

# VICTOR LIRIO

THEATRE DIRECTOR

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## PROFILE

Critically acclaimed actor and theatre director specializing in impact-driven, text-based theatre. With a track record and passion for directing new works that tackle social issues, my work explores heightened realism, epic theatre, and post-dramatic expression of classical and contemporary text. Trained in Stanislavski, Meisner, and classical (LAMDA) as an actor. Earned a Master of Arts in Drama Directing from one of Britain's most prestigious conservatoires, the Bristol Old Vic.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Recently directed the London premiere of Adam Rapp's Pulitzer Prize nominated **Red Light Winter** at The Turbine Theatre
- Founding artistic director of Diverse City Theater, a non-profit Off Broadway theater company
- Curated and developed 8 seasons of programming producing 18 original plays, 12 productions from 2005 - 2012:
  - Commissioned and developed original plays about the Filipino-American diaspora produced in a theater festival, **The Pearl Project**, starring Obie Award winner Ching Valdes-Aran. Playwrights included Palanca Award (the Philippines' Pulitzer Prize) winners Eric Gamalinda and Jorshinelle Taleon-Sonza
  - Critically-acclaimed production of Cassandra Medley's **Noon Day Sun** (Audelco Award nomination: Best Dramatic Production of the Year and Best Play; Time Out New York Critics Choice) with Emmy Award nominee and Obie Award winner Ron Cephas Jones (NBC's This is Us, Of Mice and Men), Michael McGlone (Person of Interest), Melanie Nicholls-King (HBO's The Wire) and Gin Hammond (The Syringa Tree)
  - New York Times acclaimed world premiere of Warren Bodow's play, **Race Music**
  - Commissioned and developed original plays about mature women and their generation produced in a theater festival, **Snapshots** (New York Times Critics Choice)
  - Commissioned and developed original plays about gender identity produced in a theater festival, **Four Plays: The Equality Plays Festival**
- Launched Green Room Series, a lab and incubator program for playwrights; over 35 playwrights and over 50 original works presented since 2005 featuring diverse ensemble of notable theater actors such as Tony Award winner Marian Seldes, Tonya Pinkins, and Laila Robins, among others



Obie Award winner Ching Valdes-Aran in RESURRECTION

## UK THEATRE

<b>Dr Semmelweis</b> by Stephen Brown with Mark Rylance directed by Tom Morris starring Mark Rylance	assistant director	Bristol Old Vic / National Theatre / Sonia Friedman Productions Jan 2022
<b>Red Light Winter</b> (London premiere) by Adam Rapp	director	The Turbine Theatre, London Sept-Oct 2021
<b>North of Providence</b> and <b>Dolores</b> (double bill) by Edward Allan Baker	director	Live Production Broadcast Bristol Old Vic At Home, Aug 2020
<b>Her Naked Skin</b> by Rebecca Linkiewicz directed by Sarah Bedi	assistant director	Circomedia, Bristol Feb 2020
<b>The Snow Queen</b> by Theresa Heskins directed by Paul Clarkson	assistant director	Redgrave Theatre, Bristol Nov-Dec 2019

# "THEATRE AT ITS TRANSFORMING BEST"

## NOON DAY SUN

"VICTOR LIRIO is one of the finest directors I have worked with in all of my twenty-five years of being produced in New York's Off and Off-Off Broadway Theatre.

"From the very onset of meeting and working with Victor, his penetrating insight guided me in finding and shaping the nuances I sought to convey in my script. Victor was able to probe the play's thematic intentions in such a gifted manner, and helped me realize themes of race, class, and ethnic identity that NOON DAY SUN portrays. His perceptions about specific scenes, character moments, and transitions that warranted further exploration and revision all facilitated my polish of the final draft of the now published full-length play.

NOON DAY SUN was nominated for the prestigious August Wilson Auelco Award 2008 for Best Dramatic Production of the Year and Best Play, received critics choice recommendations from NBC Television and Time-out New York's 'notable plays for the 2008 summer season."

-CASSANDRA MEDLEY  
Award-winning playwright

## REVIEWS

**"Strong ensemble work directed by Victor Lirio ... RACE MUSIC's** examination of race's continued, if shifting, influence in America adds perspective to that national conversation that just doesn't seem to end."  
-NEW YORK TIMES CRITICS CHOICE

**"Directed by Victor Lirio with a tough mind and sensitivity ...** Bodow's music reaches its crescendoing coda ...  
A POLISHED ENSEMBLE!" -Theatermania

**"Under the unblinking direction of Victor Lirio,** this drama explores how racism insidiously infiltrates our culture and contaminates our private and personal lives ... SOLID ACTING ENSEMBLE."  
-Theatrescene.net

**"Under Victor Lirio's lyrical direction,** Gin Hammond manages to artfully show Zena's conflict, and not just her artifice; Obie Award Winner Ron Cephas Jones, using Reuben's past shame to motor his present determination, gives a performance of fierce honesty ... Deftly layering melodrama over a headier look at the invention of identity, **NOON DAY SUN** shines brightly."  
- Aaron Riccio, Time Out New York Critics Choice (featured on NBC's Saturday Morning Show)

