

Sarah Esdaile

Director



Film, TV & Theatre

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Biography

Sarah graduated in English and Drama from Goldsmiths College in 1991. Whilst at London University and subsequently, she worked with many producers and theatres including Bill Kenwright, Robert Fox and Theatre Royal Brighton. In 1996 she was one of twelve invited on the first Directors' Course run by the National Theatre Studio.

She was previously Associate Director at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Sarah moved into directing television in 2019.

Credits

Television

Production	Company	Notes
A PRESSING ENGAGEMENT 2026	Audible/Happy Prince	Director. Audio Drama adapted by Dare Aiyegbayo from the 1978 story by Jilly Cooper. Starring Richard Ayoade, Kellie Bright, Bessie Carter, Rufus Jones, Corey Mylchreest, Rhea Norwood, Vivian Oparah, Henry Rowley, Hannah Waddingham
CALL THE MIDWIFE 15 2025	BBC 1 / Neal Street Productions	1 episode
CASUALTY 2025	BBC	2 episodes
CALL THE MIDWIFE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2024	BBC 1 / Neal Street Productions	2 x 60' episodes
CALL THE MIDWIFE 13 2023	BBC 1 / Neal Street Productions	2 episodes
THE CHELSEA DETECTIVE 2 2023	Expectation / Acorn	2 x 90' episodes Cast includes Adrian Scarborough, Vanessa Emme, Claire Skinner, Siân Phillips and Neil Morrissey
CALL THE MIDWIFE 12 2022	BBC 1 / Neal Street Productions	1 episode
CALL THE MIDWIFE 11 2021	BBC 1 / Neal Street Productions	1 episode Nominated for Best Returning Drama at National Television Awards
EASTENDERS 2019 - 2022	BBC Continuing Drama	24 episodes and strands in a 16-episode silo block

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
YERMA by Federico Garcia Lorca 2024	RADA	Director
ABIGAIL'S PARTY 2019	ATG UK tour	by Mike Leigh; with Jodie Prenger
DESIGN FOR LIVING 2018	LAMDA	by Noel Coward
SCRATCH NIGHT & FERTILITY FIGHT CLUB TALK 2018	Bush Theatre	As part of Fertility Fest 2018
DANCING AT LUGHNASA 2018	BADA	
LAMDA SHOWCASE 2018	Trafalgar Studios	
THE SPOTLIGHT PRIZE 2017	The Under Globe	Director
ABIGAIL'S PARTY by Mike Leigh 2017	Theatre Royal Bath Productions	Tour with Amanda Abbington
WALKING ON EGG SHELLS by Amy Rosenthal 2016	as part of Fertility Fest	Curated by Jessica Hepburn at Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Park Theatre - May/June 2016
FIVE WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS by Alan Ball 2016	LAMDA	Linbury Studio

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TESTING THE ECHO by David Edgar 2016	Show curated by Emma Manton	Director of David Edgar piece with Juliet Stevenson & Zubin Varla for MOVING STORIES Charity event at the National Theatre 14th Feb 2016 fundraiser for the United Nations Refugee Agency
THE BFG adapted by David Wood from Roald Dahl 2015	Octagon Theatre. Bolton	
TALKING HEADS by Alan Bennett 2015	TRB Productions	Theatre Royal Bath & tour with Stephanie Cole, Siobhan Redmond and Karl Theobald.
LOVE LOVE LOVE by Mike Bartlett 2015	LAMDA	
SINGLE SPIES by Alan Bennett 2014	Rose Theatre, Kingston	
PAXO 2014	Feather Productions Ltd & Anita Land	An Evening with Jeremy Paxman at the Cabaret Bar, Pleasance Courtyard Edinburgh Fringe Festival
EARTHQUAKES IN LONDON by Mike Bartlett 2013	LAMDA	
CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF by Tennessee Williams 2012	West Yorkshire Playhouse	
THE LADY IN THE VAN by Alan Bennett 2012	Hull Truck UK tour	Revival of 2011 UK touring production
SPRING AND PORT WINE by Bill Naughton 2012	LAMDA	
SLEEPING BEAUTY by Rufus Norris 2011	Birmingham Repertory Theatre	
ARCADIA by Tom Stoppard 2011	LAMDA	
THE LADY IN THE VAN by Alan Bennett 2011	Hull Truck Theatre / UK tour	With Nichola McAuliffe.
THE DEEP BLUE SEA by Terence Rattigan 2011	West Yorkshire Playhouse	With Maxine Peake as Hester Collyer
CRASH by William Nicholson 2010	West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Courtyard	World Premiere
DEATH OF A SALESMAN by Arthur Miller 2010	West Yorkshire Playhouse	With Philip Jackson and Marion Bailey
CLING TO ME LIKE IVY by Samantha Ellis 2010	The Door, Birmingham Rep	
HIS DARK MATERIALS by Philip Pullman 2009	Birmingham Repertory Theatre & tour	
LIFE X 3 by Yasmina Reza 2009	Watermill Theatre, Newbury	
THE HORSE MARINES by Richard Cameron 2008	Theatre Royal Plymouth	

