

Leslie D. Bland

Leslie is currently the Artistic Director of Kaleidoscope Theatre in Victoria. During his time as AD, he has led a renaissance of Kaleidoscope's programming and profile in the community, setting attendance records for local in-house productions, winning and being nominated for awards, and touring its productions nationally and internationally.

Leslie was the co-founder and for 12 years was the Executive Producer of Edmonton's Stage Polaris. During his time at Polaris, Leslie directed, performed, and produced over 100 professional productions and oversaw Polaris' growth from an idea to becoming the second largest theatre company in Edmonton, with a budget of over 1 million dollars and an annual attendance in excess of 100,000.

In addition to a number of film/ TV credits, Leslie has also performed and directed for a number of other professional theatres including the National Arts Centre, the Citadel Theatre, Theatre Calgary, the Gateway Theatre, Theatre Network, Chemainus Theatre Festival, Playwrights Theatre Centre, the Ottawa Children's Festival, and the Saskatchewan International Children's Festival among others. He has also directed productions at Concordia University (Montreal) and the University of Victoria.

An accomplished dramaturge and playwright, Leslie has had ten adaptations/ plays produced professionally at theatre companies across Canada, and has overseen the development of dozens of new works. He currently has a situation comedy series in development for Canadian television, and a young adult book series being considered by a number of publishers.

He is a graduate of the University of Alberta B.F.A. Conservatory Acting program, holds both his Instructor's and Performer's certification (A.R.C.T.) in Speech Arts and Drama with the Royal Conservatory of Music (University of Toronto), and received his M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Victoria.

Leslie has lectured by invitation on his theatrical activities in both New York and Washington D.C. He has taught at Concordia University in Montreal, the University of Miami, the Canadian College for Film and Acting as well as other theatrical institutions. He is currently a Sessional Instructor with the University of Victoria Theatre Department where he has taught Acting, Directing, Voice/ Speech, Audition Techniques, Theatre Appreciation, and Public Speaking,