



JORDAN WESTFALL

DIRECTOR/ACTOR

CONTACT

☎ 315-395-9973

✉ jordan.russell.westfall@gmail.com

🌐 www.jrwestfall.com/director

TRAINING

ACTING

John Basil (*Shakespeare*)

David Mold (*Contemp. American Realism*)

Richard Niles (*Classic American Realism*)

Kevin Connell (*European classics*)

Brian McManamon (*audition coach*)

VOICE AND SPEECH

Barbara Adrian (*Practicum; Dialects*)

Jeff Morrison (*IPA & Fundamentals*)

Camille Mazurek (*Shakespeare*)

MOVEMENT

Barbara Adrian (*Laban & Bartenieff*)

Haila Strauss (*Dance*)

EDUCATION

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE

New York, NY (2008-2012)

- B.F.A. in Acting, *Cum Laude*

WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

Syracuse, NY (2004-2008)

- NYS Regents Diploma with Honors

MISSION

Commitment to creating high quality, accessible theatrical entertainment that challenges the status quo, inspires uncomfortable discourse, and conveys the human condition through an unexpected lens, engaging artists and audiences that have otherwise been ignored or underserved.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

BEST DIRECTION OF A PLAY (*nomination*) 2024

Sprawl: A Wrestling Play (The Tank)

Broadway World Regional Theatre Awards (*Off-Off Broadway, Professional*)

BEST PERFORMER IN A MUSICAL (*nomination*) 2023

Samuel Byck in *Assassins* (Gallery Players)

Broadway World Regional Theatre Awards (*Off-Off Broadway, Professional*)

BEST DIRECTION & BEST MUSICAL (*won*) 2021

Fugitive Songs (Thanasis Theatre Company)

Broadway World Regional Theatre Awards (*Central New York, Professional*)

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE (*nomination*) 2018

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (5th Floor Theatre)

Independent Theater Awards (*Off-Off Broadway, Professional*)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A PLAY (*nomination*) 2016

Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Bristol Valley Theatre)

Broadway World Regional Theatre Awards (*Central New York, Professional*)

BEST DIRECTION OF A PLAY (*nomination*) 2015

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues (Theatre Du Jour)

Syracuse Area Live Theatre Awards (*Non- Professional*)

GRANTS & FUNDING

CNY Arts Grace MicroGrant (2024) \$1,750

Funded a portion of *Highlights from Major Earth*

Syracuse Arts & Cultural Recovery Fund (2023) \$20,000

Funded portions of *Lion King Jr.*, *Jesus, Son of Man* & *The Eve of Divas*

CNY Arts Restart Grant (2022) \$5,000

Funded portions of *Fugitive Songs* & *Reaching for the Stars*

DIRECTING

I'LL EAT YOU LAST: A CHAT WITH SUE MENGERS

CNY premiere production starring Moe Harrington

Full Production
(*upcoming*)

Thanasis Theatre Company (2026)

Empire Theater at The NYS Fairgrounds

THE BOYS IN THE BAND

A reimagined, body-positive take on The 1968 Version

Staged Reading**

Thanasis Theatre Company (2025)

Preliminary reading at Ripley Grier

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAJOR EARTH

Original music & lyrics by J.R. Westfall

Studio Recording
(*demo/EP*)

Thanasis Theatre Company (2024)

Filmed & recorded at SubCat Studios

SPRAWL: A WRESTLING PLAY

A play in two acts by Michael Ronca

Full Production
(*world premiere*)

The Tank (2023)

Independently funded and produced

DISNEY'S LION KING JR.

Produced in part with The Boys & Girls Club of Syracuse

Full Production
(*co-director*)

Thanasis Theatre Company (2023)

SALTSpace Studios

JESUS, SON OF MAN

Written by Khalil Gibran & adapted by J.R. Westfall

Full Production
(*world premiere*)

Thanasis Theatre Company (2022)

The Everson Museum of Art

THE EVE OF DIVAS

Sponsored in part by The Vera House, Inc.

