# Robert Lawson

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Performance texts published by Playscripts, Inc.

Member: WGA/East, ASCAP, SAG, AFTRA, AEA, Dramatists Guild Television work represented by Mike Goldberg, APA (Beverly Hills)

#### **Selected Recent Work**

- Ghost Writing Greenpeace Project, feature screenplay by J. Glatzer (2019 prod.)
- Optioned/in Development Laws of Nature, screenplay for feature film with 1stAvenue Machine (LA/NYC/London) slated for 2019 production. Andrew Geller, producer; Sam Huntington (lead actor, producer). Based on short stories, Tales of Nicholas Raithe by Lawson.
- <u>Staged Reading</u> Directed Karen Sunde's *To Moscow* at The Players Club (NYC, 2016). With Gordon Clapp, Gary Sloan, Lisa Bostnar, Ben Wheelwright et al. Steve Ashworth (producer). Film adaptation in development.
- <u>Finalist</u> Gorsky Press Molly Ivers Prize for Fiction (2017) for short fiction collection, *Geometric Cemetery : Tales of Nicholas Raithe.*
- Productions of Hiroshima: crucible of light published by Playscripts, Inc. ongoing productions incl. London, Singapore, Vancouver, Reno, NV.
- <u>Multi-media Installation</u> <u>Memorial (ghost/embers)</u> World AIDS Day installation at the Fitchburg Museum of Art, MA (2014). Reinstallation at the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, NH (2015). An image from <u>Memorial</u> will be used as a book jacket Illustration for Columbian novelist Edgar Giraldo-Alzate's <u>The Phantoms of Cartago</u> (2019).

### Theater/Performance

## **Professional**

2018 The March by Kathleen Clark, song "Now is the Time" music & lyrics by Lawson

Created to commemorate the anniversary of the 2017 Women's March Commissioned and produced by the Invisible Theater (Tucson, AZ) -- Susan Claassen, AD Also produced by Theater@First (Jess Viator, dir.) at the Boston Center for the Arts (MA)

2016 To Moscow by Karen Sunde

[direction]

Reading at The Players Club (NYC) March 2016. With Gordon Clapp, Ben Wheelwright et al. Preparatory to the development of a film version of the play.

2013 Empires Fall

[text, with add'l by Marlin Fitzwater]

Play about the fall of Communism, was commissioned by Marlin Fitzwater, and put into development at Ford's Theater, Washington, D.C. Staged reading: May 2011 (Gregg Henry, director). Subsequent reading March 2013, George H. W. Bush Presidential Library, Texas A&M Univ.

2011	Empires Fall Staged reading : Ford's Theater (D.C.)		
	The Death of Don Juan by Elodie Lauten Theater for the New City (NYC)	[concept; direction with Henry Akona]	
2010	everything is going to have to be put back Tre Stage (LA)	[text & score]	
2009	Hiroshima: crucible of light Untitled Theater Co. (NYC)	[text & lyrics]	
2007	Tabula Rasa Untitled Theater Co. (NYC)	[text & lyrics]	
2005	The Architecture of Sight The Chocolate Factory (NYC)	[text & lyrics]	
2004	Pandora's Box: a vaudeville The Houseman Studio Theater (NYC)	[text & lyrics]	
2004	The Magic Flute Granite State Opera, Capitol Center for the Arts (NH)	[direction & set design]	
2003	Terror of the Physical Being by Dominic Orlando for the MacDowell Colony (NH)	[direction – staged reading]	
2001	Barber of Seville Granite State Opera, Palace Theater (NH)	[direction]	
1995	Occam's Razor - Dance Theatre Workshop (NYC) - New England Actors' Theatre - 1994 (CT)	[text]	
1994	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Peterborough Players – CORST Z (NH)	[score & direction]	
	The Meteoric Rise of Mr. Edward Pool  Theatre of the First Amendment – LORT (VA)	[text]	
for Sit	e Project		
Prato/	Florence, Italy		
2012	Artifacts Premiere: Calamai Textile Mill & Monash University	[collaborative project]	
Athens, Greece			
2011	The Interpretation of Dreams Premiere: Strefi Park, Exarchia neighborhood	[text, score & direction]	
2010	everyone knows who bombed the bank Premiere: Athens (June 2010) Restaged: Regional ACTF Festival (2011)	[text, score & direction]	
for Franklin Pierce University		_ Rindge, NH	
2017	Fliege Robert (das letzte Kabarret)	[concept, text, score & direction]	
2016	Metamorphosis (adaptation of the Kafka novel)	[design, text, score & direction]	
	The Good Soldier	[design, text, score & direction]	
2015	The Aluminum Room with text from Lawson's Hiroshima: crucible of light	[design, text, score & direction]	

