# **Mark Jackson**

**Theatre Maker + Teacher** 

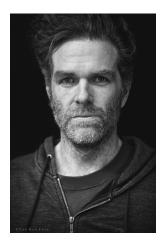
# **CONTACT**

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# **DIRECTING + MAKING** (selected)

- 2019 KILL THE DEBBIE DOWNERS! KILL THEM! KILL THEM! KILL THEM OFF! devised from Chekhov's Three Sisters. Co-directed with Beth Wilmurt. The Shotgun Players, Berkeley.
- 2017 The Black Rider by William S. Burroughs & Tom Waits. The Shotgun Players, Berkeley.
- 2016 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee. The Shotgun Players.
- 2016 Hamlet by William Shakespeare. The Shotgun Players.
- 2016 Little Erik by Mark Jackson. Adapted from Ibsen. Aurora Theatre Company, Berkeley.
- 2015 + 16 *Now For Now* devised + performed w/ Megan Trout. Z Space, San Francisco, 2015. Shotgun BLAST Theatre Festival, Berkeley, 2016.
- 2015 Antigonick by Anne Carson. Co-directed w/ Hope Mohr. The Shotgun Players.
- 2014 The Letters by John Lowell. Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2013 Bonnie & Clyde by Adam Peck. The Shotgun Players.
- 2013 The Beauty Queen of Leenane by Martin McDonagh. Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley.
- 2013 The Arsonists by Max Frisch. Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2012 Woyzeck by Georg Büchner / Tom Waits / Robert Wilson. The Shotgun Players.
- 2012 Salomania by Mark Jackson. Commissioned + produced by Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2011 God's Plot by Mark Jackson. Commissioned + produced by The Shotgun Players.
- 2011 Wallflower. Original dance-theater piece. San Francisco State University.
- 2011 Metamorphosis by David Farr & Gísli Örn Gardarsson. Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2011 Al Saiyid. Devised piece based on Corneille's Le Cid. American Conservatory Theater MFA Program, San Francisco.
- 2011 The Companion Piece. Collectively devised. Z Space.
- 2010 *Mary Stuart* by Mark Jackson. Adapted from Schiller. Commissioned + produced by The Shotgun Players.

#### **DIRECTING + MAKING continued**

- 2010 JULIET. Dance-theater based on Romeo & Juliet. San Francisco State University.
- 2009 Faust Pt1 by Mark Jackson. Adapted from Goethe. Co-directed w/ Kevin Clarke. The Shotgun Players.
- 2009 Miss Julie by August Strindberg. Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2008 Macbeth by William Shakespeare. The Shotgun Players.
- 2008 Machinal by Sophie Treadwell. San Francisco State University.
- 2008 *Don Juan* by Mark Jackson. Adapted from Moliere + Pushkin. San Francisco State University.
- 2007 + 08 Yes Yes to Moscow. Dance-theater based on Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. Collectively devised. Co-directed w/ Sommer Ulrickson. Deutsches Theater Berlin, 2007. San Francisco International Arts Festival, 2008.
- 2007 The Orphan Muses by Michel Marc Bouchard. American Conservatory Theater MFA.
- 2007 American \$uicide by Mark Jackson. Adapted from Nikolai Erdman's The Suicide. Encore Theatre Company, San Francisco.
- 2006 The Forest War by Mark Jackson. The Shotgun Players.
- 2006 Salome by Oscar Wilde. Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2005 The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht. American Conservatory Theater MFA.
- 2003 + 04 *The Ecstasy of Saint Whatshername*. Original dance piece created w/ Chris Black. Performed by Chris Black. POTRZEBIE Dance Project in residence at ODC, San Francisco
- 2003 The Death of Meyerhold by Mark Jackson. The Shotgun Players.
- 2001 + 02 *Io Princess of Argos!* By Marci Karr (music, lyrics) + Mark Jackson (lyrics, book). Art Street Theatre, San Francisco, 2001. Encore Theatre Company, 2002.
- 2001 Kissing Christine by John Patrick Shanley. Theatre Valentine, Monterey, CA.
- 2000 Messenger #1 by Mark Jackson. Adapted from Aeschylus' Oresteia. Art Street Theatre.
- 2000 The Lost Plays of Jacques du Bon Temps. Collectively devised. Commissioned + produced by EXIT Theatre.
- 1999 BANG! by Mark Jackson. Art Street Theatre.
- 1998 Brave by Mark Jackson. Art Street Theatre.
- 1997 A Sixth of Streetcar. Devised piece created w/ Beth Wilmurt. Commissioned + produced by EXIT Theatre.
- 1996 + 97 *R&J* by Mark Jackson. Dance-theater adapted from Shakespeare. Art Street Theatre.
- 1995 Salome by Oscar Wilde. Art Street Theatre.
- 1995 *little extremes* by Mark Jackson. Art Street Theatre.