Concert/Fundraiser

Thanasis Theatre Company (2021)

The Grand Ballroom at Drumlins Country Club

REACHING FOR THE STARS

Event requested and commissioned by Drumlins

Concert/Fundraiser

Thanasis Theatre Company (2021)

The Grand Ballroom at Drumlins Country Club

FUGITIVE SONGS

Thanasis Theatre Company debut production

Full Production
(*CNY premiere*)

Thanasis Theatre Company (2021)

Empire Theater at The NYS Fairgrounds

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FUGITIVE SONGS

Created with special permission from Nathan Tysen

Studio Recording
(*demo/EP*)

Thanasis Theatre Company (2021)

Filmed & recorded at SubCat Studios

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Co-Directed by Martikah Williams

Staged Reading/
Fundraiser

Paul Robeson PAC/ACR Health (2020)

Performed outdoors at Laci's Tapas

BEST BEWARE MY STING

A feminist critique and sequel to Taming of the Shrew

Staged Reading
(*NYC premiere*)

5th Floor Theatre (2019)

Shetler Studios

THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES

Seven Syracuse Area Live Theatre Award nominations

Full Production
(*CNY Tour*)

Theatre Du Jour (2015)

ACR Health's Q Center, Bistro 197 & The Eis House

THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES

Rehearsed primarily over Skype & 50% BIPOC

Full Production

Encore Presentations (2011)

The Glen Loch

JOSEPH ...TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Assistant Director

Full Production

Fulton Community Theatre (2008)

Directed by Meghan Pearson

GODSPELL

All student-run production funded by Student Council

Full Production

Westhill High School (2008)

Hawes Auditorium

NEW YORK THEATRE

LAST KISS: OUR TOWN WITHOUT PITY	Doc Gibbs	The York Theatre dir. by Patricia Birch
ASSASSINS	Samuel Byck	Gallery Players dir. by Noel MacDuffie
DOGFIGHT	Bernstein	5th Floor Theatre dir. by Sharone Halevy
PITS! THE UNAUTH. HOLES MUSICAL	Grandpa; et al	Peoples Improv Theater dir. by Noah Rauchwerk
THE 25th ANNUAL...SPELLING BEE	William Barfée	5th Floor Theatre dir. by Joey Nelan
CYMBELINE	Cornelius	American Globe Theatre dir. by Kelley McKinnon
YOU'RE A GOOD...CHARLIE BROWN	*Charlie Brown u/s	The 14th Street Y dir. by Grace Rosehill
SOMETHING ROTTEN!	Nick Bottom u/s	Gallery Players dir. by Mark Gallagher
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Peter Quince	Marymount Manhattan dir. by John Basil
TIME AND THE CONWAYS	Ernest Beevers	Marymount Manhattan dir. by Kevin Connell
AS YOU LIKE IT	Le Beau; et al	Marymount Manhattan dir. by John Basil
THE FLU SEASON	Prologue	Marymount Manhattan dir. by Cameron Marcotte

REGIONAL THEATRE

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER	Smee	Bristol Valley Theatre (Naples, NY)
JONAH	*Jonah u/s	Sight & Sound Theatres (Branson, MO)
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING	Leonato	Shakesperience Productions (Waterbury, CT)
A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD	Snail	Surflight Theatre (Beach Haven, NJ)
R&H'S CINDERELLA (<i>Enchanted Edition</i>)	King Maximillian	Ocean City Theatre Co. (Ocean City, NJ)
FIRST DATE (<i>CNY premiere</i>)	Aaron	Central New York Playhouse (Syracuse, NY)
JONAH (<i>world premiere</i>)	*King Jeroboam u/s	Sight & Sound Theatres (Lancaster, PA))
ENCORE! (<i>national tour</i>)	Various	Chamber Theatre Productions (Boston, MA)
SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!	Joe	Surflight Theatre (Beach Haven, NJ)

SPECIAL SKILLS

Dialects including: Standard Stage, RP, Cockney, Birmingham (UK), General Irish, Italian, Greek, Russian/Slavic, Brooklynese, Southwestern USA & Antebellum Southern;
IPA proficient; Valid driver's license; Can grow full beard; Teeth whistling

TESTIMONIALS

"Consistently Mr. Westfall demonstrates an inclination toward risk; his shows envelop audiences in uncomfortable, ground-shifting reality. The one word I would associate with him as a creator is *inclusive*; he opens the performance space to unconventional talent and is not ruled by optics or appearance but is guided by yearning. His actors deliver wrenching performances because he's both protective and encouraging; he creates safe spaces for actors to delve into the deeper driving forces that underscore human behavior. He consistently manifests integrity as a director and conceptual artist...he challenges theatergoers to carry home not a light heart but an awakened, uncertain one. He writes and directs to influence, to introduce new questions, to structure what we think we know into something we can no longer turn away from in ignorance. He is, above all, an educator."

