

# RAY

## RAY NEDZEL

THEATRE PRODUCER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
400 ROBINSON PLACE, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22903  
434-249-8444 RAY@WHOLETHEATRE.ORG



### RAY NEDZEL

Bringing Live Arts, through its mission of Forging Theatre and Community, into a vibrant, sustainable future for the next generation.

Dear Cameron, Selection Committee, Board of Directors,

My name is Ray Nedzel and I am pleased to introduce, or in some cases reintroduce, myself to you as a candidate for Producing Artistic Director of Live Arts. Live Arts has been my artistic home for the past 14 years, and I am both very excited and honored to have the opportunity to apply for this position.

In 2003, I thought I was bringing Live Arts my skill, talent, passion, and experiences from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Baltimore. But what I found is that Live Arts brought me so much more – a community rich in friendship and deep in talent. You will find, I hope, many things in my resume and 30-year theatrical career that make me uniquely qualified to lead Live Arts into its next amazing generation. To that end, I invite you to speak freely with anyone with whom I have worked, as they can attest to my character, core values, proven track record, commitment and unwavering enthusiasm — traits which I believe will be at the heart, and in the heart, of your successful candidate.

Many of you will have had the benefit of evaluating my resume as a set of living, breathing accomplishments on the very stages for which I now seek to lead. Most recently in the successful, sold out run of GUY AND DOLLS in The Gibson.

This successful production provides a great example of my ability to lead and collaborate with designers, producers, musicians, actors, choreographers, musical directors, audience, and the Live Arts staff. And, the ability to focus all that creativity and passion to present a production of artistic excellence – and genuine fun – created by and for our community.

I am well aware, from experience, from observation, and from your wonderfully detailed job description, that the successful candidate will need to bring a lot more to the position than just the ability to create great theater art. I'm confident that you will find those things in me. I look forward to discussing those things, and much more with you throughout the selection process. And if selected, I look forward to fulfilling the goals of the Live Arts we now know, and of the Live Arts in our collective projected imaginations.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to this process and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ray Nedzel

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### OBJECTIVE

To bring Live Arts, through its mission of Forging Theatre and Community, into a vibrant, sustainable future for the next generation.

### NOTED FOR

- Delivering quality on time.
- Exceeding expectations.
- Working with excitement and focus simultaneously.
- Managing large and diverse teams.
- Mentoring artists.
- Empathizing.
- Negotiating.
- Trail blazing.
- Drinking coffee.
- Running 4 NYC Marathons.
- Swimming across the Chesapeake Bay... twice.

### EXPERIENCE (PARTIAL LIST)

#### FRINGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR - LIVE ARTS - JUN '16 TO PRESENT

Co-produce 50+ shows per year in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. [liveartsfringe.org](http://liveartsfringe.org)

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - WHOLE THEATRE - JAN '08 TO PRESENT

Produced 67 original plays in Charlottesville, DC, NY and Edinburgh [wholetheatre.org](http://wholetheatre.org)

#### COMPANY MEMBER - LIVE ARTS - MAY '03 TO PRESENT

Director (see highlights below), Actor, Capital Campaign Committee, and continuous contributor to – and promoter of - the mission of Forging Theatre and Community. [livearts.org](http://livearts.org)

#### WEBMASTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

##### - UVA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE - SEP '07 TO PRESENT

Designed and managed 240 websites and digital media for this nationally ranked School – web, mobile, social. [med.virginia.edu](http://med.virginia.edu)

##### WEBMASTER - DARDEN, UVA - JUN '03 TO SEP '07

Built and managed websites, interactive media, and blogs for the promotion of a top 10 School of Business. [darden.virginia.edu](http://darden.virginia.edu)

##### AD, 2<sup>ND</sup> AD, PM, SCREENWRITER - JAN '00 TO JUN '03

Contract work on screenplays, features, commercials, indie films.

##### PLAYWRIGHT

I have had 3 full length plays, and dozens of shorts, produced in NYC, LA, Baltimore and Virginia.

