

# Sam Helfrich

Opera and Theatre Director  
Associate Arts Professor

+ 1 (917) 885 5719  
helfrich.sam@gmail.com  
www.samhelfrich.com

## EDUCATION

(degrees)

**Columbia University School of the Arts**, New York, NY 1997-2000  
MFA, Theatre Arts (playwriting)  
**Columbia College of Columbia University**, New York, NY 1987-1991  
BA, Russian Language and Literature; Magna Cum Laude

(non degree)

**Institut Francais**, Villefranche, France 2000  
Certificate, French Language  
**42nd Street Collective Theatre Training School**, New York, NY 1995-1997  
Directing, Playwriting  
**Universitat de Barcelona**, Barcelona, Spain 1993-1994  
Certificado: Spanish Studies (Language, Literature, Culture)  
**Escuela de Letras**, Madrid, Spain 1992-1993  
Creación Literaria (Creative Writing)  
**Leningrad State University**, Leningrad, USSR 1989  
Russian Language, Literature, and Culture

**MEMBER**, American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) since 1998

## OPERA AND THEATER

### OPERA

(upcoming)

**Angels in America**, Péter Eötvös 2022  
Salzburger Landestheater, Austria  
**Elizabeth Cree**, Puts/Campbell 2021  
West Edge Opera, CA

(past)

**Three to See**, NYU Operalab Composers 2019  
NYU/Steinhardt Vocal Arts, NY  
**Permadeath**, Dan Visconti 2018  
White Snake Productions at the Majestic Theater, Boston, MA  
**Why is Eartha Kitt Trying to Kill Me**, Jeffrey Smith 2018  
Urban Arias, VA  
**The Magic Flute**, Mozart 2018  
Indianapolis Symphony, IA  
**The Summer King**, Daniel Sonenberg 2018  
Michigan Opera Theater, MI  
**Creation**, Haydn 2017  
Pittsburgh Symphony, PA  
**Angels in America**, Péter Eötvös 2017  
New York City Opera, NY

<b>The Summer King</b> (world premiere), Daniel Sonenberg Pittsburgh Opera, PA	2017
<b>Madam Butterfly</b> , Puccini Palm Beach Opera, FL	2017
<b>St John Passion</b> , Bach Pittsburgh Symphony, PA	2016
<b>Embedded</b> (World premiere), Soluri/Brevoort Fargo-Moorehead Opera, ND / Fort Worth Opera, TX	2014-2016
<b>Orphée aux Enfers</b> , Offenbach Virginia Opera, VA	2015
<b>Enemies, A Love Story</b> (world premiere), Ben Moore Palm Beach Opera, FL	2015
<b>Cavalleria Rusticana</b> , Mascagni String Orchestra Of Brooklyn, St Ann's Church, NY	2015
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Pittsburgh Opera, PA	April 2014
<b>Ariadne auf Naxos</b> , Strauss Virginia Opera, VA	February 2014
<b>Dead Man Walking</b> , Heggie Eugene Opera, OR	March 2013
<b>A Streetcar Named Desire</b> , Previn Virginia Opera, VA	February 2013
<b>Kepler</b> (American premiere), Glass Spoleto Festival/USA, SC	May 2012
<b>Nixon in China</b> , Adams Eugene Opera, OR	March 2012
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Virginia Opera, VA	February 2012
<b>Messiah</b> (fully-staged), Handel Pittsburgh Symphony, PA	December 2011
<b>The Secret Agent</b> (world premiere), Dellaira Armel Opera Festival, Hungary	October 2011
<b>La Bohème</b> , Puccini Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Festival, NY	June 2011
<b>Les Indes Galantes</b> , Rameau Boston Baroque, MA	May 2011
<b>The Secret Agent</b> (world premiere), Dellaira Center for Contemporary Opera, NY	March 2011
<b>Don Giovanni</b> , Mozart Yale Opera, CT	February 2011
<b>Così fan tutte</b> , Mozart Delaware Valley Opera, NY	July 2010
<b>The Turn of the Screw</b> , Britten Boston Lyric Opera, MA	Feb 2010
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass Portland Opera, OR	November 2009
<b>Eugene Onegin</b> , Tchaikovsky Pittsburgh Opera, PA	September 2009
<b>The Consul</b> , Menotti Glimmerglass Opera, NY	July 2009
<b>Louise</b> , Charpentier Spoleto Festival/USA, SC	May 2009
<b>Der Freischutz</b> , Weber Opera Boston, MA	October 2008

