

CHARLES GILBERT
Musical Theatre Specialist
Director, Musical Director, Writer, Composer and Educator
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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DIRECTING EXPERIENCE in both professional and educational theatres.

DIRECTED A VARIETY OF PLAYS, including musical comedy, opera, musical revue, business theatre, experimental musical theatre, drama, comedy, children's theatre; **CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL THEATRE** a particular specialty.

OVER TWENTY YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A THEATRE EDUCATOR, with considerable teaching and coaching expertise in acting, directing, musical theatre history and performance, vocal production, diction and dramatic literature, plus administrative experience acquired as head of B.F.A. musical theatre programs at Syracuse University and The University of the Arts.

SIGNIFICANT PRODUCING EXPERIENCE, including a national festival of American theatre and an experimental musical theatre cabaret in Philadelphia, an Equity-Approved Showcase in New York City, and business theatre presentations for major corporate clients.

EXTENSIVE MUSICAL BACKGROUND, including study of piano, singing, conducting, music theory and opera, numerous engagements as pianist and musical director, plus significant experience as a composer and writer for the musical theatre.

STRONG PROFESSIONALLY-ORIENTED TRAINING in the M.F.A. program in directing at Carnegie-Mellon University.

PRODUCTIONS DIRECTED

ASSASSINS

Directed the Philadelphia professional premiere of the Sondheim/Weidman musical, based on the idea of my 1979 musical of the same title, for the Philadelphia Area Repertory Theater (PART).

"Charles Gilbert's directing is biting and true." - Clifford A. Ridley, Philadelphia Inquirer

"...masterfully directed by Charles Gilbert... powerful, complex musical theater..." - Toby Zinman, Philadelphia City Paper

A IS FOR ANYTHING

Wrote, composed and directed a music theatre work for young audiences commissioned by the Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education. Production toured to thousands of students in Delaware, Pennsylvania and central New York in 1989 through 1991.

"Charlie Gilbert is a musical magician! ...(M)ovement, surprise, humor, singable melodies ... and audience participation make 50 minutes seem like 5." Evelyn Swensson, Vice-President, Opera for Youth, Inc.

WORK IT!

Wrote and directed a production which toured to high schools in New York and Philadelphia in 1987 through 1990, promoting enrollment in summer youth employment programs.

"We received rave reviews from the young people, their parents, employers and the Mayor alike. A smashing success." David W. Lacey, President and CEO, Private Industry Council of Philadelphia

COMPANY (Sondheim/Furth)

"Obviously, director Charles Gilbert, Jr. has a special affinity for "Company." He knows when to have his young cast zing it home or turn playful, and he meshes them together almost seamlessly." Syracuse Herald-Journal

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG (Sondheim/Furth)

"...director Charlie Gilbert has given the show...energy and visual style." Wilmington News-Journal

COMING ATTRACTIONS (Tally/Feldman)

"Gilbert...has an eye for splendidly realized choreographic effects... (H)e builds a joke-studded evening to a climax so starkly shocking that the audience is left waiting for the final laugh that never comes." Compass

THE CLUB (Merriam/Ivanov)

"...has style with a capital 'S.'" The Review

STRIKE UP THE BAND (Kaufman/Gershwin) - American Music Theater Festival 10th Anniversary Gala, 1992.

MAHAGONNY SONGSPIEL (Brecht/Weill) - International Brecht Symposium, 1992.

BOXES (Salzman/Sahl) - National Music Theater Network, NYC, Festival Mythos, Philadelphia, 1991.

THE BRIDE FROM PLUTO (Menotti) - Opera Delaware, 1990.

CORPORATE CULTURE FOLLIES (business theatre)

HAPPILY EVER AFTER (musical revue)

ARMS AND THE MAN (Shaw)

THE LOVER (Pinter)

VILLAGE WOOING (Shaw)

THE UNDEFEATED RHUMBA CHAMP (Leipart)

L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT (Ramuz/Stravinsky)

BRECHT ON BRECHT

WONDERFUL TOWN (Chodorov and Fields/Bernstein, Comden and Green)

THE KING OF THE UNITED STATES (Van Itallie/Peaslee)

JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS

TROUBLE IN TAHITI (Bernstein)

THE STONED GUEST (Schickele)

OUT OF OUR FATHER'S HOUSE (Merriam)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (selected)

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS (1989 - present). Professor of Theater Arts and Head of Musical Theater Program. Designed and administered one of the nation's leading B.F.A. program in musical theater performance. Over 75 students and 10 faculty

NEW ASKEW PRODUCTIONS/MIRAMAX FILMS (Fall '02). Musical Theater Coordinator for Kevin Smith film "Jersey Girl." Musical arrangements, musical staging and coaching plus film appearance..