##### POLITICALLY INCORRECT W/ BILL MAHER, SEASONS 4, 5

From assistant writer to joke writer, daily contributing and supporting the show- 4 live recorded shows per week.

##### ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR, DIXON PLACE, NYC

Host, fundraising assistant, technical direction, facility management.

## RAY NEDZEL ABOVE AND BEYOND

I have energy. I have ideas. Sometimes, too many. People say I have the ability and the agility to get things done – even when these things, at first, seemed impossible.

Above all, the thing that I have proven enthusiasm, passion, patience, focus and expertise in – is building great theatre art, while empowering every member of the team.

Beyond the 67 new plays as producer, and countless staged readings, hosting fundraisers, teaching comedy to middle schoolers, working with high schools -- I have been in seven, and directed five, main stage shows at Live Arts. That was all accomplished while working a full-time job at the University of Virginia and traveling to Edinburgh each summer to work on the Festival Fringe.

I would love to harness this – and bring my enthusiasm, passion, patience, focus and expertise to work each day at Live Arts.

## EDUCATION

### BACCALAUREATE IN THEATRE, TOWSON UNIVERSITY

- Concentration on Acting and Directing with design, producing, history.
- Four Year Academic and Talent Scholarships.

### CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE

- Studied at this premier acting studio in NYC.

## DIRECTING HIGHLIGHTS

@ Live Arts:

### GUYS AND DOLLS – IN THE GIBSON – DEC ‘16 TO JAN ‘17

Sold out run. Big, magical rendition of B'way classic – filling our stage, our seats, and the audiences' hearts, “every single night.”

### THE SUGAR – IN THE FOUNDERS – OCT TO NOV ‘15

Sold out run. Original play by Company Member, Denise Stewart. First show to extend a run in the Founders Theatre.

### CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION – IN THE GIBSON – MAR ‘12

Central Virginia Premier. Honest, simple, real – filling the theatre with silences nearly as often as with dialogue.

### DROWSY CHAPERONE – IN THE GIBSON – DEC ‘10 TO JAN ‘11

Set new box office record. Sold out run. A love letter to musical theatre – a big musical inside a simple comic monologue.

### THE GARDEN – IN THE FOUNDERS – JUL ‘09

First full length play produced to come out of the Playwrights Lab. A Whole Theatre feature production.

### THE GOAT – IN THE FOUNDERS – APR ‘07

Set and holds the sold seat percentage record. First show in “the upstage” to have a sold out run.

@ NYC:

### TRASH – IN THE LAFAYETTE THEATRE

Directed Tony Award winning actor Reed Birney in my own full length play.



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## REFERENCES

**JEFF BUSHMAN, ARCHITECT, LIVE ARTS  
THEATRE/BUILDING DESIGNER AND SET DESIGNER**  
[jb@bdarchitects.com](mailto:jb@bdarchitects.com)

434-242-1455

Jeff and I have worked together in and around the theatre on numerous projects. Jeff was the set designer for two shows I directed in The Gibson – Circle Mirror Transformation and Guys and Dolls. Also, as a member of the Capital Campaign, I worked with Jeff and Matt Joslyn in the feedback loop for the lobby redesign - which is gorgeous.

**ANGELA DAVIS, AHSTF PROGRAM DIRECTOR,  
WORLDSTRIDES**  
[angelad@worldstrides.com](mailto:angelad@worldstrides.com)

434-817-9559

Angela and I collaborate in the American High School Theatre Festival. Angela manages the program, while I provide, through Live Arts, technical support to WorldStrides. And together we produce video communications, fundraising guidance and direct support to the high school directors planning their trip to Edinburgh.

**SEAN JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UFIRST, UVA**  
[sj3zt@eservices.virginia.edu](mailto:sj3zt@eservices.virginia.edu)

434-924-8443

The Chief Information Officer at the UVA School of Medicine, Sean was my boss for 5 1/2 years at the School of Medicine. Working together day-to-day to achieve web communication excellence with limited resources, Sean has seen me at my best and, at times, when things were more challenging. Sean has also attended all the shows I directed or acted in at Live Arts from Drowsy Chaperon to Guys and Dolls.