

MICHAEL UNGER

BIO

Directing credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre – annual production, designed by Ming Cho Lee with choreography by Rob Ashford - since 1998), Kander & Ebb's *The Happy Time* at the Signature Theatre, *My Sister in this House* at Deaf West, *Crimes of the Heart* at Theatre Aspen, *Pippin* at the Depot Theatre, Puccini's *La rondine*, Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz* and Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* at the Sarasota Opera Company, and the world premiere musicals: *Limelight: The Story of Charlie Chaplin* (New York Musical Theatre Festival and New York Stage & Film), *Caligula*, (which sold out an extended run at the New York Musical Theatre Festival – winning the festival's first audience favorite award), *I Forgive You Ronald Reagan* at the Beckett Theatre, the world premiere of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Barrington Stage, *La Gioconda* (Off Broadway - Clurman Theatre) and *Retribution* (Off-Broadway, Lambs Theatre).

Other recent credits include co-directing the world premiere of *Limelight: The Story of Charlie Chaplin* at La Jolla Playhouse and directing William Bolcom's opera of Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* for Vertical Player Repertory, the world premiere of the new play, *Loaded* on Theatre Row, Maxwell Anderson and Kurt Weill's *Knickerbocker Holiday* (York Theatre – MUFTI), Paul Scott Goodman's *Tiny Dancer* at the Prince Music Theatre and, upon the request of composer, John Kander, a new version of *The Rink*, starring Leslie Uggams and Janet Metz at the Cape Playhouse.

Upcoming credits include *A Christmas Carol* at McCarter in Winter, 2010, and the operas of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at Sarasota Opera in Spring, 2011 and Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Consul* at Opera NJ in Summer, 2011.

Other directing credits include *Noises Off* (New Harmony), *Meet Me In St. Louis* (The MUNY), *Triumph of Love* and *School For Wives* (The Weston Playhouse), *The Mikado* and *Kiss Me Kate* (The Depot Theatre), *Changes of Heart* (Barrington Stage – BRAVO Award), *On The Razzle* (Babcock Theatre, Salt Lake City), *In Perpetuity Throughout the Universe* (Juilliard), *Still* (World Premiere), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *The Game of Love and Chance* (French language productions), *Cries From the Mammal House* (American Premiere), *Cleavage and Smokes* (Mark Taper Forum – NWF) and *Taming of the Shrew* (Complex Theatre, LA). He also produced the Richard Rodgers Award winning, *Whatnot*, at Musical Theatre Works.

Michael teaches acting classes in New York City in his own studio. He has directed *Love's Labours Lost*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Three Sisters*, *Joking Apart* and *Buried Child* and *Boy Gets Girl* at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, as well as three musical showcases at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

Readings include *Liberty Smith*, *Public Enemy Number One: John Dillinger*, *Mystery of the Dancing Princesses* for the National Alliance of Musical Theatre, *Christina Alberta's Father* (Nat'l Music Theatre Network), *Water From The Moon* (Education Alliance Center) and *Misia*, *Dance On The Rooftops*, *Summer of '42* and *Yes, Virginia*, *There Is A Santa Claus* all at The York Theatre.

Broadway assistant directing credits include: *King David*, *A Christmas Carol* (Madison Square Garden ('96, '97) and the first reading of *The Night They Raided Minsky's* for the late, Mike Ockrent, *Buried Child* for Gary Sinise and *Steel Pier* for Scott Ellis. Off-Broadway assistant directing credits include *Eyes For Consuela* (Manhattan Theatre Club) for Terry Kinney and *Closer Than Ever* (The Cherry Lane) for Richard Maltby, Jr.

At Steppenwolf Theatre, in his hometown of Chicago, Michael assistant directed *A Clockwork Orange* for Terry Kinney and *Buried Child* for Gary Sinise. Film and television credits include *Picket Fences*, HBO's *Truman*, *Albino Alligator*, and *Ransom*.

He is the proud father of twins, Phoebe and Nathaniel and is married to singer/actress, Janet Metz. He is the creator of www.auditionconnection.com a new online casting resource for all aspects of the theatre, opera, film and television industries.