

Rachel Hynes

Devised Theatre Artist, Director and Educator

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Summary: Award-winning Lecoq-based actor-devisor and innovative theatre-maker brings 20 years of experience creating original theatre, leading ensembles and training future theatre-makers of the 21st century.

PORTFOLIO www.RachelHynes.org

EDUCATION

London International School of Performing Arts in collaboration with Naropa University, London UK
MFA, Lecoq Based Actor Created Theatre
July 2010

Goucher College, Baltimore MD
BA Theatre, Concentration in Direction & Stage Management, Dramaturgy
May 1998
Dean's List 1994-1998, National Dean's List 1994-1998, Phi Beta Kappa

ACTOR-DEvised THEATER

2000-Current.

Love Story: A Meal In Five Courses. *Love Story* uses the five senses to conjure both a meal and a love story. Online and interactive, two chefs lead the audience through a five-course meal as we tell a love story together. In this choose-your-own-adventure tale, the audiences choices in love become manifest on their plates. How do the senses inspire memory? Is touch possible through a computer screen? How do you taste the memory of love? Devised by Rachel Hynes and Anastasia Wilson, Media Design by Matt Pearson.

Joy and Pang Productions, 2021

Performance Lab Institute, 2020

Love Story was funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

LadyM. Inspired by the women of Macbeth, *LadyM* interrogates outdated ideas about feminine power, violence and blood. In brief, it's a clown show about menstruation, menstrual stigma and how menstruation happens to more than just women. Devised by Rachel Hynes, Anastasia Wilson, Claudia Rosales-Waters, Francesca Chilcote and Vanita Kalra.

World Premiere, produced by the Welders, Washington DC's premier playwrights collective, 2019

Intersections Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center, 2018

Happenings at the Harman, The Shakespeare Theatre, 2017

LadyM was funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Trojan Women Project. Commissioned by Brave Spirits Theatre, the Trojan Women Project used the original text by Euripedes to dissect the War on Women in America and interrogate whether or not women are winners or losers in the American Dream. Led by Rachel Hynes, Devised by Rachel Hynes and the Ensemble.

Brave Spirits Theatre, a part of the Women's Voices Festival 2018

2018 Helen Hayes Nominations – Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Supporting Actress

You Have Made a Story on My Skin. Immersive, interactive storytelling show about my 29 scars.

Devised and performed by Rachel Hynes and Gregory Ford.

CulturalDC's Mead Theatre Lab Program 2016

Happenings at the Harman, The Shakespeare Theatre

Young Vic at The Cut, London UK

You Have Made a Story On My Skin was funded in part by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Half Life (a zombie love letter for no one): A zombie tale about the alienating effect of grief and loss.

Devised by Rachel Hynes, Jonathan Lee Taylor, Joshua Drew and Tyler Herman. Performed by Rachel Hynes and Jonathan Lee Taylor

CulturalDC's Mead Theatre Lab Program 2015

Burning Down the House. Site-specific performance of four bouffon characters who roam the neighborhood of Rosslyn, reflecting human behavior and sometimes modifying it. Delightful, surprising, moving.

Dir. Rachel Hynes, Devised and performed by Rachel Hynes, Sabrina Mandell, Ryan Alan Jones, Heather Carter

Supernova Performance Art Festival, 2013

Just Put It Behind You. Durational performance about the cumulative effect of gun violence on the general public. Includes 200 temporary tattoos of handguns + mass shootings from 1991-2012.

Dir. Rachel Hynes, Performed by Rachel Hynes + Naima Ramos

The Dunes, "The Gun Show," 2013

Tale of a Tiger. One performer, one musician. An original fairytale about a girl who turns into a tiger.

Devised and performed by Rachel Hynes, Dirs. Joshua Drew and Jess Jung, Music by Ethan Foote.

