

# Jacob Zimmer

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**theatre maker, process designer, dramaturge, facilitator**

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Born in Cape Breton and growing up in Halifax, Jacob now lives in Toronto and has worked across the country. He is the founding director of Small Wooden Shoe, and works as a dance dramaturge, teaches workshops, does talks, coaches, designs and facilitates meetings.

## company affiliations

- 2001- **Small Wooden Shoe** – Founding Director.  
a (mostly) theatre company bent on relieving alienation by proving that good ideas are entertaining and that pleasure and reflection require each other. [smallwoodenshoe.org](http://smallwoodenshoe.org)
- 2016- **Intervene Design** – Process designer and facilitator at a process design studio and consultancy.
- 2014- **Banff Centre Peter Lougheed Leadership Institute** – Faculty and designer.  
Designing and delivering programs for diverse groups of people working on difficult problems.
- 2005- **Public Recordings/Ame Henderson** – On-going dramaturgical collaboration with occasional forays into performing.
- 2008-14 **Dancemakers** – Dramaturge & Animateur. Full-time 2008-2011.  
Dancemakers is a contemporary dance company in Toronto. [dancemakers.org](http://dancemakers.org)
- 2005-9 **Hub 14** – Co-director.  
Hub 14 is a performance and rehearsal studio in Toronto. [hub14.org](http://hub14.org)

## theatre conception/direction/co-creation (selected - all produced by Small Wooden Shoe unless noted)

- On-going **The Fun Palace Radio Variety Show**. Created and host. [funpalce.ca](http://funpalce.ca)
- 2014 **Summer Spectacular**. Conceived, directed, performed. Outdoor storytelling and giant puppet show. Toronto Fringe Festival.
- 2014/2012 **Antigone Dead People** by Evan Webber. Direction and concept. Prototype in Toronto and performed in Tokyo.
- 2012-13 **Difficult Plays and Sings Simple Songs** Conception/Direction. Various locations in Toronto.
- 2011/2005 **Perhaps in a Hundred Years** Conceived/co-created and performed. 2012: OFFTA, Montreal; 2011/2005: HUB 14, Toronto 2005: Khyber Centre for the Arts, Halifax; Third Space Gallery, Saint John; and Cafe Esperanza, Montreal.
- 2010 **Life of Galileo** by Bertold Brecht. Co-Directed with Brendan Healy and Co-translated with Birgit Schreyer Duarte Convocation Hall. With the assistance of Canadian Stages' Festival of Ideas and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. A fund raiser for the Actors Fund of Canada in thanks to Tracy Wright.
- 2009 **Dedicated to the Revolutions** Conceived, directed and performed. A Small Wooden Shoe / High Performance Rodeo Co-Production in association with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. 2008/09 season, Toronto; Touring: 2011: SuperNova, Halifax; 2010: Canoe Festival, Edmonton; High Performance Rodeo, Calgary; Magnetic North Theatre Festival, Kitchener-Waterloo.

## process design, facilitation

- 2016 **New Fundamentals in Creative Ecology**. Co-designer, facilitator. Full year engagement with two residencies with cultural leaders working towards better approaches to leadership.
- 2016 - **Arts consulting / facilitation**. Working with independent companies on systems and strategy. Example companies: bCurrent, TO Love-in.
- 2015 **Through the Looking Glass** Co-lead designer, facilitator. Four day process at the Banff Centre on curiosity and creativity.
- 2015 **Hope Decoded** Co-lead designer, facilitator. Five day process at the Banff Centre for fifty people from across disciplines to develop strategies for increasing the capacity for hope.
- 2015-2016 **Toronto Cultural Leaders Lab**. Designer, facilitator. Partnered program between Toronto Arts Council and Banff Centre.
- 2009-on-going **Unconference on the Future(s) of Toronto Performance**. Conception and planning of regular one day intervention in Toronto performance ecology. Past co-hosts: Canadian Stage, Dancemakers, Art Gallery of Ontario.
- 2012-on-gong **Facilitator – MASS LBP**. Table facilitation at public and sector based consultations.
- 2012 **Support Group Facilitator – AIDS Committee of Toronto**. Peer-led support group for people living with HIV/AIDS.

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- 2010-13 **Upper Toronto** Lead concept developer / facilitator. A science fiction urban design and consultation process. Toronto.
- 2009-2012 **Thinking Out Loud: A Study Group.** Planning and Facilitation a monthly reading group hosted by Dancemakers.
- 2011 **Open Space facilitator/co-ordination – Literary Managers and Dramaturges of the Americas.** Denver Conference.
- 2005-7 **Founder, administration – Not Quite, A Think Tank: Thinking out loud.** On-line forum.
- 2004 **Curator/Organizer – Fragile Positions.** Panel discussion on contemporary performance. The Khyber, Halifax.
- 2003 **Curator/Organizer – Howl: A Festival of Art and Revolution.** 3 day festival of events and workshops. The Khyber, Halifax.

