

# Rajendra Ramoon Maharaj

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)

<b>Producing Artistic Director</b> American Stage Theatre, St. Petersburg	<b>2021 - 2022</b>
<b>Associate Artistic Producer</b> Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee	<b>2020 - 2021</b>
<b>Council Member</b> The Lorraine Hansberry Initiative	<b>Present</b>
<b>Chairman of the Equity in the Arts and Culture Committee / Third-Vice President NAACP Brooklyn Branch</b> <i>The United States of America's Oldest Non- Partisan Civil Rights Organization</i>	<b>2018 - 2020</b>
<b>Artistic Director</b> New Freedom Theatre, Philadelphia	<b>2015 – 2018</b>
<b>Co-Founder / Artistic Consultant</b> Voices at the River, Arkansas Repertory Theatre	<b>2010 – 2013</b>

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING & CHOREOGRAPHY (selected)

### REGIONAL:

Dutchman (American Stage), School Girls or the African Mean Girls Play (American Stage), Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol (American Stage), The Mis-Education of America (Theatre Raleigh), indivisible with... (Milwaukee Rep) Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope / A Walk Through Time (World Premier: Pulitzer Prize Recipient Lynn Nottage) (New Freedom Theatre, PA) My America, My Story (Perseverance Theatre, AK) The Black Nativity (Goodman Theater, IL) Sweet Tea (Signature Theatre, VA) Intimate Apparel (Arkansas Repertory Theatre, AR) Dreamgirls (Theater of the Stars, GA, ft. Tony/Grammy Recipient: Jennifer Holliday) Sanctified (Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AL, ft. Chadwick Boseman) Damn Yankees (St. Louis Black Repertory, MO) Nightswim (Actors Theater of Louisville, KY) Mother Emanuel (Red Mountain Theatre Company, AL) Classy'ass (Actors Theater of Louisville, KY) Master Harold and the Boys (Portland Stage Company, ME)

### NEW YORK :

Little Rock (The Sheen Center for Thought & Culture, ft. Shanice Williams) Sweet Lorraine (Rave Theater Festival, ft. Tony/Grammy Nominee: Valisia Lekae. Prod. by Tony Recipient: Ken Davenport) Mother Emanuel (New York International Fringe Festival Soho Playhouse) Marat Sade (Classical Theater of Harlem) A Band of Angels (Tribeca Performing Arts Center) Breathe / Man Measures Man, ft. Tony Nominee: Thomas Sadoski (Lark Play Development Center) 365 Days (The Public, written by Pulitzer Prize Recipient: Suzan-Lori Parks)

### OPERA:

THE FACTOTUM (Dir. / Lyric Opera of Chicago)  
Fire Shut Up In My Bones (Asst. Dir / The Metropolitan Opera)

## **PLAYWRIGHT (selected)**

Little Rock (Off Broadway – Sheen Center for Thought & Culture / Common Ground Theatre (CA) / Passage Theatre (NJ) / TheatreWorks (CA) / Arkansas Rep (AR)) Sweet Lorraine (Rave Theater Festival (NY))  
Mother Emanuel: An American Musical Play (New Freedom Theatre (PA) / Soho Playhouse (NY))  
The Black Nativity/Darfur Nativity (New Freedom Theatre (PA) / The Goodman Theatre (IL))My America, My Story (Perserverance Theatre (AK)) History of the Word (Crossroads Theatre (NJ) / York Theatre Co. (NY))  
Diss Diss and Diss Dat (Hip Hop Musical) (New Federal Theatre (NY))

## **RESIDENCIES (selected)**

Milwaukee Repertory Theater / Theater Now National Musical Writers Group / Letter of Marque Theater Resident Playwright Fall 2020 / New Orleans Writer's Residency / Alliance Theater / Arkansas Repertory Theatre / Triskelion Arts / Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts / The Inaugural Playwright for the Theatre Raleigh New Works Reading Series /

## **PUBLICATIONS (selected)**

New York Times / American Theater Magazine / Dramatist / Playbill / Broadway World /  
08:46 Monologue Collection / Daily News / Philadelphia Sun / Time-Out New York /  
Yale School of Drama - Repertory Theater Review / New York Post / Amsterdam News /  
Stage Directors and Choreographers Journal / Harlem News / Uptown Magazine / New York Beacon