#### **DIRECTING + MAKING continued**

Various new play workshops + staged readings for: American Conservatory Theater, Crowded Fire Theater Company, Cutting Ball Theater, EXIT Theatre, Magic Theatre, Playground, and Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco. Capital Stage, Sacramento. English Theatre Berlin and Mime Centrum Berlin, Germany. Details upon request.

# **PLAYWRITING** (directed by the author unless otherwise noted)

- 2016 Little Erik. Adapted from Ibsen. Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2012 Salomania. Commissioned + produced by Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2011 God's Plot. Commissioned + produced by The Shotgun Players.
- 2010 Mary Stuart. Adapted from Schiller. Commissioned + produced by The Shotgun Players.
- 2009 Faust Pt1. Adapted from Goethe. Co-directed w/ Kevin Clarke. The Shotgun Players.
- 2008 Don Juan. Adapted from Moliere + Pushkin. San Francisco State University.
- 2007 American \$uicide. Adapted from Nikolai Erdman's The Suicide. Encore Theatre Company.
- 2006 The Forest War. The Shotgun Players.
- 2003 *The Death of Meyerhold*. Commissioned + produced by The Shotgun Players.

  Subsequently produced by The Studio Theatre, Washington DC, 2005; directed there by Rick Simas.
- 2002 I Am Hamlet. Art Street Theatre. Directed by Kevin Clarke.
- 2001 *Io Princess of Argos!* Music (+ lyrics co-written) by Marci Karr. Art Street Theatre. Subsequently produced by Encore Theatre Company, 2002.
- 2000 Messenger #1. Adapted from Aeschylus' Oresteia. Art Street Theatre. Subsequently produced by The Catamounts, Denver, CO, 2012; directed there by Amanda Berg Wilson.
- 1999 *Megan and the Magic Compass*. Commissioned + produced by II Teatro 450, San Francisco. Directed by Meredith Eldred.
- 1999 BANG! Art Street Theatre. Subsequently produced by The Play Café, UK.\*\*
- 1998 Brave. Art Street Theatre. Subsequently produced by PCPA, California, 2003.\*\*
- 1996 *R&J.* Art Street at EXIT Theatre's San Francisco Fringe Festival. Subsequently produced by Art Street Theatre in a full-length run, 1997.
- 1995 little extremes. Art Street Theatre at EXIT Theatre's San Francisco Fringe Festival.

## **ACTING**

- 2015 + 16 Now For Now. Devised + performed w/ Megan Trout. Z Space, 2015. Shotgun BLAST Theatre Festival, 2016.
- 2009 Faust Pt1. Faust. The Shotgun Players.

<sup>\*\*</sup>director unknown

## **ACTING** continued

- 2007 + 08 Yes Yes to Moscow, dance-theatre based on Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. The Man at the Desk. Deutsches Theatre Berlin, 2007. S.F. International Arts Festival, 2008.
- 2002 I Am Hamlet. Hamlet. Art Street Theatre.
- 2000 The Lost Plays of Jacques du Bon Temps, devised piece. Zaah Man. EXIT Theatre.
- 1998 Brave. Andrew. Art Street Theatre.
- 1997 A Sixth of Streetcar, devised piece. Stanley/Mitch. EXIT Theatre.
- 1996 + 97 R&J. Tybalt/Capulet. Art Street Theatre.
- 1994 A Little Extreme, solo monologue. Arts International Festival IV, Japan.

