

# Leah Raidt Creative Leadership CV

CONTACT	Phone: (502) 468-8544	Email: LRaidt@gmail.com
EDUCATION	<hr/> <b>DePaul University, Chicago, IL 2007-2011</b> <b>The Theatre School, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i></b> GPA: 3.76 <hr/>	
TRAINING & CERTIFICATES	<b>Vedic Meditation Iniator Training</b> 600 Hour Vedic Meditation Training, Mark Price, Alchemy Collective.	<b>Integrated Somatic &amp; Trauma-Therapies Certificate</b> The Embod Lab, * <i>Scholarship recipient</i> Explore unified somatic approach to trauma-informed care
	<b>KYRUX, Rural-Urban Exchange, 2025-2027</b> 2 year leadership training with cohort of interdisciplinary Kentuckians.	<b>Film502 Front Porch Film Lab, Fall 2025</b> 2-week incubator lab taught by Ruth Atkinson (writing), Jennifer Arnold (directing), Avril Speaks (producing)
ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<hr/> <b>Kentucky College of Art &amp; Design, Louisville, KY, Seasonal 2023-Present</b> <b>Visiting Faculty &amp; Guest Teaching Artist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Viewpoints Movement Workshop," undergraduate Introduction to Performance class.</li><li>• "The Warwick Artist Residency: Convivial Creation in Solitude," 3-week intensive course with "artist residency" immersion trip, co-designed &amp; co-taught with Professor Elle Hendrickson, Spring 2024</li><li>• "Approaching Creativity Through the Body," a nervous-system mapping collage workshop for studio art foundations class, Feb 2023</li></ul> <hr/> <b>DePaul University, School of Cinematic Arts &amp; The Theatre School, Chicago, IL, 2023/2024</b> <b>Guest Teacher</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Trauma-informed Strategies for Directors &amp; Producers," workshop for undergraduate film students</li><li>• "Nervous-System Regulation &amp; Meditation." 3-hour workshop for stage-management &amp; tech students</li></ul> <hr/>	
MEDITATION TRAINING & RETREATS	<hr/> <b>Passionist Earth &amp; Spirit Center, Louisville, KY, Fall 2025-Present</b> <b>Faculty, Retreat Associate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Writing as Spiritual Practice," 3-week &amp; 6-week adult creative writing &amp; contemplation class</li><li>• "Memento Mori: A Death Meditation &amp; Living Funeral Ritual," Workshop collaboration w/author Becky Robison.</li><li>• Facilitate retreat curriculum geared toward team-building, compassion, earth literacy, mindfulness.</li></ul> <hr/> <b>Nazareth Retreat Center, Louisville, KY, Fall 2025-Present</b> <b>Retreat Partner, Presenter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "LGBTQ+ Meditation &amp; Spiritual Reclamation Retreat"- Lead 4-day retreat, June 2025/2026</li><li>• "Spiritual Companionship for LGBTQ+" Lecture &amp; Training, Spritual Direction Internship Program, 2024</li></ul> <hr/> <b>Trauma-informed Meditation Workshops &amp; Retreats, 2021-Present</b> <b>Meditation Trainer &amp; Retreat Facilitator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Introduction to Meditation" 90 minute workshop &amp; 4 Day Vedic Meditation course offered virtually and in-person</li><li>• Meditation Club - Host/Manage free weekly community practice sessions in hybrid format</li></ul> <hr/>	
COMMUNITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<hr/> <b>Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts, Summers 2022-2024</b> <b>Drama Faculty, Faculty Chair (2024)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach voice &amp; acting to 33 high-schoolers at an immersive 3-week, gov't funded intensive arts camp</li><li>• Serve as communication liaison between teaching partners, KYGSA staff &amp; administrators</li><li>• Manage and allocate budget, hire and on-board guest artists, facilitate community service outreach</li></ul> <hr/> <b>Actors Training Center, Wilmette, IL, 2017-2023</b> <b>Wellness Specialist, Acting Instructor (youth &amp; adults)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "College Audition Clinic" - Pitched, developed and launched holistic program aimed to mentor and prepare high-school seniors &amp; their parents for high-demand collegiate audition process.</li></ul> <hr/> <b>Community Storytellers Program, Full Spectrum Features, Chicago, IL</b> <b>Impact Strategist, Event Planner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shape &amp; refine storyteller's event ideas to reflect the themes and messages of their films.</li><li>• Assist goal setting &amp; concretize planning specifics including budgets, tasks and timelines, partnerships, marketing needs, etc.</li></ul> <hr/>	