## **EDUCATION**

Brooklyn College, (NY) Masters Degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in Theatrical Directing  
St. John's University, (NY) Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Communication Arts  
St. John's University, (NY) Associate Degree in Criminal Justice  
Allumnus of The Actor's Studio Director/Playwright Unit, (NY)

## **AWARDS & HONORS (selected)**

Four Vivian Robinson AUDELCO Awards for Direction and Choreography (Off-Broadway) /Barrymore Award for Excellence (Theatre Philadelphia) / Woodie King Jr. Award for Outstanding Direction (St. Louis Black Repertory Theater) / Overall Excellence for a Musical (New York International Fringe Festival) / Theater Communication Group's Directing and Playwriting Grants / Time Warner Diverse Voices Grant / 2021 TATUTA honor / 2021 Season Finalist in The Downtown Urban Arts Festival in NYC / Audience Choice Award Winner and Nominee for Best Play in the inaugural 2021 LGBTQ+ Short Play Festival NYC / Semi-Finalist in the 2021 Blue Ink Playwriting Award competition presented by American Blues Theater / Finalist for the 2021 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference

# RAJENDRA RAMOON MAHARAJ

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## Playwright / Lyricist

Dramatists Guild Member

### PRODUCED WORKS

<i>The Factotum</i> (World Premiere 2023) Co-Bookwriter	Lyric Opera of Chicago	Chicago, IL
<i>Little Rock</i>	Common Ground Theatre	San Diego, CA
<i>Little Rock</i>	Off Broadway – Sheen Center for Thought & Culture	New York, NY
<i>Little Rock</i>	Passage Theatre	Trenton, NJ (Barrymore Recipient)
<i>Little Rock</i>	TheatreWorks	Palo Alto, CA
<i>Little Rock</i>	Arkansas Repertory Theatre	Little Rock, AR
<i>Sweet Lorraine</i>	Rave Theater Festival	New York, NY
<i>Mother Emanuel, An American Musical Play</i>	New Freedom Theater	Philadelphia, PA
<i>Mother Emanuel, An American Musical Play</i>	Soho Playhouse	New York, NY (Fringe: Overall Excellence for Musical Award)
<i>The Black Nativity / Darfur Nativity</i>	New Freedom Theater	Philadelphia, PA
<i>The Black Nativity / Darfur Nativity</i>	The Goodman Theatre	Chicago, IL
<i>The Ballad of Trayvon Martin</i>	New Freedom Theater	Philadelphia, PA
<i>My America, My Story</i>	Perseverance Theatre	Anchorage, AK
<i>Othello: The Panther</i>	Nuyorican Poets Café	New York, NY
<i>Salome: Da Voodoo Princess of Nawlins</i>	Nuyorican Poets Café	New York, NY

<i>Black Footnotes</i>	Nuyorican Poets Café	New York, NY
<i>History of the Word</i>	Crossroads Theatre	New Brunswick, NJ
<i>History of the Word</i>	York Theatre Co.	New York, NY
<i>Diss Diss and Diss Dat</i> (Hip Hop Musical)	New Federal Theatre	New York, NY
<i>Exposures</i> (Spoken Word Choreopoem)	Theatre Row	New York, NY

## WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

<i>Oba</i> World Premiere Triangle Rainbow Productions LGBTQ+ Short Play Festival 2021	<i>The Mis-Education of America</i> (Letter of Marque Theatre Commission)	<i>an american dream deferred: the musical</i>
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*I Don't Have a Gun, Stop Shooting! An American Tragedy*

<i>Sanctuary: An American Musical</i>	<i>Gay Divorce Story</i>	<i>(Un)Documented</i>
<i>The Cut</i>	<i>Charlottesville</i>	<i>Brown Girl In The Ring</i>
<i>Sister in Selma</i>	<i>Famn</i>	<i>Ave Maria</i>

*Daisy*

## RESIDENCIES, AWARDS, & ACCOLADES

Mr. Maharaj's playwrighting residencies include The NEC Cutting Edge Playhouse, The Orchard Project, the Letter of Marque Theater Fall 2020 Resident Playwright, the Inaugural 2021 Theater Now Virtual Musical Theatre Group, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, New Orleans Writer's Residency, Alliance Theater, Arkansas Repertory Theater, Crossroads Theater, Amas Musical Theater, Triskelion Arts, and the 2020 Resident Playwright of the Letter of Marque Theatre. He is the recipient of the prestigious Woodie King Jr. Award, four Vivian Robinson AUDELCO Awards, Barrymore Award, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Theatrical Moment of the Year, The New York International Fringe Festival Overall Excellence Award, Theater Communications Group Directors Grant and Playwriting Grant, Multiple Broadway World Nominations, The New York Innovative Theater Award, The Inaugural 2020 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Fifteen Minute Musical Theatre Challenge Award, a semi-finalist for the 2021 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, the inaugural class of Theater Now Online Musical Theater Writer's Workshop and the inaugural season of Triangle Rainbow Production's LGBTQ+ Short Play Festival 2021.