Encore Presents Series, Arlington, VA, 2013

Touchstone Theatre with Das Collectivnost, Bethlehem, PA, 2012

Happenings at the Harman, The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington DC, 2012

Swann Day at DCAC, Washington DC, 2012

Jewel Box Theatre, Seattle, 2011

Lit. Full house performance installation, hosted by Insomniac Design, about the afterlife, using as many sources of light as possible. Devised by Rachel Hynes, Music by Ethan Foote. Performed by Jacquie Costa, Catherine Aselford, Justus Hammond, Carlos Cegarra, Laura Aspen

Art All Night DC, 2011 (Inaugural)

Cabaret/sketch comedy—11 years of creating characters, sketches, puppetry and original songs for cabarets worldwide, including Carlotta's Late Night Wingding, Live Girls! First Thursday Cabaret, Spin the Bottle, Macha Monkey MEOW Cabaret, Stiffed, CHAC cabaret and the Stay Up Late Show, Mark Siano and the Freedom Dancers (Seattle), PHYSICAL (London), Tilted Torch Cabaret, Clown Cabaret (DC).

MC Rachie Rach— creator, beatmaker and writer in the feminist hip hop group Voxy. Original raps with movement.

COMPANY MEMBER

2016-2019. Producing Playwright with The Welders, a Playwrights Collective—Award-winning, DC-based playwrights collective, putting the playwright at the center of the artistic process and community building.

John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company

Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play (Stephen Spotswood, *Girl In the Red Corner*)

Helen Hayes Nominations for *to tell my story: a hamlet fanfic* and *HELLO MY NAME IS*

The Welders: Community Engagement Lead: Work with artist to develop community engagement efforts through relationship-building with community organizations and universities, Curate and produce post-show conversations and community Events

Produced and directed Pop-up Fight Club, a series of stage combat fights between women, highlighting female fighters and promoting Stephen Spotswood's MMA-themed show, *The Girl in the Red Corner*.

Produced Cosplay Night for Alexandra Petri's fan-fic Hamlet adaptation, *To Tell My Story: A Hamlet Fanfic*

2014-2016. Artistic Associate: banished? productions—Award-winning experimental theatre company focused on the art of avant-pop, Artistic Director: Carmen Wong.

History of a Cyborg – devised and performed by Rachel Hynes, part of *she took me back so tenderly*,

Tyger – devised and performed by Rachel Hynes and Otis Ramsey-Zoe, with Annalisa Dias, Roo George-Warren, Gregory Ford, Jane Claire Remick.

2005-2006. Founding Company Member: High Kindergarten Performance Group (HKPG) – Ensemble-created performance pieces. Wrote text and music. Helped develop performance actions/imagery.

2006 Actor-Creator *Computer* - HKPG, Dir. Matt Fontaine, On the Boards, 2005-2006 Season (Seattle)

2005 Actor-Creator *Spade Cooley's Nightmare* - HKPG, Dir. Matt Fontaine (Seattle)

2006-2011. Co-Artistic Director and Founder: Helsinki Syndrome – Award-winning, internationally produced ensemble-created, non-linear performances. Presented in theatres, art galleries, site-specific locations. Write, direct, create, perform and produce with Co-Artistic Director, Mike Pham. Produced in Seattle, Portland, London and New York.

2011 *In progress: Kurosawa James*

James Joyce, Akira Kurosawa and the hero's journey, with cowboy songs.

2010 *Home Alone*

An ensemble of ghosts emerge from the walls and re-live the past. When you stop the noise of London, what is the noise within?

7 Quiet Acts of Domestic Violence, Tanya Cottingham (London)

2008-2009 *The Importance of Being Earnest*

An Oscar Wilde gender-bending mashup of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *De Profundis* and black and white monster movies.

Ontological-Hysteric Incubator (New York)

Risk/Reward Performance Series, Hand2Mouth Theatre (Portland)

Crawl Space Art Gallery (Seattle + 2009 Seattle Times Footlight Award)

2009 *My Body Lies Over the Ocean*

A bi-continental performance in Seattle and London, from the perspective of the leaver and the left.

