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Fact Sheet for Playwrights West's *Licking Batteries* by Ellen Margolis

About the Author

Ellen Margolis is the Chair of Theatre & Dance at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Her plays include: *How to Draw Mystical Creatures* (2004 NY Fringe Festival Award for Excellence in Playwriting, 2004 Jane Chambers Finalist, produced by ToyBox Theatre, New York City, and Theatre Limina, St. Paul); *Trying Not to Stare* (workshop production, Portland Theatre Works through a grant from the Oregon Regional Arts & Culture Council); *Picking Up the Baby* (2006 NY International Fringe Festival); *American Soil* (produced by Vital Theatre, New York); *A Little Chatter* (commissioned and produced by Mile Square Theatre, Hoboken, New Jersey, produced by City Theatre, Miami, Florida, Finalist 2008 National 10-Minute Play Contest, forthcoming Playscripts, Inc.); *When It Stands Still* (produced by ToyBox Theatre); and other plays, produced throughout the United States. Ms. Margolis' play *Splasher*, part of *The Tripping Point*, a show Shaking the Tree commissioned of Playwright West's authors, won a Drammy Award for *Best Original Script*. Her monologues have appeared in the Smith & Kraus *Audition Arsenal* series, and she has edited two recent volumes: *Singular Voices: Monologues from the International Centre for Women Playwrights* and *The Politics of American Actor Training*. Ms. Margolis is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

About the Director

Ryan Reilly originally comes to the theatre as a professional actor. Over the past ten years, his notable regional theatre roles have included: Cliff in *Cabaret* (Music Theatre of CT); Antipholus in *The Boys From Syracuse*; Patrick in *Mame* (Drury Lane Chicago); and George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life the Radio Play*, (Alhambra Theatre). In recent years, Mr. Reilly has worked on the production side of the creative team, serving as: a co-adaptor and producer with his ensemble Toy Box Theatre in New York City; a director for the Summer Theatre of New Canaan; and a casting director for Filament Theatre in Chicago. Additionally, Mr. Reilly works as a teaching artist with many different East Coast institutions, including: STONC, Free Arts NYC, and Music Dance Theatre Workshops. Mr. Reilly holds a BFA from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he first met playwright Ellen Margolis, who has remained a friend, mentor, and artistic collaborator. Mr. Reilly is a member of Actors Equity Association.

About Playwrights West

Founded in 2009, Playwrights West, a professional theatre company composed of nine Portland playwrights known for the high quality of their work, focuses on presenting top-level productions of its members' work as well as supporting the development of original work in Portland. The nine member playwrights are: [Debbie Lamedman](#), [Karin Magaldi](#), [Ellen Margolis](#), [Steve Patterson](#), [Andrea Stolowitz](#), [Andrew Wardenaar](#), [Claire Willett](#), [Patrick Wohlmut](#), and [Matthew B. Zrebski](#). Drawing upon a growing national movement of playwrights taking the reins for productions of their work, Playwrights West seeks to introduce Portland audiences to compelling, innovative theatrical experiences, while engaging in a dialogue with the Portland theatre community about the rewards of presenting vital new plays by gifted local authors. Playwrights West believes staging new work proves essential to furthering Portland theatre's continued relevance to its audiences and the region's overall culture. New plays provide thrilling, unique evenings at the theatre, while exploring the complex dynamics of the 21st-century human condition. *Licking Batteries* marks Playwrights West second full play production in association with CoHo Productions, a premier supporter of new plays and original work.

All originals. All premieres. All Portland.