

RYAN P. BRUCE

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ABOUT

Ryan P. Bruce is a theatre artist based in New Orleans, recently relocating from Chicago. His primary focus is new work development by working closely with writers and new work creation through devised and improvised theatre. Ryan believes in theatre being not just a community asset but a community itself, one that creates reflective artistry that radiates beyond the confines of a stage and into the consciousness of the community. His favorite projects are those that challenge the status quo of American theatre, which dare to dream beyond traditional staging, casting, and issue. Ryan's process unlocks the storytelling power within artists through a rigorous and imaginative process that merges the cognitive and physical. By focusing on the creative power of the individual, the world of the play is examined as it is being constructed by the playwright, deviser, or actor. Working alongside theatre artists from all disciplines, the end goal is a cohesive, living, piece of theatre. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, Ryan has worked professionally in the New Orleans and Lubbock area theatre communities prior to moving to Chicago. Although primarily a director, Ryan has acted in numerous productions ranging from Shakespeare to contemporary works, served as an administrator, and dabbled in playwriting.

EDUCATION

MFA. Performance and Pedagogy. Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX 2010-13. Coursework in theatre directing (with focus on new play development, Greeks, Moliere, Shakespeare, Brecht, Ionesco, and Beckett), acting (Meisner, Shakespeare, and American realism), pedagogy (acting, directing, and general education), theatre history, dramatic and script analysis, dramatic theory and criticism, artistic collaboration, producing, dramaturgy, artistic marketing and planning, devising new works and Lessac and Viewpoints training.

Thesis Project: Directing Bert V. Royal's *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*. Advisor: Bruce Hermann. Instructors: Norman Bert, Courtney Brown, Dorothy Chansky, Mark Charney, Linda Donahue, Bill Gelber, Bruce Hermann, and Jonathan Marks.

BA. Film, Theatre and Communication Arts. University of New Orleans. New Orleans, LA 2004-08. Coursework in acting (Stanislavski), directing, stage combat, theatre history, script analysis, playwriting, theatre production, movement (Laban), and dance (contemporary).

Instructors: Tony French, Kevin Griffith, Michael Harkins, David Hoover, Scott Cally, and Michael Santos.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Directors Lab West. Pasadena Playhouse. Pasadena, CA. May 2014

Eight days of workshops, panel discussions, and master classes focusing on the director's responsibilities and goals when guiding, creating, devising, and developing work for the theatre.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/National New Play Network's MFA

Playwright's Directing Intensive. Kennedy Center. Washington DC. July 2013.

"Directing the New Play" workshops, collaboration and discussions led by Will Davis and Michael Rau. Assisted Les Waters in the development of Lucas Hnath's *The Christians*.

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

"Embodied Performances and Improvised Rehearsal Methodologies" Southeastern Theatre Conference. Louisville, KY. March 2013.

Presentation and workshop based on my own research into synthesized acting pedagogy using improvisational techniques developed by Michael Gellman at The Second City, Stanislavski's improvised retellings, and Sanford Meisner's curriculum. Emphasis was placed on unlocking the cognitive and subconscious reactions of human beings by using a non-comedic centered improvisation that focuses on the subtext of everyday life.

"Teaching Across Curriculum: Actor Training for Science Students" Southeastern Theatre Conference. Louisville, KY. March 2013. Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research Conference. Lubbock, TX. April 2013

Panel presentation and discussion on the methodologies and results of three teaching workshops focused on assertiveness training of by using acting techniques over the course of 15 months.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCES

National Directing Fellow. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, American College Theatre Festival. Washington DC. April 2013.

Funding toward professional development, residency at O'Neill Theatre Center, and residency at National New Play Network's Directing Intensive

Directing Fellow. Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Waterford, CT. July 2013.

Served as assistant director in the development and production of Martin Zimmerman's *The Solid Sand Below*, directed by Kent Thompson.

Directing Fellow. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/National New Play Network's Directing Intensive: Directing the New Work. Washington DC. July 2013.

Served as assistant director in the development of Lucas Hnath's *The Christians*, directed by Les Waters.

Devising Fellowship. Texas Tech University's College of Visual and Performing Arts. Lubbock, TX. June 2013.

Funding towards devising and production of *Fault/Line*, presented as the first American production at David Cerny's MeetFactory in Prague, Czech Republic.

Regional Directing Fellow. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, American College Theatre Festival. Shreveport, LA February 2013.

Funding to participate in National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Washington DC.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Stage Directors and Choreographers Society/John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Directing Award. April 2013.

Texas Tech University's College of Visual and Performing Arts grant for *Fault/Line* devising, production, and travel (\$25,000)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Artistic Director

Lost Soda Productions. New Orleans, LA. 2009-10.

Company dedicated to producing local playwrights and refocusing classical texts. Small company managed by artists and funded by small community contributions and ticket sales. Managed artistic endeavors, finances, marketing, and development. Managed the call for submissions of original scripts from New Orleans based playwrights.

Orphaned on Purpose. New Orleans, LA. 2008-10.

Performed at the Voodoo Lounge and Balcony Bar. New Orleans, LA. 2008-10. Short and long form improvisation, original sketches, short films, and experimental improvisation.

