

Oren Safdie was born in Montreal and attended St. George's High School before heading to New York where he graduated from Columbia University with master's in architecture and creative Writing, which was followed by his off-Broadway / London hit, PRIVATE JOKES, PUBLIC PLACES. (*The Wall Street Journal* named it as one of the top ten plays of the decade.) Other Montreal / NY productions include THE LAST WORD, GRATITUDE, UNSEAMLY, JEWS & JESUS, FALSE SOLUTION, THE BILBAO EFFECT and LA COMPAGNIE, which he developed into a pilot for CBS. (5 of his productions were NY Times Critic's Picks.) As a screenwriter, Oren wrote YOU CAN THANK ME LATER (Best New Feature, Newport Film Festival) with Ellen Burstyn and Amanda Plummer; BITTERSWEET (Wolgin Prize, JFF), THE MAN WHO SAVED THE INTERNET WITH A SUNFLOWER (Best in Show, IndieFest), and LUNCH HOUR, with Thomas Middleditch, Krysta Rodriguez and Alan Cumming.