

Reviews

A Christmas Carol

Actor

"...very often a production, regardless of the principal actor's talent, is as good as its best character parts. A nod here to the three talented actors playing the scoundrels who, in Scrooge's third vision, of Christmas future, gloat over the booty they've stolen from the recently deceased Scrooge. They are Joseph Quandt, Sandra Alworth, and Lee Rose." [Troy Record](#)

Bread & Puppet Residency

Project Director

"I was so impressed with what you have done. It comes about as close to achieving the goals of the Arts Partners Program as any of the projects I have site-visited." Thomas Wolf, [Lila Wallace-Readers' Digest Foundation](#),

"Rose believes that theater **should** provoke responses from audiences-whether adverse or positive-and that presenters must be willing to deal in a constructive way with either kind." [Inside Arts Magazine](#)

"...a great way for children and adults to become involved in the arts and in social issues affecting everyone. Lee Rose and his associates have found an exciting way to generate this much needed type of interaction." [The Source](#)

"Critics' Choice" [Metroland](#)

Top Girls

Producer/Director

"A well conceived production...the all-female Union cast does itself proud...a mixture of students and experienced community actors succeeds in capturing Churchill's crisp British outlook and makes the play speak to people of all ages...the production is an intriguing one and deserves the attention of theatergoers who enjoy the innovative." [Schenectady Gazette](#)

"Rose has cast experienced actors from the community, the faculty and the ranks of Union College Alumni. He also made an effort to keep the 16-member cast as ethnically diverse as possible. To give his outreach efforts more dimension, Rose has invited specific organizations to attend certain performances of "Top Girls" and participate in post-performance discussions on topics like gender issues and multiracial casting." [Albany Times Union](#)

Oedipus

Actors' Equity Guest Artist

"[The director] includes one faculty member in the more difficult role, which benefits from the teacher's maturity and sophistication...Lee Rose is cautious as well as vigilant as Teiresias." [Schenectady Gazette](#)

Burning Bright

Producer/Director

"Definitely a play worth seeing...mounted with painstaking detail...the young cast is remarkably adept at creating believable characters...they handle the narrative-like dialogue with ease." [Schenectady Gazette](#)

Primal Time

Off-Broadway Director

"Original, surprising, and strongly imagined...Lee Rose is the very capable director." [New York Villager](#)

Union College Theater
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theater

It is unusual to find someone with such breadth and strength of talent as Lee Rose possesses. As a director he has a gift for discerning the central sympathy of the text around which he builds a unifying conceptual framework. We collaborated on five shows together as colleagues – he as director, I as designer – and I was impressed with the clarity and directness of vision that he brought into the process. The success of our work and how well we imparted the lessons of theater-making and theory to our students rested on Lee’s ability to convey his view of the project as well as the easy atmosphere of creative exchange which he engendered. Lee was exceptionally effective. While he often began with a particular concept he was never adamantly fixed to it; rather, he used it as a positioning device from which to encourage response and feedback from the production team of faculty, staff and students. He believes in collaboration as a goal. Lee’s training and broad professional experiences as an actor, director, stage manager, designer of sets and sound, inform not only the quality of his directorial work but has made him sensitive to the contributions of the other members of the creative team.

-Charles Steckler, Professor of Theater Emeritus, Theater and Dance Department, Union College

...a more stable curriculum in Acting and Directing should be developed and offered on a regular schedule. The propitious addition of Mr. Rose to the Department's adjunct faculty roster provides the possibility for doing so. All attempts should be made to solidify his membership in the Department. In addition to excellent theater credentials which fully qualify him as a faculty member...Mr. Rose can develop a challenging performance curriculum appropriate to the Union context, one that emphasizes frequent, inexpensive, academically based opportunities for student performers and directors.

-Michael Birtwistle, Professor of Theater and Dance, Amherst College

University of Maine at Machias
Associate Professor of Theater

Lee’s shows, *Twelfth Night* and *Rhinoceros*, were remarkable for his innovative directorial concepts. In *Twelfth Night* he used technology to build on Shakespeare’s themes and make the show accessible to all. His production of *Rhinoceros* was boldly directed and made use of not only students but area performers as well. Lee’s last show, *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*, was asked by A.C.T.F. to hold their set over while final choices were made for the Regional Festival; that means his show was in the top 16 of the New England Region.

-Arthur Hill, AEA, SAG, AFTRA, Associate Professor of Speech/Drama, University of Maine at Machias
Original Member of Ellen Stewart’s La Mama Experimental Theater Club

Lee’s ability to mount highly attractive designs and workable production solutions in a department that is to my knowledge relatively small, means that he either does every bit of the work himself, which his Home Page clearly refutes, or that he is a terrifically effective teacher in the discipline guiding students to the same high level of practice that he exercises and maintains for himself.