Linda Lowen

Theatre critic & writer; Collaborator for *The Eve of Divas*

"Jordan is the definition of a director. He has been able to help actors mold themselves into the best version their craft calls for. From dialect, annunciation, historical time period, Jordan is able to grasp the concept of a piece of art and transform it into a deep and meaningful display of the original work. With Jordan's thirst for knowledge, I feel that he will thrive in an environment that will help him develop more of his skills. He has the drive and ambition to make a difference in this industry while maintaining a moral and ethical work environment."

Bianca Hallett

Co-Artistic Director, Thanasis Theatre Company

"I have been lucky enough to work with Jordan in varying capacities over the years, but the most fulfilling experience was to observe and support him as he strategized, financed, and built a theatre company from the ground up, during a global pandemic, *successfully*. If you are seeking a director who brings commitment, patience, and vision to the table, Jordan fits that bill. I have performed in three shows under his direction and I would describe his directing style as lovingly stern. If he thinks that someone is capable of more than they're giving, he will stretch and challenge them to get themselves there. Recognizing and amplifying the work of others is and always has been an innate skill of his."

Lauren Sageer

Performer: *The Eve of Divas*; *The Vagina Monologues*; *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* (2011)

"In the fall of 2023, Jordan invited me to join the creative team as a movement consultant and voice/speech coach for *Sprawl*. I witnessed Jordan create an atmosphere of collaboration and respect among all the actors, the supporting creative team, and the playwright. All voices were heard and taken into consideration. Supporting Jordan's directing talents is his love of language, collaborative spirit, intense curiosity, and discipline."

Barbara Adrian

Movement Consultant and Voice & Speech Coach for *Sprawl*

TESTIMONIALS & REVIEWS

"I've worked with Jordan as a director on various theatre productions since 2020, and he has been an absolute joy to collaborate with on every project, bringing an intense passion and enthusiasm I've rarely seen in other directors. He's well prepared for every rehearsal, having a clear plan in place while maintaining an openness to new ideas from his cast and collaborators. I've always felt in safe hands when working with Jordan. He's always supportive of the narratives we create for our characters and helps drive those intentions without hesitation. I've always said that working with Jordan is like a coloring book: he provides us with the structure and logistics of the production, but allows the actors to fill in the pieces with their own ideas to create something truly unique. Not only does Jordan make me feel well taken care of as an actor, but also as a person. He constantly checks in with his actors to ensure they're comfortable both physically and mentally and makes sure all of their concerns are heard and addressed. I can say with absolute confidence that Jordan has been a total asset for me as a performer."

Cameron Walker

Performer: *Fugitive Songs*, *Sprawl*, and *Reaching for the Stars*

"In addition to being directed by Jordan, I have also worked alongside him as a co-director. The experience was joyful as well as educational. Jordan was generous with the creative control we shared, and we worked very well together. This show was for young children of color, and I was ecstatic that someone was finally catering to the very students I work with. Jordan coordinated the grant and gave these children a beautiful experience. During this production I also spent time watching Jordan direct. His demeanor when interacting with any actor, child or adult, is calm and supportive. And yet, he knows how to push people in an effort to find their best work. I genuinely hope that Jordan has a successful future in theatre because the theatre industry needs people like him. He meticulously researches every production he directs. He will do whatever he possibly can to make sure people get what they need. The climate of our industry is changing to one of empowerment and protection of artists. With Jordan in the room, I would be confident that respect, consent and validation would be some of the core values he would implement. He lives by them already."

Mookey Van Orden

Co-Director, *Disney's Lion King Jr.*; Performer: *The Vagina Monologues*

"And herein lies the secret toy surprise buried in the Cracker Jack box of this production. In many ways what Thanasis has brought to this stage is a world premiere: *Fugitive Songs* in this format is a first, a concept Westfall developed with the blessing of the Miller/Tysen team. Westfall has threaded the original 19-song musical revue with a narrative spine that ties the six characters together in a continuous cross-country tale that incorporates today's most critical social issues: addiction and substance abuse; poverty, capitalism, the need for a living wage; racism and Black Lives Matter. The director is aware that he's drawing a line in the sand with this production, adapting the show to align with Thanasis's mission statement."

The Post Standard (Syracuse, NY)

Review for *Fugitive Songs*