

CAREY PERLOFF is a director, playwright, producer, book author and educator who served as Artistic Director of CSC Repertory in New York from 1988- 1992 and of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco from 1992 to 2018. The youngest person ever chosen to lead a LORT theater, Perloff inherited an earthquake destroyed theater, a huge deficit, a struggling MFA program and a need to completely re-imagine the future of A.C.T. In addition to rebuilding the Geary Theater, reanimating ACT's educational programs, creating decades of vigorous, culturally diverse programming that had national impact and helping ACT's audiences and subscription base triple in size, Perloff oversaw the creation of a new second stage, The Strand, a multi-venue performance space that provides a home for new artists, new work, new audiences, and the many aspects of A.C.T.'s training programs. A passionate believer in education and community programs, Perloff helped forge deep relationships with Downtown Continuation Highschool and with the underserved Bayview and Tenderloin neighborhoods, where A.C.T. collaborated on numerous classes, performances and residencies. Her career has been informed by a lifelong quest for gender equity in the arts, culminating in a major study with the Wellesley Centers for Women on how to advance Women's Leadership in the LORT theater (2017) and how to prioritize child-care, mentoring and female advancement. Perloff's highly acclaimed book *Beautiful Chaos: A Life in the Theater* (City Lights Press, 2015) explores many of the ideas and issues that emerged during her tenure at A.C.T. and shares the journey of a woman in a leadership field often dominated by men. *Beautiful Chaos* was selected as the One City One Book "Big Read" by the San Francisco Public Library and was featured in programs and discussions in communities across the Bay Area and around the country throughout 2016. Her new book *Pinter and Stoppard: A Director's View* (Bloomsbury Methuen, February 2022) reveals the inner workings of the rehearsal process with two indelible playwrights with whom she collaborated most closely.

A longtime collaborator of Tom Stoppard's, Perloff staged the first American production of *Leopoldstadt* at the Huntington Theater in Boston (2024), for which she won the Elliot Norton Award for Best Director, and at the Shakespeare Theater in DC. In May 2026, she will restage her production of *Leopoldstadt* at the Writers Theater in Chicago. Perloff directed the New York premiere of *Indian Ink* at Roundabout Theatre Company (nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Revival) before bringing the show to A.C.T. She has collaborated with Stoppard on the West Coast premiere of *The Hard Problem* and the American premieres of *Indian Ink* and *The Invention of Love* as well as *Arcadia* (twice), *Rock 'n' Roll*, *Travesties*, *The Real Thing*, and *Night and Day*. Perloff is also a notable interpreter of Harold Pinter's work; productions include *The Birthday Party* (with Judith Ivey), *The Homecoming*, *Old Times*, *Celebration* and *The Room* (American Premiere), *Mountain Language* (American Premiere, CSC), and *The Collection* (Center Theater Group). Perloff's dance background has led to several movement-theater collaborations including *Tosca Café* and *Jekyll & Hyde* (created with choreographer Val Caniparoli) and *Fatherville* (created with Basil Twist, Stephen Buescher and Darron L. West) for The Strand.

One of Perloff's most significant directorial accomplishments has been *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, a world premiere commissioned by Perloff, co-produced with Theater Calgary, and adapted by Ursula Rami Sarna from the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini. *Suns* played to sold-out houses at theaters across America and Canada including A.C.T., The Old Globe, Seattle Rep, the Arts Club Vancouver, the Grand Theater (London, Ontario) and Arena Stage. Perloff's recent productions include an award-winning staging of Granville-Barker's landmark 1907 drama *Waste* (Marin Theater), the first American production *The Lehman Trilogy* (Huntington Theater and Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Best Director Award 2024), *As You Like It* (Santa Cruz Shakespeare 2024), Ibsen's *Ghosts* at Williamstown with Uma Thurman and at Seattle Rep with David Strathairn and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, *Home?* by Hend Ayoub at Z Space and 59E59 (NYC), *Private Lives* at the Stratford Festival (starring Geraint Wynn-Davies and Lucy Peacock), *Merchant of Venice* at the Shakespeare Company, Calgary (starring Seana McKenna as Shylock), *Pale Sister* by Colm Toibin at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, the West Coast premiere of 2018 Pulitzer Prize-winner Martyna Majok's *Queens* at the La Jolla Playhouse. Favorite productions include *Hamlet* (with John Douglas Thompson), *Testament* (with Seana McKenna), *Underneath the Lintel* (with David Strathairn), *Elektra* (Getty Villa), Beckett's *Endgame* and *Play* (with Bill Irwin), *Wajdi*

Mouawad's *Scorched*. For the Stratford Festival, she has also staged Racine's *Phedre* and Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman*.

