



Theater Without a Stage Founder and Director

LYNN SAMPSON

Lynn Sampson began his career in college in “The Apollo of Bellac” by Jean Giraudoux. Following his graduation from Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, Colorado, he went on to the University of London, but returned to study acting at the prestigious Modesto Junior College in Modesto, California – the school that director George Lucas and Academy Award nominee Jeremy Renner attended.

He has over 125 performances as an actor and has directed more than a dozen productions. As Instructor of Music and Drama at the Grand Theater Center for the Arts in Tracy, California, near San Francisco, for 11 years, Sampson was part of a movement among like-minded directors who refused to dumb down to audiences. He challenged theater goers with works by T.S. Eliot, Bertolt Brecht, Dylan Thomas, and Kahlil Gibran with great success.

Sampson majored in Shakespeare studies while a drama student and after graduation, he began creating plays adapted from original sources. Plays based on the life of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, famed turn-of-the-

century symphonic composer Gustave Mahler, a theatrical version of the 19th century novel *Woman in White* by William Wilke Collins, and “The Fishwife’s Tale” taken from Shakespeare’s “Cymbeline” are among the plays he has adapted.

Sampson founded Theater Without a Stage in 2008 which championed a fresh style of intimate, minimalist theater with performances in Chicago, Nashville, and Carmel. He has presented plays in libraries, national parks, art galleries, synagogues and classrooms.

His summer activities include annual performances during the Bear Valley Music Festival staged outdoors in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. In 2016 he established the Moon and Sixpence Music and Art House, a 70 seat theater in Modesto, California.

He directed the opera “The Human Voice” by Francis Poulenc at the Scarritt Bennett Center at Vanderbilt University. In 2018 he directed the world premiere of Karolina Syrovatkova’s “The Woman in the Bow Tie” at Washington D.C.’s Kennedy Center.