



R. STEVEN BLAKE

Director and Producer
Stage, Screen and Television

e: richard@rstevenblake.com
w: www.rstevenblake.com
IMDb: www.imdb.me/rstevenblake

"WITCHLAND" – Regional Premiere, Palm Springs, CA

Written by Tim Mulligan

Reviews:

"Director Richard S. Blake pulls from the best and worst of the campy-horror genre to keep the story interesting. Through his strong tongue-in-cheek direction, the cast remains committed and honest. The special effects that occur within the set deliver some of the most outstanding moments of the evening. If you enjoy scary, quirky B-movie stories, then WITCHLAND is definitely for you and a scream-filled bloody ending will leave you tingling with laughter!" - Gilmore Rizzo, Critic for the Coachella Valley Independent.

"It's A Wonderful Life! A Live Radio Play"

Based on the story, The Greatest Gift by Philip Van Doren Stern. Adapted by Joe Landry

"Ebenezer Scrooge"(2012-2020 Annually)

A Musical Adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol".

Written by Joe Dickinson and Laurie Timmerstein with additional lyrics by Rodney Dobbis

"CLUE: The Musical!"

Based on the Parker Brothers® Board Game.

Book by Peter DePietro, Music by Galen Blum, Wayne Barker, and Vinnie Martucci, Lyrics by Tom Chiodo

Reviews:

"Runway's production of Clue: The Musical has sharp, fast-paced and witty performances given by a tight-knit ensemble cast. Director R. Steven Blake has packaged this cast and an excellent crew to share a great time with audiences experiencing Clue: The Musical. The two-hour show flies by, keeping you mentally engaged. For those who love a challenge, you are invited to participate in crossing off your own clues and suspects as the show progresses. With 216 potential outcomes, it would be difficult to see the same show twice!" -Bonnie K. Daman, Associate Critic for John Garcia's The Column.

"All Shook Up"

Book by Joe DiPietro. Inspired by & featuring the songs of Elvis Presley®

Reviews:

"Music Theatre of Denton's production is fun, with lively music that is set to a magical time... a patron sitting in front of me had commented to another patron that this was a cute show. It is more than a cute show. It is a fun show... the technical aspects of the show will impress you and the singing and acting will amaze you. This musical is worth the extra steps for an evening or afternoon of enjoyment." -Joel Taylor Associate Theatre Critic, John Garcia's The Column.

"Give Me A Break" A New Rock Musical – World Premiere, Dallas, TX

Laurie Windham and Barbara McMillen

Reviews:

"Give Me A Break had shining moments and Talented performers that brought life, energy and connection to the story. Worth seeing if you would like to support local talent and the development of original theatrical creations... Give Me A Break is an original work conceived, developed and produced from the local Dallas area, using local technical and performance talent to bring a story to life. I fully appreciate and admire the desire and ability to artistically create any work of art." -Joel Taylor Associate Theatre Critic, John Garcia's The Column.

"Disney's Jungle Book, Kids!"

Music & Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman and Terry Gilkyson

Book adapted and additional lyrics by Marcy Heisler, Music adapted and arranged by Bryan Louiselle

"Godspell"

Book by John-Michael Tebelank, Music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Reviews:

"I must highly commend Ri. Steven Blake for creating a show that made me smile, toe tap, hum along, gave me a few chills, and thoroughly entertained me. What made Mr. Blake's accomplishments (and his creative team) so extraordinary was he did it mostly with a cast of teens...Mr. Blake was able to transform the joviality into an effective somber mood with his strong staging. His "resurrection" scene was one of the best I'd ever seen and did induce chills." - Mark-Brian Sonna, Associate Critic for John Garcia's The Column.

"And All His Songs Were Sad"- WORLD PREMIERE

Written by Mattie Lennon

"The Full Monty"

Book by Terrence McNally and score by David Yazbek

"Barefoot in the Park"

Written by Neil Simon

"Noises Off!"

