

Biography—Emilie Beck

Emilie Beck is a director, playwright, producer and performer. She was Associate Manager of Center Theatre Group until 2009, and continues to produce the prestigious Sherwood Award Program.

Emilie directed the female version of Tom Stanczyk's *Block Nine* at the Elephant Theatre in the fall of 2009, as well as *Sing Me That Leonard Cohen Song Again*, a one-act by EM Lewis, at Son of Semele. In 2008 she directed the award winning *Because They Have No Words* at the Piven Theatre in Chicago. She developed the script with the playwrights, and directed the world premiere at the Lounge Theatre in Los Angeles. The production won a Jeff Award for Best Sound Design and was nominated for: Jeff Award for Best Ensemble; Ovation Awards for Best Ensemble and Best World Premiere Play; LA Weekly Award for Best Ensemble; and Garland Awards for Best Director and Best Ensemble.

In 2003 Emilie wrote and directed *And Let the Skies Fall* at the El Portal Circle Theatre in an acclaimed Los Angeles premiere (Nominated for six Garland Awards, including Best Playwriting and Best Director). More recently, she directed a workshop of Diane Rodriguez' play *Under Her Wings* at Calarts, with Liz Torres in the leading role; a staged reading of *Catch* by E.M. Lewis at the Blank Theatre; and a workshop production of Samantha Bennett's one-woman show, *Kiss the Monster*. In the fall of 2008 Emilie co-directed and produced the Ovation Awards ceremony, which was heralded as the "sleekest and smoothest" awards show in memory by Backstage West.

As a playwright Emilie had her play *Number of People* presented on the main stage for Hartford Stage's Brand:NEW Festival (2007), with Edward Asner in the role of Leo Gold. The play was previously developed as part of Pasadena Playhouse's Hothouse Series, also with Mr. Asner, (2006) and Piven Theatre's New Works Festival (2006), and has been given staged readings for benefits at the Peninsula Jewish Community Center, University Synagogue in Irvine (both performed by Mr. Asner), and the Hartford Foundation Conference on Aging. She will be returning to the Piven Theatre to direct *Number of People* in March, 2010.

As a performer, she has collaborated with Mary Zimmerman (*Godiva*, *The Mystery of the 4th Wall*, *Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*), Veronique Guillaud (*Processions*) and Maurice Guillaud (*Une Chronique d'une Piano-Femme*) and others, performing in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paris, and she spent six months in Amsterdam in the improv/sketch hit, *Boom Chicago*. In San Francisco Emilie wrote and performed *Medusa* and *Tender Loins* (with Ana Gasteyer) at The Marsh, and adapted and performed a one-woman show, *The Fantastic Lodge*, which ran in San Francisco and Los Angeles, culminating in a production at the HBO Workspace.

Emilie serves on the Ovation Review Committee at the invitation of LA Stage Alliance. She lives in Los Angeles and is at work writing a new play, *Sovereign Body*, and a new musical, *The Undiscovered Life*.