## speaking and research (selected)

- 2014- **Urgy Podcast.** A semi-regular conversation about art and leadership with Vicki Stroich (previously co-hosted by Adrienne Wong.)
- 2012 **Guest speaker – Populism and Affect.** Cosponsored by the University of Waterloo's Departments of English and Drama.
- 2012 **"Pop-up Democracy and the City."** Panelist – York University City Centre / Goethe Institute.
- 2011 **"Outreach and Curation."** Panelist and facilitator, Canadian Arts Presenting Association (CAPACOA) Conference.
- 2011 **Research Chair – Toronto Fringe Festival.** Research and speaking: "A Populism We Can Stand Behind."
- 2011 **Closing plenary speaker – Society for Dance History Scholars Annual Conference.** Toronto Conference.
- 2008 **"Dance engagement and technology"** Panelist – Canadian Dance Assembly.
- 2008 **Keynote speaker – Performance Creation Canada Halifax.** A national meeting for performance makers across disciplines.
- 2006 **Participant – BASH!: Emerging Artist Program.** Canadian Stage Company artist development program.

## teaching (selected)

- On-going **Ideosyncratic Performance Makers.** On going series of workshops. An idiosyncratic mix of Viewpoints, Laban, physical theatre and creation – based on work of Small Wooden Shoe and in contemporary dance.
- 2013 **Context Seminar.** A six week seminar for artists and the curious. On contemporary Western theatre and influence. In partnership with Videofag.

## writing (selected)

- 2009- **The Mangle** Personal site about theatre, working and occasional tech talk. [smallwoodenshoe.org/mangle](http://smallwoodenshoe.org/mangle)
- 2017 **Writing for Listening.** Canadian Theatre Review #168, Reviews Editor: Paul Hafferty.
- 2013 **Friendship is no day job.** Canadian Theatre Review #155, Editor: Pil Hansen.
- 2010 **And in the future...** with Marie Claire Forté. Canadian Theatre Review #145, Editors: Bruce Barton and Pil Hansen.
- 2006 **Admitting Where I'm At** Canadian Theatre Review #126, Editors: Laura Nanni, Andy Houston.
- 2006 **11 Conversation Starters for Small Wooden Shoe C:** International Contemporary Art, Editor: Rosemary Heather.
- 2004 **All Statements Are Insecure Questions** Canadian Theatre Review #119 Editors: DD Kugler, Brian Quirt.

## dance dramaturgy / creation / performance (selected)

- 2013 **loveloss.** Dancemakers, Dramaturge. Choreographer: Michael Trent. Touring: Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa.
- 2011 **Story Dance Radio in Jacob & Nova** Choreographer. Shared bill with Nova Bhattacharya. Produced by Dancemakers.
- 2010 **Dancemakers ResearchLAB** Monitor. Choreographer: Nova Bhattacharya
- 2010 **relay** Public Recordings, Dramaturge. Choreographer: Ame Henderson. Toronto. Touring: Edmonton; Vancouver; Montreal
- 2009 **It's about time** Dancemakers, Dramaturge. Choreographer: Trent. Toronto. Touring: Kitchener; Montreal; Vancouver
- 2006 **/Dance/Songs/** Public Recordings, Dramaturge. Choreographer: Ame Henderson. Toronto. Touring: Montreal; Terni, Italy; St. John's; Halifax.

2005 **Manual for Incidence** (Public Recordings, Dramaturge. Choreographer: Ame Henderson. Toronto. Touring: Montreal.

## education

BFA Theatre **Simon Fraser University, School for the Contemporary Arts** (SFU,SCA). Vancouver.  
 Primary faculty: DD Kugler (Directing, Dramaturgy); Penelope Stella (Acting, Directing, Playmaking, Clown-through-mask);  
 Marc Diamond (Acting, Playmaking, Story Structure.) Course work complete 1999. Degree conferred 2009.

## major professional development / training (selected)

2016 **Waterloo Institute For Social Innovation And Resilience.** *Getting to Maybe.* 28 day residency at Banff Centre.  
 2012 **Misha Glouberman.** *How to Talk to People About Things.* Negotiation and communication. Hart House, Toronto, ON.  
 2011 **AIDS Committee of Toronto.** Process based facilitation and Core Skills. Toronto.  
 2010 **Jonathan Burrows and Mateo Fargion.** Composition workshop. Toronto.  
 2010 **Misha Glouberman.** *Terrible Noises for Beautiful People.* Improvisation. Toronto.  
 2008 **Hooman Sharifi and Bojana Kunst.** Choreography/theory workshop. Sommerlab. Frankfurt, Germany.  
 2008 **Jonathan Burrows and Adrian Heathfield.** Coaching Project. Creative Writing and Dance. Impulstanz. Vienna, Austria.  
 2004 **Anne Bogart.** Master Class: Composition. New York City.  
 2004 **The Wooster Group** – Technical Intern, *Poor Theatre.* Director: Elizabeth LeCompte. Work-in-progress run. New York.

## awards+grants (selected)

2014 **Toronto Arts Council: Multiyear Theatre Projects** – Small Wooden Shoe  
 2008 **Ken McDougall Emerging Director Award** (Toronto Harolds)  
 2006, 07, 09, 10, 12 **Ontario Arts Council: Theatre Projects** – Small Wooden Shoe  
 2005, 06, 07, 09-11 **Toronto Arts Council: Theatre Projects** – Small Wooden Shoe  
 2007 **Canada Council: Theatre Projects** – Small Wooden Shoe  
 2014 **Canada Council: Theatre Touring** – Small Wooden Shoe  
 2004 **Canada Council: Grant to Theatre Artists** – Professional Development