Written by Michael Frayn

"Love Letters"

Written by A.R. Gurney

Revolution Stage Company

Pocket Sandwich Theatre

Pocket Sandwich Theatre

Runway Theatre

Music Theatre of Denton

Dripping Talent Productions

Creative Arts Theatre & School

Creative Arts Theatre & School

Pantagleize Theatre Company

Mainstreet Theater Company

Arts Palace Playhouse

Mountainview Theatre

Howmet Theatre

AWARDS

Best Lead Actor - Play
Best Supporting Actor - Musical
Rudy Seppy Volunteer Service Award
Outstanding Achievement Award
Best Director - Play

Mesquite Theatre Company
Arts Alliance
The COLUMN Awards
Live Theatre League of Tarrant County
Northwest Theater Alliance

To Whom It May Concern:

I met Richard Blake in the Summer of 2012 when he was cast in open auditions for a production of "The Art of Murder" at Pocket Sandwich Theatre in Dallas, where I served as Artistic Director and Resident Set Designer. From our very first meeting, it was apparent to me that Richard was not just another struggling actor. He had experience. Acting for film, television and voiceovers. Producing, directing and managing productions. Personal vision, creative ideas and technical connections. This guy was a true industry professional and I was thrilled to have him take an interest in my theatre. I say "my" theatre because I was one of two founding partners in the Pocket Sandwich Theatre in 1980. During my long tenure there, and also working at numerous other theatres in the Dallas area, I knew from experience what a find Richard Blake was.

I was quick to get Richard involved at the Pocket, offering him a directing position for our long-established and financially vital Christmas musical, "Ebenezer Scrooge." The show was already into its 32nd consecutive year. Richard attacked the project with creative vigor and working within established norms for the show, including the pre-casting of the lead character, he brought new life and innovative direction to the production. He also proved how he could work with varied levels of talent and experience in the cast to achieve a uniform performance level. Richard brought in technical and artistic associates new to the theatre who added to the quality of the show. Based on this initial success, Richard became the de facto director of "Ebenezer Scrooge" for the next nine years with the exception of one year where he was working toward opening his own theatre. Richard even commuted from Houston one year (a four hour plus drive) to direct the show!

Over the course of this extended association, "Ebenezer Scrooge" improved every year with Richard adding new scenic ideas, projections, technical effects, evocative lighting and sound effects. Also, I personally looked forward to my creative association with Richard.

When the Pandemic shut down the theatre completely for 8 months in 2020, Richard was brought in to advise the producing partners and me about the possibilities of doing a pared down, "concert" version of "Ebenezer Scrooge." Richard wisely advised against it, as it would almost certainly not live up to repeat audience expectations. He instead offered the idea of a socially distanced production of the staged radio show, "It's a Wonderful Life- A Live Radio Play." Again, Richard pulled off an outstanding production under less than ideal circumstances and the production proved to be a great financial boon to the theatre in a very difficult time.

I guess I should mention that I really like Richard and consider him a good friend. I do not feel this prejudices my professional opinion of him.

In closing, based on my personal and professional experience with Richard Blake, I recommend him highly for any and all theatrical endeavors he sets out to do. I firmly believe you will find him to be a tremendous asset to any theatrical production in any capacity you can use him. I personally look forward to the next time I can work with him. Please contact me for any further information needed.

Rodney Dobbs



Co-Founder Pocket Sandwich Theatre, Artistic Director and Resident Set Designer (Retired 2021)

Free Lance Set Design, Dallas Area. Over 300 productions—11 last year.





4000 Rawlins St. #106, Dallas, TX 75219
214-477-4942 www.MBSProductions.info

To Whom it May Concern:

I have worked with Richard S. Blake for the past two decades. He has acted in numerous productions at my theatre company both under my direction and other directors. We also have worked together as actors, and have worked under him as an actor in a musical he directed. I have also seen his work as a director and as an actor in other area stages around the country and in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Mr. Blake is truly a consummate professional. He has a strong work ethic. Punctual, prepared, and positive at all times. He has extensive knowledge in acting and directing. We have collaborated at least two dozen times, and even when I have not been working with him directly he is a theatre artist I frequently consult with for advice and as a sounding board.

While working with me I considered Mr. Blake an invaluable team member at MBS Productions. The casts enjoyed working with him and the directors highly respected him. As a Producer I trusted him, and had he not left the area I would definitely continue working with him.

If you have any further questions you may contact me at [REDACTED].

Sincerely yours,

Mark-Brian Sonna
Artistic Director
MBS Productions