Known for directing innovative productions of classics and championing new writing for the theater, Perloff has also directed José Rivera's *Boleros for the Disenchanted*; the world premieres of Philip Kan Gotanda's *After the War* and *Remember the I-Hotel*, David Lang/Mac Wellman's opera *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* (with Julia Migenes); her own adaptation (with Paul Walsh) of *A Christmas Carol*; newly-commissioned translations/ adaptations of *Hecuba*, *The Misanthrope*, *Enrico IV*, *Mary Stuart*, *Uncle Vanya*, *A Mother and The Voyage Inheritance* (adapted by David Mamet); and major revivals of *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *The Government Inspector*, *Happy End* (including a critically lauded cast album recording), *A Doll's House*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Antigone*, *Creditors*, *Home* and *The Tempest*. Perloff's work for A.C.T. also includes Marie Ndiaye's *Hilda*, the world premieres of Marc Blitzstein's *No for an Answer* and the West Coast premiere of her own play *The Colossus of Rhodes*.

Upcoming productions include *The Cherry Orchard* (Marin Theater, February 2026), *Leopoldstadt* (Writers Theater, May 2026) and *Oedipus Tyrannos/Colonus* (Playmakers Rep, September 2026).

Perloff is also an award-winning playwright. *Vienna, Vienna, Vienna* was a Finalist for the 2023 Jewish Play Prize, was developed at the Studios of Key West and the Colorado New Play Festival in 2025 and will premiere at Six Points Theater in St. Paul in April 2026. *If God Were Blue* was written on a Writing Residency at the Bogliasco Foundation and has been workshopped at the 2025 Denver New Play Summit (Chris Coleman, director), the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, WTF, New York Stage and Film, directed by Vivienne Benesch. *Edgardo or White Fire* was commissioned by the Williamstown Theater Festival and developed at Peoples Light and the Writers Theater. *Kinship* premiered at the Théâtre de Paris in October 2014 in a production starring Isabelle Adjani and Niels Schneider and was produced at the Williamstown Theater Festival in 2015, starring Cynthia Nixon and directed by Jo Bonney. *The Fit* (workshopped at New York Stage and Film, WTF and Kansas City Rep) premiered at San Francisco Playhouse in May 2019. *Higher* was developed at New York Stage and Film, won the 2011 Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation Theatre Visions Fund Award, was developed at the La Jolla Playhouse's DNA series and received its world premiere in February 2012 in San Francisco. *Waiting for the Flood* was developed at A.C.T., New York Stage and Film, and Roundabout Theatre. *Luminescence Dating*, which won the Bay Area Theater Critics' Best Original Script in 2007, premiered in New York at The Ensemble Studio Theatre, was coproduced by A.C.T. and Magic Theatre, and is published by Dramatists Play Service. *The Colossus of Rhodes* was workshopped at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, premiered at Lucille Lortel's White Barn Theatre, was a Finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, and was produced at A.C.T. in 2003.

Before joining A.C.T., Perloff was artistic director of Classic Stage Company in New York, where she directed the world premiere of Ezra Pound's *Elektra* (published by New Directions Press with Perloff's Introduction), the American premieres of Pinter's *Mountain Language* and Tony Harrison's *Phaedra Britannica* (with Rajika Puri and Sakina Jaffrey) and many classic works. Under Perloff's leadership, CSC won numerous OBIE Awards, including the 1988 OBIE for artistic excellence. In 1993, she directed the world premiere of Steve Reich and Beryl Korot's opera *The Cave* at the Vienna Festival and Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Perloff has collaborated with some of the finest actors in America including Olympia Dukakis, John Douglas Thompson, BD Wong, David Strathairn, Uma Thurman, Anika Noni Rose, Peter Reigert, Joe Morton, Wendell Pierce, Seana Mackenna, Marco Barricelli, Firdous Bamji, Judith Ivey, Art Malik, Bill Irwin, and many more. She has developed relationships with great international artists such as William Kentridge, Robert Wilson, Emma Rice, Peter Brook, Robert Lepage, Kim Collier and Morris Panych, introducing Bay Area artists to imaginative and experimental work from around the world.

A recipient of France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and the National Corporate Theatre Fund's 2007 Artistic Achievement Award, Perloff received a B.A. Phi Beta Kappa in Classics and Comparative Literature from Stanford University and was a Fulbright Fellow at St. Anne's College, Oxford. She received an Honorary Doctorate from University of San Francisco in 2017 and Honorary MFA from A.C.T. in 2018. She was on the faculty of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University for seven years, taught and directed in the A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program for twenty-five years, and continues to teach in theater programs and at universities across the country, currently in the MFA Directing Program at Columbia University. Perloff is on the board of the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Sarasota, Florida and frequently writes about and lectures on arts and culture, including at the Aspen Ideas Festival and at TedX San Francisco. Perloff frequently collaborates with the Ancient Art Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco on readings and rehearsals of ancient Greek tragedy and has created a new digital theater series for the British platform Digital Theatre + called *Rehearsing Greek Tragedy* which focusses on specific rehearsal strategies for Greek tragedy. She received a 2020 Director Commission from Seattle Repertory Theater to begin developing a major new staging of the *Oedipus* cycle with John Douglas Thompson which has been developed in two workshops at Red Bull Theater in NYC and will premiere at Playmakers Rep in September 2026. In November 2025, she received a second Residency at the Bogliasco Center in Liguria, Italy to write a book-length piece on exploring *Oedipus* in contemporary America.