2014	Cautionary Tale (a junk opera) Remounted at Regional KC/ACTF Festival (Jan. 2015) Hilton Worldwide Award for Distinguished Production of	[designs, text, score & direction] a devised work (2015)
	Hamlet: 7 rooms  Held for consideration: Regional ACTF Festival (2015)	[set design, text, score & direction]
2013	Vanishing Point Held for consideration: Regional ACTF Festival (2014)	[set design, text, score & direction]
2011	Echo Chamber Held for consideration: Regional ACTF Festival (2012)	[set design, video, text, score & direction]
2010	Terrible Destiny a riff on Truman Capote's In Cold Blood	[adaptation, video, text, score & direction]
2010	The Transit of Mercury Across the Face of the Sun Restaged: Regional ACTF Festival (2011) Alternate: National ACTF Festival (2011)	[text, video, score & direction]
2009	The Architect of NoPlace based on a scenario developed with Austrian writer Kay	[text, score & direction] Mühlmann
2008	451 – adapted from Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 Restaged: Regional ACTF Festival	[text, score & direction]
2006	<i>Kuhfangfederblech</i> Premiere: Festsalle – Vienna, Austria	[text, score]
2005	everything is going to have to be put back inspired by the photography of Robert Parke-Harrison Restaged: Regional ACTF Festival	[text, score & direction]
2005	The Death of Don Juan by Elodie Lauten Also: screening of video rendition of production at the O	[opera – premiere: concept, direction] Op on Screen Festival, NYC (2007)
2004	Dark Cathedrals of the Heart – a riff on Poe's work Held for consideration: Regional ACTF Festival (2005)	[text, score & direction]
2004	Staged Reading series Play, That Time & Come and Go by Beckett; Handkerchie	ef of Clouds by Tristan Tzara
2003	Hamlet – a radical deconstruction Held for consideration: Regional ACTF Festival (2004)	[text, score & direction]
	Vertical Talking – utilizing the music of Kurt Weill Restaged: Regional ACTF Festival	[concept, scenario & direction]
2002	but the rain is full of ghosts Restaged: Regional & National ACTF Festivals (2003)	[text, score & direction]
2000	The Passage – based on Moby Dick & related texts	[text, score & direction]
1999	The $W[a](e)I(gh)T$ – with text by Daniel Mark Epstein Held for consideration: Regional ACTF Festival (2000)	[scenario, add'l text, score & direction]
	The Architecture of Sight Restaged: Regional ACTF Festival - originally commissioned by The Painted Bride Art Cent - awarded NEA Developmental Grant for the creation of	

**Note on Published work**: plays published by Playscripts, Inc. (NYC) have been and continue to be performed around the world. For complete listings of performance locations and venues see www.playscripts.com

for A	ndy's Summer Playhouse	Wilton, NH
2008	byline : Amanda Danger	script, lyrics, score & direction
2007	The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	adaptation, lyrics & Score
2006	The Goldberg Variations	concept, text
	Tom Swift	co-writer (with David Lindsay-Abaire)
	Leonardo's Tank	script, lyrics, score & direction
2005	Tabula Rasa	script, lyrics
2004	Pandora's Box	script
2003	Vertical Talking	script
2002	Kid Sniff and the Ticking Clock	script
2002	The Shadow	score, dramaturgy & direction
2001	City of Brass	score, dramaturgy & direction
2000	The Prisoner	adaptation, lyrics, score & direction
1999	Happy Ending	co-writer (with Sharon Hayes)
	The White Album (film)	screenplay & direction
	Haroun and the Sea of Stories	adaptation, lyrics, score & direction
1998	Cold Storage (film)	screenplay
	The Snow Queen	adaptation, lyrics, score & direction
1997	Tom Swift and the Cybertravelers of Nikolodea	co-writer — J. Glatzer & David Lindsey-Abaire
1996	Boy Conjures Houdini!	co-writer — Brian Selznick (also set design)

#### Screenplays & Teleplays

2018	Laws	of I	Vature
2010	Lavvs	$o_{I}$	valuic

Feature in development with 1stAvenue Machine (LA/NYC/London) for 2019 production.

The Ruins of Nicholas Raithe Television drama (in development)

2017 The Clearing Feature, developed with Sam Huntington

2013 Tyler's Gap (development with ABC/Fox) TV series (with Jonathan Glatzer)

Co-creator with Jonathan Glatzer. Originally developed by ABC/Touchstone & Fox Television; Rob Bowman, dir.; Jeff Bell, show runner. David Duchovney, Channing Dungey - Executive Producers

2009 Dancing in the Dark Screenplay

Commission: Nasser Group (Vancouver, BC)

2008 What Goes Up (aka "Safety Glass") Screenplay (with Jonathan Glatzer)

Insight Films & Legacy Films (Vancouver, BC) Co-author, 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Director, composer, acting coach (Hilary Duff). Feature film produced by Insight Films with Steve Coogan, Hilary Duff, Molly Shannon, Josh Peck, Max Hoffman, Olivia Thirlby. Jonathan Glatzer, director. Finalist, Sundance Film festival; opened at Buffalo-Niagara Film Festival, Brekenridge Film Festival. 2009 National release. Work includes various compositions for score. Song over end credits: *Any Other Day* – written by Lawson, recorded by Hilary Duff (Andre Recke, producer for Amherst Records) on soundtrack for film.

