      |
|---|--|-------------------------------|------|
| <b>"A Celebration of Jeanine Tessori"</b> |  | Studio Theatre, Washington DC | 2020 |
|---|--|-------------------------------|------|

|   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| <b>Being Here</b>                                     | Solas Nua, digital                     | 2020    |
| <b>Cyber Craic: A Digital Irish Arts Festival</b>     | Solas Nua, digital                     | 2020    |
| <b>Spills</b>   | Who What Where, Takoma Park MD         | 2019    |
| <b>The Frederick Douglass Project</b>                 | Solas Nua, Washington DC               | 2018    |
| <b>Midnight Tracks</b>                                | Who What Where, Mobile App             | 2018    |
| <b>An Evening of Ominous Short Plays Vol I&amp;II</b> | Who What Where, Fairfax VA             | 2017-18 |
| <b>We Found the Wild Things</b>                       | Who What Where, Washington DC          | 2017    |
| <b>Dark Times at Grimesville High</b>                 | Capital Fringe Festival, Washington DC | 2016    |

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Executive Assistant and Artistic Coordinator, Studio Theatre (2018-2020)

- Coordinator for the Artistic Department, regularly communicating with artists and agents, managing and hiring quarterly Casting Intern, and tracking casting budget; planned and executed EPAs in Washington, DC and New York City
- Artistic Producer for 2020 Benefit, "A Celebration of Jeanine Tesori"
- Executive Assistant to David Muse, Artistic Director, and Rebecca Ende Lichtenberg, Managing Director, handling all travel and scheduling needs

### Artistic Associate and Senior Teaching Artist, Acting for Young People (2015-present)

- Lead Teaching Artist for Advanced Showcase (ages 13-18), Mini Actors' Showcase (ages 5-6), Afterschool programs (ages 5-12), Summer Acting Camp (ages 10-11), Spring Break Camp (ages 5-14), Student Holiday Programs (ages 5-14), and specialty workshops including Shakespeare and puppetry. As lead teaching artist, I created and executed lesson plans based on AFYP's core curriculum; wrote over 50 original plays; and managed co-teachers and interns.
- Private monologue instructor, specializing in BFA/ MFA audition prep, day-to-day audition prep, as well as directing and playwriting mentorship. As of January 2024, I serve 8 students regularly.
- Directed and produced "Swings and Slides," an anti-bullying touring production for Pre-K students
- Reader for annual Student Playwrights Festival
- Responsible for website and social media presence

### Co-Artistic Director, Who What Where Productions (2017-2023)

- Co-founder of theater/ new media collective with a focus on producing new works by local playwrights
- Producer and director for 3 mainstage productions of new plays, including *Spills*, which went on to successful indie runs in NYC and London
- Curator and producer for annual short play event "An Evening of Ominous Short Plays"

### Directing Intern, Forum Theatre (2016 season)

- Assistant Director for season productions
- Member of Literary Committee

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

### Carnegie Mellon University, 2020-2023

#### Course 54-191 A: Acting for Non-Majors (Instructor Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

This course introduced the basics of acting, text analysis, and generative performance to a mixed-level group of undergraduate students from various departments.

#### Course 54-191 B: Improv for Non-Majors (Instructor Fall 2022)

This course is designed to spark a love of improv performance while simultaneously introducing the concept that improv performance techniques can be used in everyday life to improve communication, collaboration, and presentation skills for students and professionals across disciplines.

Course 54-722: Text to Stage (Teaching Assistant 2022)

This graduate level course consisted of an overview of text analysis practices and group discussions with professionals from all areas of regional theatre.

Course 54-372: Auditioning for the Stage (Visiting Artist 2022)

Junior BFA Acting candidates perform weekly mock auditions for a variety of texts.

Course 54-319: Lighting Design for Directors (Visiting Artist 2021, 2022)

Junior BFA Directors explore the lighting design process and learn skills to communicate, collaborate and explore with designers.

