



Scott Elmquist

**Nathaniel Shaw**, *artistic director of Virginia Repertory Theatre*

A New Jersey transplant, Shaw is the visionary behind one of central Virginia's largest theater companies and its ongoing institutional growth. This year, he directed the world premieres of "The End of War" and "River Ditty" and produced two new works, "Atlantis" and "In My Chair" (co-produced with Cadence Theater). A former associate choreographer on Broadway, where he worked on the Tony winner "Once," he's still got a pipeline to New York, meaning he's able to engage nationally recognized commercial producers, playwrights, composers and directors to come to Richmond —providing our amazing little theater scene with more top-notch exposure.

He's also elevating the role of dance in Richmond theater by fostering a collaboration with the Richmond Ballet and earning raves and award nominations for this year's production of "West Side Story." He clearly knows the value of partnerships with Richmond's major institutions, including Virginia Commonwealth University, from which he hired 30 students and professionals this last season. The future for Virginia Rep looks bright.