# **TEACHING**

2001 → Present - American Conservatory Theatre. Core faculty in the San Francisco Semester program. Adjunct Faculty in the MFA and Summer Training Congress programs. Director of Studio A.C.T. since 2017. Classes taught include:

- Performance Making. San Francisco Semester program, undergraduate level course. 3 Units. Fall and Spring semesters since 2014. Practical course in theatre making practices, incorporating making exercises with formal research into existing international artists. Students each write a 2000-word paper and collectively devise a fifteen-minute final performance.
- **Performance Making.** MFA program, graduate level course. 3 units. Every Fall since 2016. Also Spring 2010. Practical course in theatre making practices with making exercises resulting in a thirty-minute student generated performance.
- Movement For Actors. Summer Training Congress program, undergraduate level courses. 1 & 2 units. 2008 to the present. Five-week (2 units) and two-week (1 unit) summer intensives in practical movement skills for actors, incorporating Viewpoints and Meyerhold's system of Biomechanics.
- **Dynamic Movement.** Studio A.C.T. program, undergraduate level course. 2 units. Taught ten courses since 2001. Eight-week course in practical movement skills for actors, incorporating Viewpoints and Meyerhold's system of Biomechanics.
- **Devised Theatre.** Studio A.C.T. program, undergraduate level course. 2 units. Taught three courses from 2010 and 2012. Ten-week course in theatre making practices.
- Productions. Units not applicable. As a guest artist I directed three productions between 2005 and 2011, including *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht, *The Orphan Muses* by Michel Marc Bouchard, and *Al Saiyid*, a devised piece based on Pierre Corneille's *Le Cid*. (See also "DIRECTING + MAKING")
- Scene Study Classes. Studio A.C.T. program, undergraduate level courses. 1 unit. Ongoing since 2018. Also Spring 2006. Eight-week practical courses focused on plays by specific playwrights, approached with a physical emphasis to the acting.

## **TEACHING** continued

2012 → 2017 - California Institute of Integral Studies (USA) in conjunction w/ the University of Chichester (UK). Hired in 2012 by University of Chichester as the local lead consultant to help establish a Theatre-Performance Making MFA program in San Francisco. Core Faculty of the TPM MFA from 2015-17. MFA-level classes taught include:

- **Professional Project: Festival.** 6 units. Fall 2016 & Spring 2017. Students create performances and produce a four-day festival at a local professional venue. Alongside their own work they present other local and UK artists. Students work with a \$20K budget and are responsible for all administrative duties.
- **Production Two.** 6 units. Co-taught w/ Erika Chong Shuch. Spring 2016. Practical course in theatre making practices. Following on Production One, students continue to develop their individual practice, culminating in a public sharing of a finished work at the renowned San Francisco alternative performance venue, CounterPULSE.
- Professional Portfolio One. 3 units. Co-taught w/ Erika Chong Shuch. Spring 2016.
  Seminar course in which students develop a practical verbal and written articulation
  of their art and practice alongside an understanding of certain business aspects of
  the profession, including grant writing and use of online media; Students identify and
  research three like-minded artists and write a 2500-word paper summarizing those
  artists within the context of the course's subject, while also articulating the student's
  own anticipated business model and path.
- Intro to Theatre-Performance Making. 3 units. Co-taught w/ Louie Jenkins. Fall 2015/16. Two-week fulltime intensive in performance making practices, incorporating theoretical research, culminating in a public sharing of work at Z Space / A.C.T.
- **Production One.** 6 units. Co-taught w/ Erika Chong Shuch. Fall 2015. Practical course in theatre making practices in which students explore existing practices as a starting point toward developing their individual practice, culminating in a public sharing of work-in-progress at the San Francisco multi-arts venue, PianoFight.
- Theatre-Performance Making Summer Intensive. June 23 to July 6, 2014. Cotaught w/ Louie Jenkins. Two-week fulltime intensive in performance making practices culminating in a public sharing of work at Z Space.