Course 54-200: Dramaturgy Forum (Visiting Artist 2022)

Undergraduate BFA Dramaturgs learn about a variety of topics concerning field and institutional Navigation; guest lectures focused on independent producing and new work development.

### **Frostburg University State University, 2024**

THEA 308: Directing

Guest Lecturer 2024: "Making Work After College"

### **George Mason University**

THR 329: Directing

Guest Lecturer 2023, 2024: "Making Work After College"

Guest Lecturer 2023: "Working With Designers"

THR 301: Advanced Voice and Speech

Substitute Instructor 2023: Workshopped students' final monologue presentations

THR 310: Acting II

Substitute Instructor 2019: Workshopped students' final scenework presentations

Mason Players Originals

Alumni Director Mentor 2016 - 2017 for the Mason Players Originals festival of new work. Served on play selection committee, consistent presence at rehearsals, and feedback sessions with students.

## **ADDITIONAL TEACHING**

### **Acting for Young People, 2012-2023**

Developer and Lead Teaching Artist:

- Acting for 18+
- Improv for 18+
- After-School Improv Classes
- Teen Acting Ensemble
- Monologue Repertoire
- Audition Techniques

Lead Teaching Artist:

- Advanced Actors' Showcase
- Mini Actors' Showcase
- Summer Acting Camp
- After-School Acting Classes

## National Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, 2023

Seminar: Acting for the Camera

## Art Propel, 2015-2019

Developed and led Professional Improv Workshops for Marriott International and local Northern Virginia businesses Rillhurst Capital, Jennifer Mack Properties, and Becton, Dickinson & Company

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

|   |                      |         |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| Young Alumni Creative Development Award   | GMU, Fairfax VA      | 2024    |
| West Coast Drama Alumni Clan Award  | CMU, Pittsburgh PA   | 2023    |
| The Sylvia and David Steiner Film Fund<br>of Carnegie Mellon University Grant Recipient | Los Angeles, CA      | 2023    |
| TEDx Speaker  | CMU, Pittsburgh PA   | 2022    |
| Panavision New Filmmakers Equipment Grant Recipient                                     | Los Angeles, CA      | 2022    |
| John Wells Directing Fellowship   | CMU, Pittsburgh PA   | 2020-23 |
| Frank-Ratchye Further Fund Grant Recipient  | CMU, Pittsburgh PA   | 2022    |
| GSA/ Provost GuSH Grant Recipient   | CMU, Pittsburgh PA   | 2022    |
| Nomination: Helen Hayes, Best Ensemble - <i>Pippin</i>                                  | Washington DC        | 2018    |
| Pick of the Fringe - <i>Dark Times at Grimesville High</i>                              | Washington DC        | 2016    |
| Students as Scholars Student Excellence Award   | GMU, Fairfax, VA     | 2015    |
| Best Academics in the Major (BFA Theater)   | GMU, Fairfax, VA     | 2015    |
| Chris Parsons Memorial Scholarship  | GMU, Fairfax, VA     | 2014    |
| Greenspring Community Players Scholarship   | GMU, Springfield, VA | 2012    |

## AFFILIATIONS & COMMITTEES

|  |                                     |         |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Associate Member, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society | National                            | 2023-   |
| MFA Directing Student Representative                       | CMU, Pittsburgh PA                  | 2020-23 |
| Content Advisory Committee                                 | CMU, Pittsburgh PA                  | 2022-23 |
| Reading Committee, Playground XVIII                        | CMU, Pittsburgh PA                  | 2020    |
| Mentor, TheatreWashington Mentorship Program               | TheatreWashington, Washington DC    | 2020    |
| President, Mason Improv Association                        | George Mason University, Fairfax VA | 2014-15 |
| Ford's Theatre Student Ambassador                          | Ford's Theatre, Washington DC       | 2014-15 |
| Alpha Psi Omega  | George Mason University, Fairfax VA | 2013    |