2006 Fear Itself Screenplay (with Jonathan Glatzer)

2004 King Callow Film Treatment (with Jonathan Glatzer)

Commission: Starboard Entertainment (LA)

2002 The Meteoric Rise of Mr. Edward Pool Screenplay

Developed by GoodMachine (NYC)

Films & Video		Direction & Editing
2000-	2017	variety of videos & films (from scratch & from found footage) created for use in numerous original theater works (see above)
1999	The White Album	Digital Video – 50 minutes (for Andy's Summer Playhouse)
	The Architecture of Sight	3 – 16mm, B&W silent films – total length, 7 minutes (FPU)
1998	Poison/Heart	16 mm from found footage - 3 minutes (FPU & ACTF)
1996	For They Shall Inherit the Earth	Video from found sources – 20 minutes (FPU & ACTF)
1993	Flood	Video, documentary - 15 minutes (Dia Art Center, NYC)
1991	Somewhere	16mm, color, silent - 3½ minutes (Dia, NYC)
1990	Trinity	Video, color – 20 minutes; 1990 Day Without Art (NYC) Aired: Vassar College (Center Art Gallery)
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'Trinity' was used for a dance/theatre piece Waltz, with choreography by Peter DiMuro 1991 & 2016 – Tufts University, Suffolk University, Connecticut College, Boston Dance Complex

Industrials [selected]	Scripting & Direction (ongoing since 1998)
Invisible Light (D.C.)	Choice Hotels (scripting, ongoing since 2015) McKesson annual mtg. (directing, speech coaching)
Pinerock Productions (DC/NYC)	Cosentyx annual meeting, Nashville (2017, directing, speech coaching)
Feats (Baltimore)	MIT (event conception, scripting 2016) U C Irvine event (event conception, scripting 2015) Duke University capital campaign (speech coaching Northwestern Univ. capital campaign (2014)
for Point Global Communications (NYC/LA)	AmGen (scripting, on site direction - 2015/2016) Design for roll out of new app. (2014/15)
for Bella Rose Associates (MD)	Choice Hotels (2015)
for PineRock Productions (DC)	Capitol One, Nextel, Riser Almeida, etc.
for L & M Production Design Group (DC)	IBWA, ISRI, Networked Economy Summit, etc.
for Suzanne Griffin Productions (VA)	AT&T, Schonstedt, etc.

Publications		
2006/current	Hiroshima: crucible of light	The Passage
	byline: Amanda Danger	Kid Sniff and the Ticking Clock
	Published by Playscripts, Inc. (NYC)	
2012	Selection of monologues from published plays, if or teens, vol. 2 by Playscripts	republished in Actor's Choice : monologues
2009 Article on contemporary theater & process for <i>Freigeist</i> Published by Donau Universität, Krems (Austria) Link at: <www.franklinpierce.edu about="" lawson_freigeist.htm="" news=""></www.franklinpierce.edu>		ia)
1996/97	Occam's Razor The Northern New England Review (annual jo	urnal), Poems & Plays (annual)
1996	The Transparency of Memory  The Northern New England Review, American	Writing (quarterly)

#### **Teaching**

1993 to 2017 Franklin Pierce University, NH

rank: Full Professor

Creating new performance work (text, composition, design & direction). Teaching courses in Directing, Playwriting, Contemporary European Theater, Acting, general Introduction to the Theatre, in addition to General Education Arts overview. Supervise senior thesis projects, independent studies, student interns. Committees: General Education, Faculty Development, University Council, International Studies. 2005 recipient Outstanding Service to the College Award (Alumni Association). Led study abroad programs: Vienna, 2006 & 2009; Athens 2012. Resigned effective Sept. 2018.

2014/ongoing New Hampshire Institute of Art low residency MFA, Playwriting/Screenwriting

On Faculty mentoring and advising advanced degree students in story structure, character, dramaturgy, history of the forms, analysis, dialog, and the business of film and theater.

2013/ongoing Visiting Scholar : Beacon College - Leesburg, FL

Conducting periodic workshops in creating new, interdisciplinary work. Consulted in conceptualizing courses that would serve as foundational courses in the performing arts designed to introduce students to the various elements of conceptualization, scripting, staging and performance.

2002/ongoing Visiting artist: Donau University - Krems, Austria

Conducting periodic workshops in Narrative Strategies, Framing & Abstraction using digital media for the Dep't of Telecommunications, Information and Media.