COLLABORATIONS, INC. (1987). Associate Director of "Only In America," a national festival of American theatre presented as part of the We The People 200 constitutional celebration in Philadelphia. Selected theatre companies, coordinated all production elements.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY (9/85 - 5/86). Associate Professor, Drama, Head of Musical Theatre Program (5 faculty, 90 students).

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE (9/79 - 8/85). Assistant Professor, Theatre.

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER FESTIVAL (1/84 - 8/85). Project Coordinator, Festival Cabaret Theater. Developed and implemented Cabaret Theater program for the Festival's 1985 season.

DELAWARE THEATRE COMPANY (3/80 - 3/83). Directed two productions and composed incidental music for two others for Delaware's only resident professional theatre company.

THEATRE EXPRESS, Pittsburgh, PA (9/77 - 5/79). Playwright, composer, stage director, musical director, pianist, stage manager and actor for repertoire of experimental musical theatre works. Theatre Express received a grant from the Ford Foundation's New American Plays program to produce *Assassins*, a musical theatre work I wrote for that company.

PARK PLAYERS, Pittsburgh, PA (Summers '77 - '79). Playwright, composer, lyricist, stage director, musical director, and pianist for productions of Broadway musicals, children's theatre and original works, presented in over 130 performances in parks throughout the city of Pittsburgh.

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Directing, Department of Drama, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 1977.
B. A. with Highest Honors, Theatre, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, 1975. (Dean's Scholar in Musical Theatre)
BMI Musical Theater Workshop, 1990-91.
Supplemental training: Playwright's Workshop, Wilma Theatre, Philadelphia, PA, 1984.
Professional organizations: Association of Musical Theater Educators (currently Vice President)

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKS

Book, Music and Lyrics

A TINY MIRACLE (from the story by Richard Wainwright), 1999.
A IS FOR ANYTHING (commissioned by Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education, 1988).
WORK IT! (music by Evan Solot; produced by Collaborations, Inc., 1987-9).
BETTER AND BETTER (workshop production of revised version, University of Delaware, 1984; Pittsburgh Park Players, 1979).
B.G.D.F. (AEA Approved Showcase, Douglas Fairbanks Studio, NYC, 1983; workshop production, Delaware Theatre Company, 1982).
ASSASSINS (Theatre Express, 1979; workshop production, 1978). *NOTE: The Stephen Sondheim - John Weidman musical Assassins (Playwrights Horizons, 1990) was based on the idea of this work.*

Music and Lyrics

GEMINI, THE MUSICAL. Book and additional lyrics by Albert Innaurato. Prince Music Theater, 2004.
REALITIES (staged reading, 1993).
WATCH THE BIRDIE (cabaret revue, Don't Tell Mama, NYC, 1993; Wilmington Art Loop, 1992).

GOOSEFEATHERS (Rehoboth Summer Children's Theatre, 1990, 2003).
"Baby Talk," "Re/Birth" (cabaret theatre songs),
FESTIVAL CABARET THEATRE (American MusicTheater Festival, Philadelphia, 1985).
SHELTER SKELTER (People's Theatre, Cambridge, MA, 1980).
NOODLE SOUP, TALES OF THE DINGO FOREST, PRIME TIME (Pittsburgh Park Players, 1977-8).
DEADBEAT (lyrics by Dorothy Louise, University of Delaware, 1977).
GLITZ! (lyrics by John Mangano, Carnegie-Mellon University, 1976).

Incidental Music

TWELFTH NIGHT (Arden Theater, 2003)
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Temple University, 1986).
AS YOU LIKE IT (University of Delaware Summer Theatre, 1986).
TRIPLE PLAY (Delaware Theatre Company, 1983).
THE GLASS MENAGERIE (Delaware Theatre Company, 1980).
THE MARQUIS DE SADE'S JUSTINE (Theatre Express, 1977).

PRODUCTIONS MUSICAL DIRECTED

In addition to all of my own works and many of the musicals I've directed (listed above):

THE FANTASTICKS (People's Light and Theater, Malvern)
BUNNICULA (Arden Theater, Phila.)
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE (premiere, Prince Music Theater)
FOREVER PLAID (Phila. company)
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (Opera Delaware; Assistant Conductor, premiere production)
MR. PEALE GOES TO TOWN (premiere production)

GOTTA DANCE! (Shubert Theatre, Philadelphia; vocal arranger, premiere production)
HOTEL FOR CRIMINALS
A LYRICAL OPERA MADE BY TWO (premiere production)
THE UNLIT CORRIDOR (premiere production)
THE MUSIC MAN, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF ,
NUNSENSE , GODSPELL and more...

References, slides, video and audio tapes upon request.