# Leah Raidt CV

Writer. Performer. Director. Producer.  
Trauma-informed Meditation & Facilitation

## FILMMAKING **Lee Baby, Narrative Short-Film streaming on Open Television, 2023**

### Director, Producer, Co-creator

Logline: *Lee, a trans man, and his partner are smack dab in the middle of creating a family. Insecurities, hormone imbalances, and the exhaustion of new parenthood test the limits of this resilient queer couple.*

- Developed and executed fundraising/marketing strategies, budget creation/management
- Fundraised \$24K & garnered \$64K in-kind donations via community partnerships and organizations
- Interview, hire, contract, on-board and manage a 30 person production team
- Direct/Produce a 3 da film soot (Oct 2022) on a trauma-informed, queer/trans led set with cast/crew of majority underrepresented identities in filmmaking.

## **Rough River Lake, Narrative Short-film streaming on Open Television, 2021**

### Co-creator, Producer, Locations Coordinator, Actor

Logline: *a group of queer best friends from Chicago have their Kentucky getaway interrupted when they discover the lake house got double booked with a bachelor party.*

- Fundraised \$30K through fiscal sponsor Full Spectrum Features
- Co-creator and creative consultant on script, casting, and final edit
- Secured locations & housing for Chicago-based cast/crew for 4 day film shoot at Rough River Lake in rural KY.

## **"Fiends Lullaby" by Drift City: Music Video, Spring 2025**

### Director, Producer

- Collaborate with client to create & manage project budget and conceptual vision for music video visuals
- Hire and manage crew and child actors
- Secure shoot location and equipment

## GRANTS

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2025 KY Oral History Commission Grant, \$4,269  
2025 KFW Artist in Residence at Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse  
2024 KY Foundation for Women, Literary Arts Impact Grant, \$3,500  
2023. Chicago Dept. Cultural Affairs & Special Events, IAP Grant, \$6,000 - *Lee Baby*  
2023 Puffin Foundation, Project Grant, \$1,500 - *Lee Baby*  
2023 IL Arts Council Agency, individual artist grant, \$4,000 - *Lee Baby*  
2022 KYGSA Toyota Alumni Fund Grant, - *Rough River Lake*  
2018 KYGSA Toyota Alumni Fund - develop/produce one-person show *Reverse Missionary*

## AWARDS

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2022 CinemaFemme Film Festival - HALYNA HUTCHINS PRODUCER AWARD  
2024 Hollywood New Director's Festival, "Best LGBTQIA+" & "Best Drama" - *Lee Baby*  
2024 Oxford Film Festival, Honorable Mention (Runner-Up) in LGBTQ Category - *Lee Baby*  
2022 London International Film Festival, "Best Short-film" & "Audience Pick" - *Rough River Lake*

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Queer Kentucky, August 11, 2025**

"Trans ally, Catholic nun: Sr. Luisa Derouen's 26-Year Mission of Quiet Resistance," interview essay

### **new words no. 6, new words {press}, Summer 2025**

"Alice Walker Wisdom in the Tarot", poem

### **Printed Zine, Edition III, Printed Zine, Louisville, KY, Summer 2024**

"Let Go Let God", collage poem

### **Through an Open Door, Material Drifter Zine, Lexington, KY, Spring 2025**

"Are We There Yet?", poem & "Playing with Elliott", film photography

## SELECT POETRY

Mar. 2025 Artists-in-Residence "Poetry Hour" with Meg Whelan, Nerinx, KY

## READINGS &

Aug. 2025 byway books, Sunday Service: a creative communion punctuated by poetry, Louisville, KY

## PRESENTATIONS

Oct. 2025 Quilted Sounds Poetry Reading at The Woodbine Chamber, Louisville, KY

Nov. 2025 Loretto Link Annual Retreat: "We Will Be Saved by Beauty Poetry Hour," Nerinx, KY

2022/2024 "Living Your Creative Purpose" Presentation & Dramatic Reading, KY GSA, Lexington, KY

## CREATIVE

## WRITING

## TRAINING

### **Shaker Village Writing Workshop, "Writing as a Spiritual Practice," Winter 2025**

Fenton Johnson (Prose), Maurice Manning (Poetry)

### **Pauletta Hansel's Women's Writing Retreat at Knobs Haven, Summer 2025**

4-day generative writing retreat on the grounds of the Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse