



# AZAR KAZEMI

Director & Educator, she/her  
858-382-6816, [azarkazemi.com](http://azarkazemi.com)

## Education

Master of Fine Arts in Directing  
The Theatre School at DePaul University, 2008-2011  
Bachelor of Science in Theatre Arts & Cultural Anthropology  
University of Idaho, 2002-2006

## Directing Experience (Selected)

<i>^Wish You Were Here</i>	Sanaz Toossi	Remy Bumpo
<i>A Lie of the Mind</i>	Sam Shepard	Raven Theatre
<i>+Happy Days Are Here (Again)</i>	Omer Abbas Salem	Steep Theatre at Steppenwolf
<i>+Motherhouse</i>	Tuckie White	Rivendell Theatre Ensemble
<i>Layalina</i>	Yousif Zebari	Goodman Theatre, Future Labs
<i>The Wizards</i>	Ricardo Gamboa	Goodman Theatre, New Stages
<i>*dirty butterfly</i>	debbie tucker green	The Blind Owl at Theatre on the Lake
<i>Aziza and the Rocks</i>	Isaac Gomez	Jackalope Theatre, Living Newspaper
<i>The Coming World</i>	Christopher Shinn	The Blind Owl
<i>^Jack's Precious Moment</i>	Samuel D. Hunter	Will Act for Food
<i>Crave</i>	Sarah Kane	The Blind Owl
<i>Terrorist Play</i>	Arti Ishak	Muslim Writers Collective
<i>Town Hall</i>	Caridad Svich	Northern Illinois University
<i>Our Lady of the Underpass</i>	Tanya Saracho	Elgin Community College
<i>^Hedda Gabler</i>	Ibsen/Shinn	DePaul University, Thesis
<i>Tape</i>	Stephen Belber	Stony Brook University
<i>+Waning Moon</i>	Ulrike Rosser	University of Idaho

## Professional Assistant Directing Experience

<i>A Lie of the Mind</i>	Dir: Ethan Hawke	The New Group
<i>+Things We Want</i>	Dir: Ethan Hawke	The New Group
<i>+The Accomplices</i>	Dir: Ian Morgan	The New Group
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Dir: Gale Edwards	Chicago Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Love's Labor's Lost</i>	Dir: Shana Cooper	Oregon Shakespeare Festival
<i>+Night Over Erzinga</i>	Dir: Lisa Portes	Silk Road Rising
<i>^In the Next Room</i>	Dir: Sandy Shinner	Victory Gardens
<i>^The Piano Teacher</i>	Dir: Lisa Portes	Next Theatre

+World Premiere

\*United States Premiere

^Chicago Premiere

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## **The Blind Owl Theatre Company (501c3)**

Founding Artistic Director, 2011-2021

## **Recognition and Awards**

Chicago Tribune Top Ten Productions of 2024 for *Happy Days Are Here (Again)*  
Equity Jeff Awards for *Motherhouse* (New Work, Ensemble, Supporting Actor), 2023  
Equity Jeff Nomination for “Outstanding Director-Play-Midsized”, 2023  
Excellence in Teaching Award, DePaul University 2020-2021  
SDC Foundation Panelist: *Diversity in Chicago from the Director’s Perspective*, 2014  
FAIR Directing Assistantship, Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2011  
Joseph Slowik Directing Scholarship, DePaul University 2008-2011  
Literary Intern Off-Broadway at The New Group, 2006-2007  
AmeriCorps Bonner 450 Hours of Community Service Award, 2006

## **Teaching Experience**

### **The Theatre School at DePaul University**

Adjunct Professor of Theatre Studies, 2015-present  
Full-Time Faculty of Theatre Studies, 2021-2022  
Advising Associate to the Assistant Dean, 2022-present  
Anti-Racism Task Force Lead Facilitator, 2021-present  
Associate Diversity Advisor, 2020-2021  
Guest Director, 2015-present

- *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill
- *Barbecue* by Robert O’Hara
- *Pocahontas* by Samuel D. Hunter
- *God of Carnage* by Yasmina Reza
- *The Drunken City* by Adam Bock
- *U.S. Drag* by Gina Gionfriddo

### **Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University**

Adjunct Faculty of Performance, 2017-2019

### **Elgin Community College**

Adjunct Faculty of Theatre Arts, 2013-2014

## **Languages**

Fluent in Farsi (also known as Persian)

## **References**

Available upon request