-Curtis C. Trout, USA, Professor of Scene Design, School of Theatre Arts, Illinois Wesleyan University

I am quite impressed with the breath of work Lee is engaged in from directing, designing and to play writing. I am aware that “The Moonlight Room” is the fourth production Lee has directed that has been “held over” for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, a huge accomplishment for a Theatre program run by a single individual. I also have looked at past years’ season production and notice that Lee is certainly not stuck in one era or play genre. Shakespearian, Greek Tragedy, Musical Theatre, both old standards and new, Reader’s Theatre and Children’s Theatre. What is as impressive is that he has not only undertaken directing these plays but has designed for them as well. Performance, both directing and acting, combined with design skills, is unusual in the age of “specialists.”

-Peter Simmel, Chair, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, University of Maine, Farmington

With regard to adjudication for KCACTF, Lee’s ability to respond to productions in a creative and constructive manner, and one that is particularly helpful to the students involved, is notable. The pressure to speak directly after seeing a production does not seem to affect him or his ability to comment productively and tactfully. It is the toughest kind of “teaching” because the cast and crew of an ACTF entry are at their most vulnerable and he is able to give them solid feedback they can use without ruffling their feathers at the same time.

-Marcia Joy Douglas, University of Maine, School of Performing Arts, Chair, Division of Theatre/Dance

California Institute of the Arts

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Mr. Rose was accepted to the California Institute of the Arts through a rigorous process, which permitted only the most gifted students to enter the acting program. As a student in the theatre program, Mr. Rose immediately demonstrated his dedication and love of the craft. What impressed me and other members of the faculty was Mr. Rose's appetite for intellectual pursuits in various disciplines. Mr. Rose gained immediate respect from faculty and his peers, and was quickly assigned a teaching assistantship in the School of Theatre.

-Sergei Tschernisch, President Emeritus, Cornish College of the Arts

Harpwell Coastal Academy

Maine State Certified High School English Teacher

Lee created a space in his classes where students were comfortable exploring uncomfortable skills like public speaking through avenues they were passionate about, from rapping to culinary arts. In this context, students learned how to give and receive feedback in a workshop model. Central to creating this environment was Lee's own willingness to be vulnerable with students and share his growth areas as a performer- playing the guitar and singing for an audience. Lee formed strong connections with students through participation in our house band, and relentlessly encouraged students to push themselves outside of their comfort zone into a place of growth. In addition to his passion for engaging students in explorations of the humanities, Lee has also shared his interests in biking, sports, and birding with our community. These skills and interests allowed him to form connections with students from a range of experiences and backgrounds and provide a space where students feel safe and heard, but also held accountable. His adaptive and collaborative approach to teaching was a model for authentic project-based learning for our staff over the last year.

-Mel Christensen Fletcher, Head of School, Brightfield Academy, Bath, Maine

Jonesport-Beals High School

Maine State Certified High School English Teacher

Mr. Rose's greatest attribute is theatre. He is second to none in play production. His ability to cast the members of the play, create the scenery, and bring the play to life is phenomenal. He has received many compliments from the community for his play productions. As part of his English class, students are required to read the Tell Tale Heart. After reading and discussing the literature, Mr. Rose has the students produce a mock trial. The students always look forward to playing the roles of trial lawyers, judge, and jury. Prosecution and defense teams research material, develop strategies, and act out the trial. This teaching strategy is essential in the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

-Mike Kelley, Principal, Jonesport-Beals High School

Lost Valley Ski Area

Ski Instructor / Instructor Trainer

Lee is kind and knowledgeable. He helped me feel at ease on the slope. I appreciate how he discussed and provided background information about the skill he was teaching. He introduced a skill verbally, demonstrated it, and then observed me and provided feedback. I left the lesson with increased skill and confidence. Thank you!

-Sarah P., February 09, 2025

My 8-year-old daughter had her first (AND second) ski lesson with Lee. This was her first (and second) time on skis. He was phenomenal! He could read her ability and skill level like a book. He had her progressing each time she went down the hill. After 30 minutes he had her ready for the mountain, so up they went. He gave me pointers on how to ski with her, as she continues to learn. For her second lesson, they went straight up the mountain and she progressed with picking where and when to turn. We could not have asked for a better experience. We will be taking more lessons from Lee, for sure. I highly recommend Lee at Lost Valley for your kiddo's next lesson!

-Margaret W., March 03, 2025

Great lesson. Learned about different skiing styles and the mechanics of skiing to help put into perspective parallel skiing. **-Linda O., March 02, 2025**

Lindsey C. really loved the lesson! She's parallel skiing now! **-Paul C., February 03, 2025**

Thank you for the lesson, Ellie was chatting all about you after! **-David (Dad) and Ellie (3), January 09, 2026**