1988/89 Associate Professor, visiting: Colgate University - Hamilton, NY

Instituted acting study course; created and taught contemporary theatre literature course; advised student directors on independent projects; directed new works.

#### **Organizations**

2013/ongoing Board of Directors/Advisory Board

Monadnock International Film Festival (Film Selection committee). Currently serving on Advisory Board and selection committee.

2010/ongoing Founder: Site Project

U.S., Athens, Italy

Summer institute, initially developed by Lawson for Hellenic American University (Athens, Greece), subsequently in Florence, Italy. Performance work – *everyone knows who bombed the bank* – which premiered in Athens in 2010 was remounted in the U.S. at the Region 1 ACTF festival (2011). Program now under the aegis of Performing Arts Abroad (Northampton, MA)

Program development, implementation & master teacher. Summer program, located in Athens & Florence. The focus of the program is the exploration of process and cross-discipline collaboration via the development and realization of original, multi-media performance work; developing projects that seek collisions & connections between contemporary culture and classic locations, texts and myths. Site-specific work is part of the philosophy, and site analysis is an integral part of the program. Participants work in areas both known and new to them in an effort to expand their artistic vocabulary through cross-disciplinary collaborations with an international mix of like-minded young artists under the guidance of artist/teachers.

1995 to 2007 Artistic Director : Andy's Summer Playhouse

Wilton, NH

Manage yearly budget of \$250,000. Job entailed hiring and supervising staff; organizing payroll; selecting season and determining commissions; developing ancillary programs; setting the artistic course for theatre. Determine artistic and administrative composition of the organization. Andy's is a program that brings kids in contact with accomplished professional artists, utilizing experimental theatre techniques as the medium for a season of five plays, all new work commissions. Andy's also maintains an apprentice program, an extensive workshop series, and a lab for young playwrights. Artists/mentors included David Lindsay-Abaire, Rinne Groff, Brian Selznick, Ain Gordon & David Dorfman.

2004 to 2007 Producing/Artistic Director : High Fidelity Theater

NH; NYC

High Fidelity was a professional production company designed to create new performance work, fostering the considerable talents of alumni – and like minded artists – who have worked over the years with Andy's Summer Playhouse. NYC Premieres include: Pandora's Box: a vaudeville, (2004), The Architecture of Sight (2005), Tabula Rasa (2006).

1991–1995 Founding member: Writers' Music/Theatre (501C3)

NYC

A non-profit organization devoted to the development of new music/theatre works.

1990–1993 Incorporator and VP: Punchlist, Inc.

NYC

General contracting, commercial and private spaces. Managed yearly budgets in excess of \$350,000. Hired staff (all trades), negotiated contracts, arranged for permits, supervised personnel and sub-contractors, kept company books, mediated between architects and clients.

## Grants, Visual Art, Miscellany (selected)

2014 Memorial (ghost/embers)

Multi-media installation in recognition of World AIDS Day at the Fitchburg Museum of Art (June-August). Reinstallation at the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery (Keene, NH) Dec. 1-7, 2014. An image from Memorial will be used as a Book Jacket Illustration for Columbian novelist Edgar Giraldo-Alzate's *The Phantoms of Cartago* (2018).

2009 Development of temporary exhibition hall and installation: Persistence of Vision

For the creation of an exhibit examining vision, artistic devices (Camera Obscura & Lucida), photographic history and to create a "digital Muybridge" series of portraits of the NH community based on the work of Eadweard Muybridge. Privately funded.

2006 Meet the Composer grant (NEFA) for creation of new music/theater piece:

Leonardo's Tank for Andy's Summer Playhouse

2004 Developed plans for a temporary exhibit: *The Museum of the 5 Senses* 

With: Ellen Driscoll (visual art), Dan Scully (architecture), Amy Jenkins (video), Andrew Stuart

(visual design) -- Monadnock Region, NH

Installation & Exhibit : Recently Discovered - use unknown

at Peterborough Historical Society

Profile in Chronicle of Higher Education

chronicle.com/article/In-the-Cold-New-Hampshire/127276/

2002-2004 Installation & Exhibit of Camera Obscura and related devices

privately funded; at Peterborough Historical Society

#### Education

New York University MFA – Musical Theatre Program

Tisch School of the Arts (playwriting & composition)

Vassar College BA – Global Performance Literature & Practice

London University Additional study (movement, dramaturgy, contemporary theater)

# **Additional Training**

Directing Faculty London University, Vassar College

David Dean Philadelphia

Composition Richard Peaslee Composition mentor : NYU

Acting Faculty London University

Voice Calvin Remsberg private; Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Baker private; Philadelphia

T'ai Chi Sat Chuen Hon NYC

Mime Desmond Jones London Dance Center

James Donlon North Carolina School of the Arts

References available upon request