Camden People's Theatre SPRINT Festival (London)

On the Boards, Northwest New Works Festival (Seattle)

2008 *Art Installation*

A theatre of objects, building and butoh, with art group Grand Openings and the Henry Art Gallery

Helsinki Syndrome with The Henry Art Gallery at Bumbershoot with Grand Openings (Seattle)

2008 *True North*

A polar bear's trip through the arctic, journeying through obsession, pain and snow, trying to find their true north.

Ontological-Hysteric Theater (New York)

The Garage (Seattle)

Open Circle Theatre (Seattle)

2008 *Upper Culmination*

Research piece for True North. Exploring polar bears and the inability to communicate. Can heavenly messages be found in mundane household objects?

On the Boards, 12 Minutes Max (Seattle)

2008 *Jotta Olla (made of memory)*

Invited by aute-pop creators Seattle School, Helsinki Syndrome was commissioned to create a piece that no one would ever see. Performed inside of a box for only one night, for an invited audience, who was asked to stay away. What do you make when you know you'll perform only for yourself? We were sworn to secrecy that we would never share what we had created. We never have.

Strikethrough Series, Seattle School (Seattle)

2007 *I Feel Fine*

It's the party that happens at the end of the world! Fiddling like Nero, the ensemble discovers apocalypse on a micro and macro level, as the world ends over and over again.

Annex Theatre (Seattle + 2007 Seattle Times Footlight Award)

2007 *This is [] a Test*

Exploration of small spaces, bouncing between breakfast nooks, Anne Frank and the bombing of Hiroshima.

Helsinki Syndrome with The Henry Art Gallery at Bumbershoot with Instant Coffee Art Collective (Seattle)

2007 *Main Event*

Through reincarnation, Team Helsinki races through 19 separate lives as they explore the nature of relationships. What is our responsibility to the relationships in our lives if we repeat them in the next one?

On the Boards, Northwest New Works Festival (Seattle)

Goldsmiths Performance Lab, Hand2Mouth Theatre (Portland)

2007 *Sideshow*

Preparatory piece for *Main Event*, exploring sports, competition, Finland and Sabian Symbols

On the Boards, 12 Minutes Max (Seattle)

2006 *Off the Double*

A piece about cultural assumptions and expectations of a couple as they start in rhythm and become more and more mismatched, or, "Off the Double."

The Henry Art Gallery, durational performance (Seattle)

ACTOR-DEVISOR

Ensemble/Mrs. Sinclair *The Events*
(Helen Hayes Nomination, Outstanding Production)

Theatre Alliance

Dir. Colin Hovde

Drag King

The T Party

Forum Theatre

Dir. Natsu Onoda Power

Designated Mourner

Facebook in Memoriam Source Theatre Festival

Devised by Elizabeth Dinkova,
Jennifer Restak, Rachel Hynes

Woman

Feminine Folklore

FRESHH

Dir. Goldie Patrick
Devised by the Ensemble

Beth Wright/Gemma

Animal Animal Mammal Mine George & Co

Dir. and devised by Anisa George

Security	<i>To Know a Veil</i>	Emma Jaster	Dir. Emma Jaster
Isabella	<i>Tales of Courage and Poultry</i>	Faction of Fools	Dir. Matthew Wilson
Mother	<i>The Electrocutation (performed in Spanish)</i>		Das Collectivnost at Kontainer
Angel	<i>Microfictions</i>		Dir. Charlie Windelschmidt & Valarie Warnotte at the Alliance Francaise

TYA

<i>Rocket Woman</i> , a STEAM-driven show about flying	Encore Stage and Studio	Dir/Devised by Rachel Hynes
<i>Circulo/Circle</i> , Bilingual Hula Hooping show	Encore Stage and Studio	Dir/Devised by Rachel Hynes
<i>A Sidewalk Stroll</i> , a baby play about feelings	Encore Stage and Studio	Dir/Devised by Rachel Hynes
<i>A Lump of Coal for Christmas</i> (understudy, performed)	Adventure Theatre	Dir. Holly Twyford
<i>The Little Crane and the Long Journey</i> (Mother Crane)	Crane Fable	Dir. Hope Villaneuva
<i>Balloon Plays</i> (Looney)	Babel Theatre	Dir. Elena Day, Devised by Brett Abelman, Nora Archrati, Elena Day, Rachel Hynes, Kolleen Kintz