2006 → 2015 - San Francisco State University Theatre Department. Adjunct Faculty and Guest Artist. Undergraduate-level classes taught include:

- Movement One. 3 units. Taught eleven semesters from 2006 and 2015. Semesterlong course in practical movement skills for actors, incorporating Viewpoints and Composition, culminating in 10-minute student-created performances inspired by a classic text.
- Productions. 4 units for actors. 1 unit for crew. As a guest artist I directed four main stage productions between 2008 and 2011, including *Don Juan* by Moliere and Pushkin, *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell, and two full scale original dance-theatre pieces, *JULIET* and *Wallflower*. (See also "DIRECTING + MAKING")
- **Contemporary Theatre Makers.** 1 unit. Spring 2011, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of S.F.S.U. Seminar surveying significant contemporary theatre makers.

## TEACHING, S.F.S.U. continued

- Principles of Directing. 3 units. Spring 2007. Semester-long course in practical skills for theatre directing, incorporating exercises in staging practices, seminars in contemporary theatre directors and aesthetic modes, script analysis, and organizing director production books, culminating in directed projects based on Aeschylus' Oresteia.
- **Movement Two.** 3 units. Spring 2006. Semester-long course in practical movement skills for actors, incorporating Viewpoints and Meyerhold's Biomechanics, culminating in scene-study of plays by Gogol.

2010 + 11 + 15 - Playground. One-night adult playwriting seminars.

2013 - University of Chichester (UK). Two-week fulltime performance-making intensive at Z Space, San Francisco. Co-taught w/ Louie Jenkins.

2006 + 10 + 11 + 12 - University of San Francisco Performing Arts & Social Justice **Department.** Adjunct Faculty. Undergraduate-level classes taught include:

- Acting for Non-Majors. 3 units. Spring 2012. Semester-long course in practical acting skills for non-actors. Students engaged in acting exercises, wrote a 1500-word paper and performed monologues and scenes from two plays.
- Acting III: Viewpoints. 3 units. Spring 2011. Semester-long course using Viewpoints as a basis for developing the actor's versatility and control of movement as it relates to acting, culminating in student-created movement pieces inspired by a classic text.
- Playwriting. 3 units. Spring 2006 and Fall 2010. Semester-long course in script analysis and playwriting. Students learn practical playwriting and analysis skills through a study of five plays selected to cover a range of styles. Culminates in student-written one-act plays.

2010 - Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Ten-week practical workshop in Meyerhold's Biomechanics.

1989 → 2000 + 2010 - Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp, El Dorado County, California. Taught fourteen week-long courses in acting, playwriting, and improvisation. Ages 11-17.

2005 + 2007 - Mime Centrum Berlin, Germany. Week-long fulltime workshops in Viewpoints.

2005 - Universität der Künste Berlin Theater Pedagogy Department, Germany. Semesterlong MA-level course using Viewpoints as a basis for developing the actor's versatility and control of movement as it relates to acting, culminating in student-created movement pieces inspired by a classic text.

2004 - Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Berkeley. Ten-week practical course in theatre directing, covering script analysis and staging practices.

1996  $\rightarrow$  2004 - Art Street Theatre. Annual one- to three-week workshops in practices used by the company, including Viewpoints, Biomechanics, *buto* dance, and physical acting.

2003 - Crowded Fire Theatre Company, San Francisco. Weekend intensive in Biomechanics.

## **TEACHING** continued

1994 + 96 + 01 - El Dorado Union High School District, California. One-day physical acting workshops, ages 14-18.

1994 + 95 - Ota English School, Japan. Classes of varying length. English, Voice, and Improvisation. Ages 14-65.

