**LESLIE ANN BENNETT**

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**SUMMARY**

20 years of successful experience in film and theatre spanning Campaign Publicity/Promotions, Special Events, Production, Administration, Operations and Staff Mentoring. Versatile individual who exudes energy, creativity, strengthened by solid practicality, reliability, management wherewithal, and supervisory acumen. Expertise in cultivating resources and “getting the right people” onboard for multiple roles and projects. Played an instrumental role in overseeing promotions and publicity for Warner Brother’s films: “*Happy Feet”, “August Rush”, “Letters from Iwo Jima”*, “*Phantom of the Opera*”,and overseeing complex international immigration/visa policies for Disney’s “*The Lion King”* for its overseas companies on behalf of the Disney Theatrical Group*.*

“Her initiative and willingness to take on challenges, along with her resourceful skill in thinking outside the box, led to the increasing expansion of her responsibilities and promotion to Manager of Labor Relations.” Robert W. Johnson, Senior Vice President, Labor Relations, Walt Disney Studios

**PROMOTIONS / PRODUCER AND OPERATIONS CONSULTING EXPERIENCE: 2015-2016**

* Consultant/Director of Operations, Digital Media Systems, New York, NY - Ensured higher profile visibility with social media links to Production Hub, LinkedIn, Mayor’s Office of Film & TV, and Screening Room pocket maps. Secured reporting infrastructure. Drafted business proposals.
* Serge PR Publicity Firm—special projects: advertising, recruitment
* Producer - arranged two screenings with Q&A sessions of “West Side Story” with Academy Award Winner, George Chakiris at the School of Visual Arts Theatre to benefit the C.H.A.R.G.E. Syndrome Foundation. “Without exception, everything went smoothly from start to finish.” G.C.
* Campaign Promoter, “Batoto Yetu” annual concert to raise awareness with TV/radio/internet
* Fundraising, Huru International-Clinton Global Initiative – pitching, donations and updates
* Audition Monitor, Actors’ Equity

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Warner Bros. New York, NY: 2002-2014**

**PICTURES PUBLICITY, Campaign Publicity/Special Events/Senior Administrator**

* Managed over 50 special receptions including promotions, hiring performers/animal trainers’ facilitated talent and press for the “*Harry Potter” franchise,* “*The Hobbit,” and “Happy Feet*.”
* Expanded publicity into new channels, established Grammy Foundation event with cast and creative for “*August Rush.”*
* Arranged for UN Ambassador Sakurai of Japan to attend NY VIP screening of “*Letters from Iwo Jima*,” translation services for its star Ken Watanabe, and special Japan Society WOM screening for “Speed Racer.”
* Orchestrated promotional campaigns for “*Letters from Iwo Jima” and “Phantom of the Opera.”*
* Recognized by Academy Award winning Producer and Director Ed Zwick for “diligently bringing about this incredible launch” of “*The Last Samurai”* including prior appearances by Hiroyuki Sanada and Ken Watanabe on the “Today Show”, accompanied by “Samurai Sword Soul.” Fostered a broad network of contacts at cultural and diplomatic institutions Asia Society, Town Hall, Carnegie Hall, Japan Society and the South African Embassy and South African Consulate.
* Managed the Warner Bros. screening room for outside bookings including not for profit events.
* Hired and managed all documentation for vendors/freelancers. Reconciled $7.5M in billing expenses for premieres, junkets, promotional events/stunts and niche campaigns. Oversaw 84 interns over 12 years for year-round internship program.
* Previously worked as Executive Assistant to VP, Creative Division for DC Comics and Executive Assistant to Executive VP, East Coast Media Sales for Domestic Television in support functions.

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**Disney/Buena Vista Theatrical Group, Ltd.: 1996-2001**

***Manager of Labor Relations - Beauty and the Beast (NY, US Tour, The Lion King
(New York, Los Angeles), Hunchback of Notre Dame, Hoops, Aida (New York, US Tour), Carnival.***

**Collective Bargaining/Contract Administration**

* Negotiated and tracked contracts/buy-outs with SAG & AFTRA, Actors’ Equity, United Scenic Artists, Local 802 Musicians, Local 306 Projectionists for all Disney theatrical productions including “Bravo Profiles, Julie Taymor,” “Bravo Network’s Pride Rock Project,” “Wonderful World of Disney” and Fuji TV’s “Salute to Broadway.” Worked with business agents to resolve issues of safety, rehearsal pay, additional performances and diplomacy issues. Tracked cast album royalties for “*Aida,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Lion King.”*
* **The Lion King (New York, Toronto, London, Los Angeles, Hamburg)**
* Recognized for outstanding work by Lebo Morake, Lion King Composer, “I came to respect her for her passion, integrity, humor and the way she approached all aspects of the job. She went above and beyond in her work with so many actors around the world. I nicknamed her the Ambassadress of Goodwill.”
* Organized, planned and orchestrated South African singing master classes. Auditioned South Africans in South Africa with composer Lebo M.
* Planned/prepared all background information/questionnaires for visa/work permits for South Africans in all international companies; conducted a “diligent search” for employment authorization. Researched/negotiated with foreign embassies and consulates and assembled required documentation.
* Assisted South Africans in travel logistics. Established protocol and procedure with management for South Africans’ arrival in a new city such as bank accounts housing, transportation, contracts, currency, taxes. etc.
* Collaborated with company management and business affairs on rider language and sign off on all equity contracts riders.
* Attended weekly production meetings for The Lion King to provide support and updates on pending labor issues.
* Managed all interns for the theatrical division.

**EDUCATION**

Bowling Green State University, B.M.E. Musical Arts

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Previously worked as a musical performance artist and at Radio City Music Hall on the Christmas show, major awards shows and with several charitable organizations.

Microsoft Office Suite/Quickbooks