PUPPETRY – Bun Raku, Rod, Shadow, Object Manipulation

<i>Puppet Poker Pit, London</i>	Flabbergast Theatre	Dir. Henry Maynard
<i>A Boy in the Beastly City</i>	Printer's Devil Theater	Dir. Tom Milweski
<i>The Horror in the Theater : Tales of HP Lovecraft</i>	Open Circle Theater	Dirs. Ron Sandahl, Rob D'Arc
<i>The Pitfalls of Mr. Yama</i> (Hanako)	Thistle Theater	Dir. Jean Enticknap
<i>The Tales of Peter Rabbit</i> (Benjamin Bunny)	Thistle Theatre	Dir. Jean Enticknap
<i>Jackals Favorite Game and Other African Stories</i> (Hare)	Thistle Theatre	Dir. Jean Enticknap

TEACHING/DIRECTING/ACADEMIC ENSEMBLE BUILDING

Lead Teacher, Original Works, 2020-Present

- *Devising 101*
- *Original Works*

Professor, Montgomery College, 2015-2018

- *Movement for the Actor*
- *Fundamentals of Acting*
- *Intro to Theatre*

Director-Devisor

- *My aMeriCa: Perspectives on the American Dream* - Curator and Director/Devisor, aiding students in crafting their own devised pieces about their perspective on the American Dream.

Movement Director

- *Animal Farm*, coach animal movement and silent sequences. Dir. David Rothman

Director-Devisor, National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts 2016

- *Bonnie and Clyde*. Director/Devisor for ART Ensemble of ten, third-year students at the conservatory.

Director-Devisor, Everyman Theatre, Professional Teen Summer Intensive 2014-2016

- *Led teen ensemble of 25-28 to create original works, inspired by classical plays.*
- *Bloodline*. What does family mean? How important is our bloodline? Inspired by King Lear.

- *A Long Walk to Freedom*. What does it mean to be a teen in the city of Baltimore? Can we fight against authority, protect our friends AND stay true to ourselves? What does it really mean to walk in someone else's shoes? Inspired by Antigone.

Director-Devisor, Voices of Now, Arena Stage 2014-2017

- Led middle school and teen ensembles through a devising process based on physical theatre, the work of Michael Rhoad and Augusto Boal to create original shows about their lives.

Director, Kaiser Permanente 2015

- *Rise*. Devised physical show about bullying/upstanding

Movement Direction

- *The Events*, ensemble training and movement director for Theatre Alliance
- *Lizzie, Over Her Dead Body*, movement coach for Pinky Swear Productions
- *Fuente Ovejuna*, Jeb Stuart High School, Movement Director for dumb shows, teens 13-18.
- *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Encore Stage and Studio, Movement coach. Coached a cast of 25 on animal character movement. Awarded Best Theatre for Youth 2013 by DC Metro Theatre Arts
- *Richard III, Romeo and Juliet*, Brave Spirits Theatre Company: Movement Coach/Choreography. Trained cast in character movement and impulse, choreographed dynamic ensemble physical sequences.
- *The Odyssey*, Encore Stage and Studio: Director and movement coach. Directed and coached movement for a cast of 35 students, ages 8-13.

Independent Workshops/Residencies

- Site-Specific Theatre, Devise and Conquer, American Alliance for Theatre and Education
- Mask Performance Residency, funded by Wolf Trap Foundation. Two-month mask performance residency with Loudon County High School's Theatre III/IV class, original play created with final performance.
- Movement Through the Elements. Week-long movement residency with George Mason High School's IB Drama class observing and creating movement pieces based on earth, water, air and fire.
- The Dream Project: Storytelling/Personal Development Theatre workshop, working with undocumented students, ages 16-25 in Arlington County, VA.