Literary Script Reader

The Eugene O'Neill Center's National Playwrights Conference. Waterford, CT. 2012-present.

Read and responded to 20 new plays for each of the 2013 - 2017 conferences, focusing on dramatic action, voice, and issue. Scripts and reader reports were transmitted electronically during a two-month period in autumn. Semi-finalist selections are directly taken from reader reports.

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Washington, D.C. 2014

Read and ranked 27 new plays for a 2014 student playwrighting award. Scripts were transmitted electronically. Finalist selections are taken from two reader pools.

Acting Company Member

New Orleans Shakespeare Festival (formally Shakespeare Festival at Tulane). New Orleans, LA. 2003-09

As You Like It January 2009

Performed the role of Jacques de Boys. Directed by Sean Patterson.

Coriolanus July 2007.

Performed the role of Ensemble. Directed by Ron Gural.

Romeo and Juliet August 2006.

Performed the role of Sampson (8 perfs.) and Peter (6 perfs). Directed by Gary Rucker.

A Midsummer Night's Dream April 2006.

Performed the role of Francis Flute. Directed by Aimee Michel.

Macbeth July 2004

Performed the role of Ensemble and Fleance. Directed by Aimee Michel.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTIONS:

Director

***The Seven Year Itch* by George Axelrod**

Performed at the Skokie Theatre. Skokie, IL. February 2017

***The Institute* by John Frank**

Performed at 2nd Act Players Theatre. Evanston, IL. October 2016

***The Best Food On Earth* by Conor McShane**

Performed at The Den Theatre. Chicago, IL. May 2016

Part of Dandelion Theatre's short play festival, The Hog Dog Stand.

***Punk* by Michael Harris**

Performed at Jackalope Theatre. Chicago, IL. April 2015

Part of Arc Theatre's short play festival, Arcitext.

***Love's Labour's Lost* by William Shakespeare**

Performed at the Marigny Theatre. New Orleans, LA. August 2009

10 actor production in rotating repertory with an original work.

Producer

***The Health Benefits of Orange Soda* by Jared Gore**

Performed at the Marigny Theatre. New Orleans, LA. August 2009 Produced in rotating repertory with *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Assistant Director

***The Solid Sand Below* by Martin Zimmerman**

Performed at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Waterford, CT. July 2013

Devising/Improvisation

Fault/Line devised by Jared Strange, Courtney Brown, Ryan Bruce, Bruce Hermann, Rick St. Peter, and Elizabeth Stromsness

Performed at The Meet Factory in Prague, Czech Republic. June 2013. New play based on the legality of CIA operations in the months following 9/11 and first American production at David Cerny's MeetFactory.

The Mileage Out of Misery (Director of Process)

Performed at the Maedgen Laboratory Theatre in Lubbock, TX. May 2013. New play created from repeated improvisations by an acting ensemble.

Actor

The History Boys by Alan Bennett

Performed at Southern Rep Theatre. New Orleans, LA. October 2008

Performed the role of Rudge. Directed by Fred Nuccio.

The Health Benefits of Orange Soda by Jared Gore

Performed at the Marigny Theatre. New Orleans, LA. August 2009

Performed the role of Guy. Directed by Josh Simpson.

The Great Depressions by AJ Allegra and Liam Kraus

Performed at La Nuit Theatre. New Orleans, LA. April 2009

Performed the role of Special Guest Star. Directed by AJ Allegra and Liam Kraus.

Esoterotica: Bedtime Stories for Adults by Michael Martin

Performed at the Voodoo Lounge. New Orleans, LA. September 2008.

Performed the role of Sarah. Directed by Michael Martin.

NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT

The Institute by John Frank

Director during development and production of full length script for 2nd Act Players 2016 season opener. 2nd Act Players. Evanston, IL. October 2016.

The Best Food On Earth by Conor McShane.

Director during development and production of one act for The Hot Dog Stand, new work festival. Dandelion Theatre. May 2016.

Black Santa by Aaron Mays.

Director during development for two separate staged readings and workshop processes.

The play continues to be developed as of today. Three Brothers Theatre. Waukegan, IL.

July 2015. Mooh Dulce Theatre. Chicago, IL. December 2015.

Punk by Michael Harris.

Director during development and production of one act for arcITEXT new work festival.

The Arc Theatre. April 2015.

The Christians by Lucas Hnath.

Assistant director during joint development workshop at the Kennedy Center for the

National New Play Network and Actor's Theatre of Louisville. Directed by Les Waters.

Washington DC. July 2013.

The Solid Sand Below by Martin Zimmerman.

Assistant director during development and production at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre

Center. Directed by Kent Thompson. Waterford, CT. July 2013.

Fault/Line by Jared Strange, Courtney Brown, Ryan Bruce, Bruce Hermann, Rick St. Peter, and Elizabeth Stromsness.

Deviser of new work created by ensemble exploring legality of CIA operations following 9/11. Performed at the MeetFactory in Prague, Czech Republic. June 2013.

Shoes, Yes Please by Jared Strange.

Director during the development process and staged reading at the Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. Lubbock, TX. May 2013.