The 2020 Trinidad and Tobago United Community Association Inc. Award for outstanding contribution to the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora as an Artist, Advocate, and Educator in the United States of America. Featured in numerous articles and interviews in notable industry publications such as The American Theater Magazine, The New York Times, The Yale School of Drama / Repertory Theater Review, The Dramatist, The Uptown Magazine, Playbill, Broadway World, The Daily News, The New York Post, The New York Beacon, The Philadelphia Sun, Time-Out New York, Harlem News, Amsterdam News, and The Stage Directors and Choreographers Journal for his work as a theater artist.

Mr. Maharaj has lectured at Yale University, Columbia University, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Howard University, George Washington University, Catholic University, St. John's University, American University, St. Joseph's College, Tulane University, and Brooklyn College. He founded the Voices at the River, an African and Latino American Playwrights New Works Festival hosted at Arkansas Repertory Theater as well as being the Artistic Director for WeFest, an annual festival of new works for emerging playwrights in the Borough of Brooklyn. Mr. Maharaj was awarded a Masters of Fine Arts Degree with a concentration in Theater Directing from Brooklyn College. He is a proud alumnus of the Actors Studio Playwrights and Directors Unit, Lincoln Center's Directors Lab, and Theater Communication Group's Rising Leaders of Color in the American Theater.

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Opera / Theatrical Director  
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SDC Member  
AGMA Member  
DG Member

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OPERA:

The Factotum	Director	Lyric Opera of Chicago
New Works Collective	Director	Opera Theatre of St. Louis
Fire Shut Up In My Bones	Assistant Director	The Metropolitan Opera

OFF – BROADWAY:

Little Rock	Director/Playwright	The Sheen Center – Loreto Theatre
Sweet Lorraine	Director/Playwright	Rave Theater Festival
Mother Emanuel	Director/Choreographer Playwright	New York International Fringe Festival / Soho Playhouse

REGIONAL:

School Girls: Or The African Mean Girls Play	Director	American Stage Theatre, FL
The Mis-Education of America	Director/Playwright	Theatre Raleigh, NC
indivisible with...	Director/Curator	Milwaukee Repertory Theater, WI
Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope	Director/Choreographer	New Freedom Theatre, PA
Little Rock	Director/Playwright	Passage Theatre, NJ
The Ballad of Trayvon Martin	Director/Playwright	New Freedom Theatre, PA
My America, My Story	Director/Conceiver	Perseverance Theatre, AK
Mother Emanuel	Director/Choreographer Choreographer	New Freedom Theatre, PA
Putting it Together	Director	Syracuse Stage, NY
Jamaica: The Musical	Director	New Freedom Theatre, PA
Godspell	Director	Syracuse Stage, NY
The Colored Museum	Director	Crossroads Theatre, NJ
The Black Nativity	Director/Choreographer	Goodman Theatre, IL
Sweet Tea	Director	Signature Theatre, VA
Dreamgirls	Director	Theater of the Stars, GA
Intimate Apparel	Director	Arkansas Repertory Theatre, AR

Sanctified	Director	Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AL
Little Rock	Director/Playwright	Theaterworks, CA
History of the Word	Director	Crossroads Theatre, NJ
Damn Yankees	Director/Choreographer	St. Louis Black Repertory, MO
Nightswim	Director	Actors Theater of Louisville, KY
A Raisin in the Sun	Director	Arkansas Repertory Theatre, AR
Master Harold and the Boys	Director	Portland Stage Company, ME
Little Rock	Director/Playwright	Arkansas Repertory Theatre, AR
A Walk Through Time	Director	New Freedom Theatre, PA

**BROADWAY:**

A Raisin in the Sun	Assistant Director	Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre
A Christmas Carol	Assistant to the Director	Madison Square Garden Theater

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