Everyman Theatre 2012-current

- Playwriting. Moving from actor to playwright
- The Actor's Tools: Corporate Workshops for the Professional, using the Actor's tools
- Devising and the Art of Play. Taught playfulness with an aim towards new works creation for adults
- Self-Expression Through Story. Taught self-investigation through storytelling
- Devising residencies at multiple Maryland High schools. 1-8-week residencies resulting in original devised pieces.

Ford's Theatre National Oratory Program, 2014-2018

- Coach elementary and middle school teacher on how to use oratory in their classes to enliven history, english and writing.

Educational Theatre Company – process-oriented, developmental theatre classes for ages 7-18 yrs. 2011-2018

- Camp Director, Physical Comedy Camp: Camp. Planned camp, Designed curriculum, Hired teachers, Taught Movement, Comedy Technique, Commedia, Clown. Taught Mask building and mask workshop. Ages 8-16
- Camp Director, Page to Stage Theatre camp: Character movement & background, improv, playwriting, Vocal Workshop. Two-week camp. Ages 8-10
- Creative Drama: Storytelling and Art teacher for Creative Drama camps, 1-week camp. Ages 6-7

- Mentored interns and apprentices

The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington DC. 2012-2014

- Teaching artist for in-school residencies and performances, ages 12-18.

Teaching Topics:

- Devising, ensemble and solo performance
- Lecoq-based ensemble development + Viewpoints
- Stanislavski + Physical Acting
- Neutral mask, Larval Mask, Expressive mask, Half Mask/Commedia 'dell arte, Clown and the red nose.
- Mime based approach to elements, materials, colors, light and animals
- Human nature: passions, behaviors, conflict development, character creation, multiple-character changes
- Dramatic composition using architecture, music, painting and poetry
- Puppetry: bun raku, shadow, object manipulation.
- Small platform/Epic drama in the condensed space + Language of gesture
- Epic drama, Greek chorus, the hero and the tragic space
- Comedy: the grotesque in solo, groups and chorus, Farce, Clown, Approaches to surreal and absurdist theatre
- Theatre for Youth and Devising Theatre for the Very Young
- Playwriting, the devising playwright, the actor-playwright
- Company Development + Self-Producing

OTHER

2014-2016, Helen Hayes Awards Judge: New Play Panel.

2009-2011. Curator: PHYSICAL: A night of innovative physical theatre. Curated, organized and ran a quarterly scratch night through Theatre of Inspirations, Isle of Dogs, London. Curated an evening of 5-8 performances, led post-show discussion afterwards.

- Work in our program went on to perform in: The Royal National Opera Firsts Series (*The Man Who Wasn't There*, *Genius Sweatshop*), The Blue Elephant Theatre (*Casa*, Annarita Mazelli), Edinburgh Fringe Festival (*The City and Iris*, Glass Eye Theatre), Le Theatre aux Mains Nues, Paris, France (*Life Still*, *Folded Feather*)

1998-2003 Production Assistant--Assistant Stage Manager, INTIMAN, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle, WA. Assisted in planning and managing of rehearsals, execution of performances at Lort B and Lort C regional theatres.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Zoom Performance Workshop, Trey Lyford, Movement Theatre Studio, NYC, 2020
Intro to Eccentric Performing, Avner Eisenberg, Julie Goell, Celebration Barn, 2015
Clown Sprint, Dodie Disanto, The Center for Movement, Washington DC, 2014
Bouffons Workshop, Sophie Ameiva, Movement Theatre Studio, NYC, 2011
Grotowski Workshop, Teatr Chorea at Teatro Atalaya, Seville, Spain, 2011
Classical Acting Workshop, The Shakespeare Theater, Washington DC 1999

AWARDS

2021-2022 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2020-21 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2019-20 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2018-19 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2017-18 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

2016-17 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2015-16 Artist Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2016 Larry Neal Award for Dramatic Writing
2007 Footlight Award, Seattle Times - Fab Fringe for *I Feel Fine*
2009 Footlight Award, Seattle Times - The Importance of Two Earnests for *The Importance of Being Earnest*