# **PUBLISHED**

## BOOKS...

- 2017 Playing HAMLET Roulette: Failure, Expectation, Possibility & Democracy. San Francisco: Exit Press.
- 2017 Little Erik. San Francisco: EXIT Press. My contemporary adaptation of Ibsen's Little Eyolf. Originally produced by Aurora Theatre Company. Foreword by Mariah Castle.
- 2012 THREE PLAYS. San Francisco: EXIT Press. Includes the plays God's Plot, Mary Stuart, and Salomania. Foreword by Patrick Dooley, artistic director of The Shotgun Players.
- 2010 TEN PLAYS. San Francisco: EXIT Press. Includes the plays American \$uicide, BANG!, Brave, The Death of Meyerhold, Faust Pt1, The Forest War, I Am Hamlet, little extremes, Messenger #1 and R&J. Foreword by Rob Avila, theatre critic, San Francisco Bay Guardian.
- 2000 THEATREWORK Art Street Theatre and the American Fringe. San Francisco: Art Street Theatre. Essays detailing Art Street Theatre's first five years of work. Includes the plays BANG!, little extremes and R&J.

#### ARTICLES...

- 2016 "He Said, She Said, and Then They Made a Show Together." Article in the form of a scripted interview, co-authored w/ Megan Trout. *American Theatre* magazine online edition. February 23. http://www.americantheatre.org/2016/02/23/he-said-she-said-and-then-they-made-a-show-together
- 2014 "Making the American Theatre More Festive." *Theatre Bay Area* magazine. September/October issue.
- 2014 "Dialogue, Diversity, and Quality a report from the Sibiu International Theatre Festival." Howlround.com. July 1. http://howlround.com/dialogue-diversity-and-quality-a-report-from-the-sibiu-international-theatre-festival
- 2014 "An Ideal Theatre." *TCGCircle.org.* January 31. http://www.tcgcircle.org/2014/01/an-ideal-theatre-mark-jackson
- 2013 "An International MFA in Theatre-Performance Making" *Theatre Bay Area* magazine online edition. March 8. http://www.theatrebayarea.org/news/news.asp?id=163277&hhSearchTerms=%22Mark+and+Jackson%22
- 2012 "Criticism! Eeek! Run! Run!" *Howlround.com*. March 28. http://howlround.com/criticism-eeek-run-run
- 2011 "Concerning Safety, or...?" Theatre Bay Area magazine. June issue.

#### ARTICLES continued

- 2011 "Eat, Drink, and Talk Seriously About the Theatre." *Howlround.com.* October 16. http://howlround.com/eat-drink-and-talk-seriously-about-the-theatre
- 2009 "Bloody Theatre for Bloody Times." Theatre Bay Area magazine. July issue.
- 2008 "Playwrights Speak Up." Theatre Bay Area magazine. March issue.
- 2006 "Viewpoints improvising the search for objectivity and possibility." *Korrespondenzen: Zeitschrift für Theatrepädagogik*, Germany. October issue.
- 2003 "Towards a \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre." *Callboard* magazine. June issue.
- 2003 "Thinking Like a Director." *Dramatics* magazine. March issue.
- 2002 "Uncle Vanya We Must Work" Callboard magazine. June issue.
- 2000 "King of the House" Callboard magazine. February issue.