"Seductive!"  
- NEW YORK TIMES

**"Director Victor Lirio sure-handedly directs Cassandra Medley's stark material ... "**  
- David Finkle, Theatermania

"I see at least 100 shows a year, but rarely do I walk out of the theatre feeling as uplifted as I did after seeing this provocative, beautifully acted play Monday night. **It was the rare experience of seeing a production that is first rate in every way. NOON DAY SUN is theatre at its transforming best.**

"Medley's play, **under the insightful direction of Victor Lirio,** is involving from start to finish. **NOON DAY SUN** gives human faces and human hearts to the issues of racism and the search for identity."  
- Retta Blaney, Drama Desk Critic

**"NOON DAY SUN SHINES A BRIGHT LIGHT!** Elegantly directed by Victor Lirio, all of the characters are richly detailed and three-dimensional ... one of this season's early great performances!"  
- Scott Siegel, Talkinbroadway.com/Drama Desk Critic

# NEW YORK THEATRE

**Islander** | associate & resident director  
Book by Stewart Melton  
Music & lyrics by Finn Anderson  
Playhouse 46  
(transfer from Southwark Playhouse, London)

**Race Music** by Warren Bodow  
Diverse City Theater Co.  
The Beckett Theatre, New York  
**\*\* New York Times Critics Choice**

**Noon Day Sun** by Cassandra Medley  
Diverse City Theater Co.  
The Beckett Theatre, New York  
**\*\* Time Out New York Critics Choice**

**Coming Up for Air** by Cassandra Medley  
Ensemble Studio Theatre, New York  
starring Tony Award winner Tonya Pinkins

**The Oldest Boy** by Sarah Ruhl  
Miami Theater Center, Mainstage

**The Mercy Seat** by Neil LaBute  
Miami Theater Center, The SandBox

**Pilgrims Musa & Sheri In The New World**  
by Yussef El Guindi  
DCT Green Room Series  
Manhattan Theatre Club Studios, NYC

**Mad Honey** by Amy Hartman  
DCT Green Room Series  
Abingdon Theatre, New York City

**The Adventures Of Faux Designer Handbag**  
by Christine Toy Johnson  
Leviathan Lab  
Center Stage, New York City

**Paper Son** by Christine Toy Johnson  
DCT Green Room Series  
The Barrow Group, New York City

**Returning The Bones** by Gin Hammond  
DCT Green Room Series  
The Barrow Group, New York City

**Quarter Century Baby** by Kristine Reyes  
DCT Green Room Series  
Ensemble Studio Theatre, New York City

**How To Cook Adobo** by Jorshinelle Taleon-Sonza  
DCT Green Room Series  
Ensemble Studio Theatre, New York City

**Ready, Aim, Fire** by Kristine Reyes  
Leviathan Lab, New York City  
(part of Actors Equity Diversity Program)



Emmy Award winner Ron Cephas Jones in NOON DAY SUN



Tian Chaudhry in RED LIGHT WINTER (photo: Craig Fuller)



Lee Blessing's TWO ROOMS

production photos by Carlo Damocles

## THEATRE

**LONG SEASON: THE MUSICAL** | associate director  
Book and lyrics by Chay Yew  
Music by Fabian Obispo  
Huntington Theatre Company, Boston  
Director: Peter Dubois

**Tony Award winner Tonya Pinkins** | director  
Miami Theater Center

**KALEIDOSCOPE** | writer and director  
Town Hall New York  
Starring Tony Award winner Lea Salonga  
Larry Yurman, music director

**BACK TO BEFORE** | writer and director  
Café Carlyle, New York City  
Starring Lea Salonga  
Larry Yurman, music director

**LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS  
AMERICAN SONGBOOK SERIES** | writer and director  
The Allen Room, Jazz at Lincoln Center  
Starring Lea Salonga  
Larry Yurman, music director

**SUITES BY SONDHEIM** | writer and director  
Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center  
Tom Myron, music director/original arrangements



Nancy Farino and James Burman in **NORTH OF PROVIDENCE**  
Directors' Cuts 2020  
photo credit: Craig Fuller

## OTHER

**LEA SALONGA LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL** | producer  
Isaac Stern Auditorium (Playbill's TOP 10 BEST OF 2005)

**GUEST MASTER TEACHER**  
Pace University, Syracuse University, Point Park University,  
University of Miami's Theater Arts Conservatory

## TRAINING

**BRISTOL OLD VIC THEATRE SCHOOL**  
MA, Drama Directing (Doris Dibden Prize)  
Bristol, UK

Master teachers included Sally Cookson, Miranda Cromwell, Greg Doran (RSC),  
Marianne Elliott, Tamara Harvey (Theatr Clwyd), Stephen Brimson Lewis (RSC),  
Sir Ian McKellen, Tom Morris (Bristol Old Vic).

**LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ART**  
Classical Acting  
London, UK



Tony and Olivier Award winner Lea Salonga  
Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York  
photo credit: Carlo Damocles