The Mileage out of Misery.

Director during the development process and performance of new work created by improvisation. Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. Lubbock, TX. May 2013.

Next Exit.

Deviser and performer of new work created by ensemble exploring the Texas foster care system. Louise Underwood Center for the Performing Arts. Lubbock, TX. May 2013.

Okay, Here's What Happened by Sarah Dozier.

Director during the development process and production at the Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. Lubbock, TX. March 2012.

Death and All His Friends by Crash Buist.

Director during the development process and production at the Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. Lubbock, TX. March 2011.

The Health Benefits of Orange Soda by Jared Gore.

Producer during the development process and production at the Marigny Theatre. New Orleans, LA. August 2009.

Putter by Gabrielle Reisman.

Producer during the development process and production at the UNO Laboratory Theatre. New Orleans, LA. December 2007.

My Name is Chainsaw by Jared Gore.

Producer during the development process and production at the UNO Laboratory Theatre. New Orleans, LA. December 2007. Toured to the KCACTF Region VI Festival in Huntsville, TX. February 2008.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

**THA 2302 - Principles of Acting - Texas Tech University
Fall 2012 - Enrollment, 20**

Taught incoming freshman and transfer theatre majors an introduction to Stanislavski and Meisner based acting techniques. Additional instruction in basic theatre vocabulary, script analysis, improvisation, and career management.

THA 2301 - Introduction to Acting - Texas Tech University

Fall 2011 - Enrollment, 20

Spring 2012 - Enrollment, 20

Taught non-majors an introduction of Stanislavski and Meisner based acting techniques in order to enrich arts education and encourage speaking and communication skills. Additional instruction in basic theatre vocabulary and analytical skills.

Masterclasses and Teaching Assistance

“Improvisation and the Actor: Utilizing Improvisation Skills to Enrich Process” Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX. Spring 2012, Fall 2012, and Spring 2013

Six week development and rehearsal process enriching improvisational skills of actors and applying learned skills to traditional and nontraditional rehearsal processes.

“Non-Verbal Communication and Physical Status: How Everyday Physical Cues Alter Perceived Leadership Skills” Student Organization Academy. Lubbock, TX March 2013.

Introduction to physical status and dominance/submission cues and tactics to nonmajor student leaders.

“Managing Challenging Personalities in the Workplace” Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX. August 2012.

Co-presenter for workshop demonstrating good and bad tactics when dealing with challenging personalities as a manager.

“Utilizing Acting Techniques for the Chemistry Lab” Department of Chemistry, Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX. Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, and Spring 2013.

Introduction of basic acting techniques in order to increase effective classroom management, assertiveness, and conflict resolution. The basis of these workshops served as a conference presentation and panel discussion.

THA 2304 - Introduction to Cinema - Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX. Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. Teaching Assistant to Rodney Donahue.

Introduction to film history and theory.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRODUCTIONS

Director

***Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* by Bert V. Royal**

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. October 2012.

Students received evaluation and college credit for participation. Rehearsal process used improvisation to enliven and enrich the ensemble's process. Served as MFA Directing thesis.

Okay, Here's What Happened by Sarah Dozier

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. March 2012.

Students received evaluation and college credit for participation. Rehearsal process used improvisation to enliven and enrich the ensemble's process and further develop the original script.

Death and All His Friends by Crash Buist Texas Tech University, Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. March 2011.

Students received evaluation and college credit for participation.

Assistant Director

The Rimers of Eldritch by Lanford Wilson

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Theatre. February 2011. Directed by Bruce Hermann.

Actor

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Theatre. December 2011. Directed by Jim Bush.
Performed the role of Mr. Webb.

Urinetown by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Theatre. October 2011. Directed by Linda Donahue.
Performed the role of Old Man Strong/Ensemble.

Sonia Flew by Melinda Lopez

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. February 2011. Directed by Benito Vasquez.
Performed the role of Daniel.

Inferno by Jeff Day

Texas Tech University, Maedgen Laboratory Theatre. September 2010. Directed by Luke Fedell.
Performed the role of August Strindberg.

Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman

University of New Orleans, Mainstage Theatre. April 2008. Directed by David Hoover.
Performed the role of Phaeton/Ensemble.

The Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov

University of New Orleans, Mainstage Theatre. April 2007. Directed by David Hoover.
Performed the role of Rode.

***Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker**

University of New Orleans, Mainstage Theatre. April 2005. Directed by David Hoover.
Performed the role of Captain Campbell.

***Baal* by Bertolt Brecht**

University of New Orleans, Mainstage Theatre. November 2004. Directed by Phil Karnell.
Performed the role of Ensemble.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Stage Directors and Choreographers

Associate Member Equity Actors Association Membership Candidate

Southeastern Theatre Conference Member

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Scenic carpentry (stagecraft, lighting, & sound), independent film production (filming, video production & editing), artistic photography (digital, I own a Nikon D5100 and several lenses), Microsoft Word & Excel, Apple iWork, Google Drive, Adobe Suite, accounting & administrative experience, typing 70-80 WPM, valid driver's license, Apple iOS, Windows OS, social networking (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube, etc.).