# <u>AWARDS + GRANTS + HONORS</u>

- 2017 Honorary Master of Fine Arts in Theatre-Performance Making from California Institute of Integral Studies.
- 2016 Bridging the Gap grant from The Shotgun Players.
- 2015 + 14 Zellerbach Family Foundation grants supporting the development of Now For Now
- 2014 Kenneth Rainin Foundation Visibility Award supporting the development of Now For Now
- 2013 Playwright in residence, English Theatre Berlin, Germany.
- 2012 God's Plot named "Best Play" by the East Bay Express in its annual "Best of" issue.
- 2011 Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award for *Salomania*, commissioned by Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2011 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Direction, *Metamorphosis*, at Aurora Theatre Company.
- 2009 Faust Pt1 named "Best Theatrical Production" of 2009 by East Bay Express "Best Of" reader's poll.
- 2009 Named "Best Director" of 2009 by East Bay Express.
- 2007 Theatre Bay Area C.A.\$.H. Grant supporting my participation as director and performer of *Yes Yes to Moscow*, a dance-theatre collaboration with choreographer Sommer Ulrickson at Deutches Theatre Berlin, Germany.
- 2007 + 00 + 96 SF Weekly annual "Best of San Francisco" lists. Best Theatrical Auteur, 2007. Best Experimental Theatre Company, Art Street Theatre, 2000. Best Stage Production, *R&J*, 1996.
- 2006 Magic Theatre / Z Space New Works Initiative commission to write American \$uicide.
- 2006 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Production, *Salome*, at Aurora Theatre Company.

#### AWARDS + GRANTS + HONORS continued

- 2005 German Chancellor Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, providing a residency in Berlin, Germany, from July 2004 to November 2005, to observe and work w/ Mime Centrum Berlin as well as other theatre organizations and artists. Three-month fellowship resumptions were subsequently awarded to me in 2007 and 2013.
- 2004 Pen Center USA Literary Award Finalist, Drama category, The Death of Meyerhold.
- 2004 Named "Best Director" of 2004 by East Bay Express.
- 2004 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Original Script, *The Death of Meyerhold*, at The Shotgun Players.
- 2003 Playwright in Residence, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA.
- 2003 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Honorary Fellowship in recognition of my residency at the Djerassi Resident Artist Program.
- 2002 Theatre Bay Area C.A.S.H. Grant supporting my writing The Death of Meyerhold.
- 2002 Named one of the "Top 100 Bay Area Artists" by San Francisco Magazine, September.
- 2002 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Outstanding Original Script, *I Am Hamlet*, at Art Street Theatre.
- 2001 SF Bay Guardian Goldie Award for sustained achievement with Art Street Theatre.
- 2001 + 00 + 99 SF Bay Guardian Upstage/Downstage Awards for Outstanding Production. *Io Princess of Argos*, 2001. *The Lost Plays of Jacques du Bon Temps*, 2000. *BANG!*, 1999.
- 1999 Theatre Bay Area C.A.S.H. Grant supporting Art Street Theatre's Messenger #1.

# **EDUCATION**

- 1994 → Present All of the above.
- 2000 → 2005 Annual two- to three-week intensives in Meyerhold's Biomechanics w/ Gennadi Bogdanov (GITIS, Moscow) in San Francisco and Berlin, Germany.
- 1996 → 98 Annual month-long intensives in Viewpoints and the Suzuki Method of Actor Training w/ the Saratoga International Theatre Institute.
- 1995 → 97 various weekend and two-week intensives in buto dance w/ Maureen Flemming.
- 1989 → 94 San Francisco State University. Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Directing. Magna Cum Laude. Member of Golden Key National Honor Society. Theatre Arts Department Award for Outstanding Achievement in Directing.
- 1971 → Present Living

# **REFERENCES**

- Melissa Smith, Conservatory Director, American Conservatory Theatre. wrk (415) 439-2413. Email mysmith@act-sf.org
- Carolyn Cooke, MFA Department Chair, California Institute of Integral Studies. wrk (415) 575-3485. Email ccooke@ciis.edu
- Ben Francombe, Head of Department, University of Chichester Theatre Department (UK). Email b.francombe@chi.ac.uk
- Erika Chong Shuch, Choreographer + Core Faculty at California Institute of Integral Studies. cell (415) 307-0725. Email erikachongshuch@gmail.com
- Patrick Dooley, Artistic Director, The Shotgun Players.
   wrk (510) 841-6500 x300. Email pdooley@shotgunplayers.org
- Lisa Steindler, Artistic Director, Z Space and Encore Theatre Company.
   cell (415) 336-7027. Email lsteindler@zspace.org