

BRIAN KITE

Director

briankite.com | Representation: Gregg A. Klein, AKA Talent Agency | 323.965.5600

Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Award-winning director of musical theatre and plays, with extensive experience in national and international touring, audio theatre, and pre-release production testing for Music Theatre International and Disney Theatrical Licensing. His work has been seen across the U.S. and in China, Poland, Macau, and Bermuda, including an English-language play directed in Mandarin. His arts leadership includes serving as Dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and Producing Artistic Director of La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts.

SELECTED DIRECTING

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| 2024 | Little Shop of Horrors 5-Star Theatricals / Bank of America Performing Arts Center
<i>Scherr Forum Theatre season production; multiple sold-out performances.</i> |
| 2023 | Alice by Heart Music Theatre International
<i>Pre-release production testing the final licensable version.</i> |
| 2023 | Irena Teatr Polski im. Arnolda Szyfmana, Warsaw, Poland
<i>Warsaw premiere of the new Polish-language musical.</i> |
| 2022 | Irena Teatr Muzyczny, Poznań, Poland
<i>World premiere; entered the theatre's repertoire.</i> |
| 2021 | Mean Girls Music Theatre International
<i>Pre-release production testing the final licensable version.</i> |
| 2020 | Virtuoso: The Life and Legacy of Ignacy Jan Paderewski Teatr Muzyczny, Poznań / Teatr Dramatyczny, Warsaw
<i>Directing Consultant. Advised on staging and production approach for the Polish-language musical's Poznań and Warsaw productions.</i> |
| 2019 | From Baghdad to Brooklyn Skirball Cultural Center
<i>Solo performance by Michelle Azar.</i> |
| 2019 | Descendants Disney Theatrical Licensing
<i>Pre-release production testing the final licensable version.</i> |
| 2019 | Oslo LA Theatre Works
<i>Live performance and audio recording.</i> |
| 2018–19 | Steel Magnolias LA Theatre Works, U.S. National Tour
<i>30th anniversary tour to 29 cities.</i> |
| 2018 | Freaky Friday Disney Theatrical Licensing
<i>Pre-release production testing the final licensable version.</i> |
| 2018 | Rabbit Hole Guangzhou Dramatic Arts Centre, Guangzhou, China
<i>Mandarin-language production with Chinese actors and designers; entered the company's repertoire.</i> |
| 2018 | Disgraced LA Theatre Works
<i>Live performance and audio recording.</i> |
| 2017 | The Tug of War LA Theatre Works
<i>Commissioned world premiere performance and recording.</i> |
| 2016–17 | Judgment at Nuremberg LA Theatre Works, U.S. National Tour |
| 2016 | American Idiot La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment, ONSTAGE Series
<i>Seven Ovation nominations, including Best Director of a Musical and Best Musical.</i> |
| 2015 | American Buffalo LA Theatre Works
<i>David Mamet-approved recording; 2016 AudioFile Magazine Best Audiobook, Fiction.</i> |
| 2015 | Billy Elliot La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment / Alex Theatre
<i>West Coast regional theatre premiere; Los Angeles Times Critics' Pick; Ovation Recommended.</i> |

- 2014–15 **In the Heat of the Night** | LA Theatre Works, U.S. National Tour
- 2014 **Les Misérables** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment
Highest-grossing production in La Mirada history; Ovation nominations for Best Musical and Best Director of a Musical.
- 2013 **Miss Saigon** | Macau International Music Festival
Closing production of the festival; multiple sold-out houses.
- 2013 **Top Secret: Battle for the Pentagon Papers** | National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing / China Tour
First American play presented at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing.
- 2013 **Spring Awakening** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment
LA Ovation Award, Best Direction of a Musical.
- 2012–13 **Pride and Prejudice** | LA Theatre Works, International Tour and Recording
- 2012 **Miss Saigon** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment / Fox Performing Arts Center
Set a La Mirada box-office record; four Ovation nominations, including Best Revival of a Musical.
- 2011 **Little Shop of Horrors** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment
Starring Olivier Award winner Lesli Margherita; Ovation Recommended.
- 2010 **Dinner with Friends** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment
Ovation Recommended.
- 2009–10 **Steel Magnolias** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment / Lawrence Welk Theatre
Starring Michael Learned and Cathy Rigby.
- 2008 **The Glass Menagerie** | The Actors Co-op at the Crossley Terrace Theatre
- 2008 **Driving Miss Daisy** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment
Starring Michael Learned; multiple Ovation nominations.
- 2007 **Cabaret** | Bermuda Musical Theatre, Hamilton, Bermuda
Presented under the patronage of the Queen's Governor.
- 2006 **Proof** | La Mirada Theatre / McCoy Rigby Entertainment
- 2002 **J.B.** | Buffalo Nights Theatre Company
First professional Los Angeles production in more than 40 years.

ARTISTIC AND INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

- 2020–2025 **Dean** | UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television
Led, as Dean and Interim Dean, one of the country's major schools for theatre, film, television, and digital media, with broad artistic, academic, strategic, financial, and institutional responsibility.
- 2008–2016 **Producing Artistic Director** | La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
Led artistic vision and operations of a 1,260-seat theatre in collaboration with McCoy Rigby Entertainment, including musicals, plays, regional premieres, national tours, Broadway-bound productions, and new work.
- 2015–Present **Professor of Theater (Directing)** | UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television
Teach graduate and undergraduate directing and theatre courses.
- 2017–Present **Visiting Professor** | Shanghai Theatre Academy
Lecture on directing and work with students on production.

SELECTED RECOGNITION

- LA Ovation Award for Best Direction of a Musical: Spring Awakening
- Ovation Award nominations for Best Director of a Musical: Les Misérables and American Idiot
- Joel Hirschhorn Award, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, for contributions to musical theatre
- Los Angeles Times Critics' Picks: Billy Elliot and Les Misérables
- Featured in SDC Journal, "Running the 20-Legged Race," in conversation with Jennifer Chang

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Theater, Directing Specialization | UCLA B.A., Theater | UCLA