<b>Opera Scenes</b>	August 2008
Santa Fe Opera, NM	
<b>Amistad</b> , Davis	May 2008
Spoletto Festival /USA, SC	
<b>Aida</b> , Verdi	April 2008
Opera Omaha, NE	
<b>Semele</b> , Handel	February 2008
Opera Boston, MA	
<b>Le Comte Ory</b> , Rossini	November 2007
Juilliard Opera Center, NY	
<b>Orphée</b> , Glass	July 2007
Glimmerglass Opera, NY	
<b>The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny</b> , Weill/Brecht	February 2007
Opera Boston, MA	
<b>Don Giovanni</b> , Mozart	October 2006
Boston Baroque, MA (semi-staged)	
<b>West Side Story</b> , Bernstein	July 2006
Ashlawn-Highland Opera Festival, VA	
<b>The Abduction from the Seraglio</b> , Mozart	May 2006
Opera Omaha, NE	
<b>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</b> , Rossini	February 2006
Kentucky Opera, KY	
<b>Agrippina</b> , Handel	October, 2005
Boston Baroque, MA (semi-staged)	
<b>L'Elisir d'Amore</b> , Donizetti	August 2005
Berkshire Opera Company, MA	
<b>La Voix Humaine</b> , Poulenc	July 2005
Glimmerglass Opera, NY	
<b>The Turn of the Screw</b> , Britten	February 2005
Pittsburgh Opera, PA	
<b>Trouble in Tahiti</b> , Bernstein	September 2004
Florida Grand Opera, FL	
<b>Trouble in Tahiti</b> , Bernstein	July 2004
<b>A Hand of Bridge</b> , Barber	
<b>A Game of Chance</b> , Barab	
Berkshire Opera Company, MA	
<b>Mirandolina</b> , Martinu	April 2004
Manhattan School of Music, NY	
<b>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</b> , Rossini	August 2003
Wolf Trap Opera Company, VA	
<b>The Secret Marriage</b> , Cimarosa	July 2003
Berkshire Opera Company, MA	
<b>Rain</b> , a new opera by Richard Owen	February 2003
Camerata/NY, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, NY	
<b>Amahl and the Night Visitors</b> , Menotti	December 2001
Opera Company of Brooklyn, NY	
<b>Die Walküre</b> , Wagner	May 2001
Riverside Church, NY	
<b>Miss Havisham's Wedding Night</b> , Argento	November 2000
Hofstra University, NY	

## THEATRE

### DIRECTOR

<b>In a Dark, Dark House</b> , Neil Labute Knife Edge Productions, ART New York	December 2019
<b>Masquerade</b> , Lermontov String Orchestra of Brooklyn at St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, NY	December 2015
<b>After The Fall</b> , Miller NYU Grad Acting, NY	October 2014
<b>Village Wooing</b> (Shaw) <i>and</i> <b>A Door Must be Kept Open or Shut</b> (De Musset) Franklin Stage Company, NY	June 2013
<b>Owned</b> (World premiere), Julian Sheppard Knife Edge Productions, NY	May 2013
<b>Tape</b> , Stephen Belber Knife Edge Productions, NY	September 2011
<b>Obama</b> , Wade Savitt NY Avante Garde Theater Festival, NY	July 2011
<b>Dark Ride</b> , by Len Jenkins Bard College, NY	December 2004
<b>In A Pig's Valise</b> , a musical by Eric Overmeyer Bard College, NY	March 2004
<b>Transparency of Val</b> , by Stephen Belber La Tea Theatre, Captains of Industry, producers	July 2002
<b>5:30 PM, Tuesday</b> , by Winter Miller, PSNBC at H.E.R.E. Columbia/NYU Young Playwrights series	May 2002
<b>Packaging Sunshine</b> , MFA thesis at Horace Mann Theatre Columbia University, New York	January 2000
<b>Copywrite</b> , by Averil La Russa 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY	October 1996
<b>When the Time Is Right</b> , by Spencer Barros 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, in association with Evening Shade Theatre Company, NY	March 1996
<b>La Ronde</b> (an adaptation), by Arthur Schnitzler 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY	July 1995

### PLAYWRIGHT

<b>Packaging Sunshine</b> , MFA thesis at Horace Mann Theatre, NY	January 2000
<b>Aftermath</b> , 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY, directed by Tina Byrsted	November 1996
<b>A School Night</b> , Samuel Beckett Theatre (Winterfest '96), NY directed by Efrat Levin	January 1996
<b>A School Night</b> , 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Collective, NY directed by Efrat Levin	November 1995

### TEACHING

<b>New York University</b> , Tisch School of the Arts Department of Design for Stage and Film Associate Arts Professor, Head of Dramaturgy	2015-present
<b>New York University</b> , Tisch School of the Arts Department of Design for Stage and Film Visiting Arts Professor	2012-2014

**New York University**, Tisch School of the Arts 2012  
Department of Design for Stage and Film  
visiting professor (graduate scenic design thesis)

**Shenandoah Conservatory** 2012  
guest director/acting teacher

**Yale School of Music/Yale School of Drama** 2010-2011  
Guest professor/director

**Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Program** 2011  
(acting training/director)

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

HBO 1995-1997  
Freelance Script Analyst  
Applause Books 1995  
Copy Editor (Shakespeare Acting Editions)

### **AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS**

NYU/Tisch School of the Arts, Travel Grant for Prague Quadrennial 2019  
NY Times Best of Classical Music 2011  
for ***In the Penal Colony*** (Glass), American Opera Projects  
Opera Now Magazine “25 Opera Artists to Watch” 2007  
Boston Globe “best production of the year” 2005  
for ***Agrippina***, Boston Baroque Orchestra

### **SERVICE**

Opera America juror, *Director/Designer Showcase* 2014  
Opera America grant review panel, *Opera Grants for Female Composers* 2016

### **LANGUAGES**

(by fluency) Spanish, Russian, French, German, Italian, Catalan