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DROWNING ON DRY LAND by Alan Ayckbourn 2008	Salisbury Playhouse	
THE GROUCH adaptation by Ranjit Bolt of Moliere's The Misanthrope 2008	West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Theatre	
KAFKA'S DICK by Alan Bennett 2008	Watford Palace Theatre	
LOYAL WOMEN by Gary Mitchell 2007	Central School of Speech & Drama	
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH by Roald Dahl, adapted by David Wood 2006	Octagon Theatre, Bolton	Winner of the M.E.N Award Best Family Show 2007
PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY by Henrik Ibsen in a version by Samuel Adamson 2007	Central School of Speech & Drama	
FESTEN adapted by David Eldridge 2006	Rose Bruford at BAC	
ASYLUM MONOLOGUES by Sonja Linden 2006	iceandfire Theatre Co. at Amnesty International Headquarters	
CROCODILE SEEKING REFUGE by Sonja Linden on tour 2006	iceandfire Theatre Co. Regional Tour	
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW 2005	Royal Shakespeare Company, New Work Festival	
SILLY BABY by Gill Adams 2005	For Paul Nicholas	Rehearsed Reading
PICTURES OF CLAY by Sharif Samad Premier Production 2005	Royal Exchange, Manchester	
LYSISTRATA by Aristophanes - a musical adaption by Ranjit Bolt 2005	Arcola Theatre	
BUTTERFLY KISS 2005	Birmingham School of Speech & Drama	
FOUR SEASONS by Linda Brogan 2005	Soho Theatre	Rehearsed Reading
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE 2004	RADA	
COYOTE ON A FENCE by Bruce Graham - British Premier 2004	Royal Exchange Manchester, The Duchess Theatre, West End	With Ben Cross, Alex Ferns and Jo Martin Winner of the M.E.N. Award Best Fringe Production 2004
COMPACT FAILURE by Jennifer Farmer. Arcola Theatre and Tour - Premier Production 2004	Clean Break Theatre Company	
A VIEW FROM A BRIDGE by Arthur Miller 2003	The Poor School	
OEDIPUS REX 2003	Central School of Speech & Drama	
RICHARD III 2002	Rose Bruford College	

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COLD VINTAGE by Chris Lee 2002	Theatre Royal Plymouth	Rehearsed Reading
BILL AND ESME by Adam Pernack - Premier Production 2002	Chelsea Theatre	
TWELFTH NIGHT 2002	The Drum, Birmingham	
ABSOLUTE HELL by Rodney Ackland 2001	Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham	
SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL I AM by Paul Minx 2001	The Bush Theatre/ The Pleasance Theatre Edinburgh	
THE LIGHTS by Howard Korder 2001	Rose Bruford College	
HENRY VI - PARTS I, II AND III/ RICHARD III 2000	Royal Shakespeare Company London/ Stratford/ Regional Tour	Associate Director on Michael Boyd's Olivier Award winning productions
THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER by Nicky Silver - British Premier 2000	The Bush Theatre	
THE LAUGH by Thomas Crowe 1998	Riverside Studios - LNPF	Rehearsed Reading
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE 1998	Shakespeare's Globe	
TROILUS AND CRESSIDA 1998	Royal Shakespeare Company London/ Stratford/ Regional Tour	Assistant Director Director Michael Boyd
A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY by Brian Friel, after Turgenev 1998	Royal Shakespeare Company London/ Stratford/ Regional Tour	Assistant Director Director Michael Attenborough
THE WOOLGATHERER by William Mastrosimone 1998	Battersea Arts Centre	
HENRY V 1997	Shakespeare's Globe - Opening Season	Assistant Director Director Richard Olivier
A CHASTE MAID IN CHEAPSIDE by Middleton 1997	Shakespeare's Globe - Opening Season	Assistant Director Director Malcolm McKay
THE BOYS NEXT DOOR by Tom Griffin *Time Out - Critics Choice 1997	The Grace Theatre/ The Latchmere	
THE CRUCIBLE by Arthur Miller 1997	Middlesex University	
COMEDY OF WORDS by Schnitzler 1996	New End Theatre, Hampstead	Rehearsed Reading
DOWNTOWN PARADISE by Mark Jenkins - Premier Production 1996	Finborough Theatre Chapter Art Centre, Cardiff	Rehearsed Reading
FLIP by Andy Garrett 1995	Hen and Chickens Theatre	
RESISTANCE by Michael Wall - Premier Production 1994	Old Red Lion Theatre	
LOOT by Joe Orton 1993	Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead, Casson Room	

Production	Company	Notes
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR by Andrew Lloyd Webber 1992	Paul Nicholas & David Ian Associates, West End and National Tour	Assistant Director Director Hugh Wooldridge
THE TEMPEST 1992	Orchard Theatre Company	Assistant Director Director Stephen Powell

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