

TBTB
THEATER BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS
(FORMERLY THEATER BY THE BLIND)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S BIO

IKE SCHAMBELAN (Artistic Director) founded TBTB 32 years ago. He is proud to have built it into an Off-Broadway theater advancing the acceptance of disabled theater artists by showing them doing first class work. He has directed many production for the theater of which he's proud, most particularly his work trying to change the way the world does Shakespeare by going back to Elizabethan rules of much faster tempos that we're used to, audience address at any time not just in soliloquies, and doubling. He's done very successful productions of *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with 6 actors and *Romeo and Juliet*, "the two hours traffic of our stage" in 2 hours with 4 actors.

Other productions he's particularly proud of include Shaw's *Misalliance*, *Brecht on Brecht*, Ted Hughes's adaptation of Seneca's *Oedipus*, A.R. Gurney's *The Middle Ages* and *The Cocktail Hour*, world premieres of new plays and revues about blindness including *Whattaya Blind?!*, *Blinks* and *Blind Spots* and two NYC premieres of the work of vital disabled playwright, John Belluso, *The Rules of Charity* and *A Nervous Smile*. He has written three plays himself, produced by TBTB – two one acts, *Gus* and *In The Bin* and one full length, *When I'm 64*.

Ike has directed at the Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, The New Dramatists, Equity Library Theatre, the Long Wharf Theatre, the Pittsburgh Public Theater and the George Street Playhouse. He's been Artistic Director of the Touring/Children's Theatre at Long Wharf, the Woodstock Playhouse and the Austen Riggs Theatre. For five years he produced and directed radio and television commercials for Kenyon & Eckhardt Advertising, working on Ford, Macleans, Brylcreem and Nabisco. He is a member of Actors Equity and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. He has a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and a Doctor of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama.