

ISAAC JAMES BYRNE

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EDUCATION

MFA.	2019 Texas State University, San Marcos Texas	Theater Directing
	Thesis: <i>Mr. Burns</i> by Anne Washburn	
B.A.	1999 Schreiner University, Kerrville Texas	English studies, <i>summa cum laude</i>

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

2015-2016 **Senior Lecturer.** University of the Arts, Philadelphia. Dept. of Theater: Acting

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artistic Director	Theatre 4the People	2010-2016
Artistic Director	Working Man’s Clothes	2005-2009
Head of Acting	New York Film Academy, Musical Theater Dept.	2012-2016
Acting Faculty	Matthew Corozine Studio	2013-2016
Acting Instructor	New York Film Academy, Musical Theater Dept.	2010-2012
Acting Instructor	New York Film Academy, Acting for Film Dept.	2010-2012

AWARDS AND HONORS

SSDC Observership	Leigh Silverman, <i>Hunting and Gathering</i> by Brooke Berman, Primary Stages	2008
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TEACHING

Acting and Directing Courses

Texas State University, Sole Instructor (2017-2019)

Directing I (2019)

An introductory course for undergraduate directors

- Text analysis
- Staging
- Inclusivity and sensitivity in rehearsals

Beginning Acting (2017-2018)

Introductory course for undergraduate actors

- Learning how to live and behave truthfully and fully under imaginary circumstances
- Freeing the actor's natural instincts
- Text analysis

University of the Arts, Senior Lecturer (2015-2016)

Acting Studio I: Technique

A rigorous course for BFA Acting Majors

- Developing a sense of truth
- Creating imaginary circumstances through the reality of doing
- How to craft an objective with emotional life
- Releasing an actor's instincts
- Safety and inclusivity

Acting Studio II: Technique

An advanced course for BFA Acting Majors.

- Expanding the actor's powers of imagination
- Psychologically healthy emotional preparation
- Text analysis
- Scene work

New York Film Academy: Musical Theatre Department, Instructor (2010-2016)

Acting I (2010-2016)

A core class for 1st year conservatory students.

- Active listening
- Crafting objectives

- Unlocking physical instincts
- Physical and emotional safety
- Living moment to moment
- Scene work

Acting II (2010-2016)

A core course for 1st year conservatory students.

- Text analysis
- Character relationships
- Building a point of view
- Scene study
- Applying these techniques to musical theatre

Acting III (2011-2016)

A core course for 2nd year conservatory students

- Heightened text
- Approaching characters with physical and vocal impediments
- Text analysis
- Moving past realism into other styles of performance

Acting IV (2011-2016)

A core class for 2nd year conservatory students.

- Characterization
- Devised theatre
- Cold readings
- Advanced scene study

Characterization (2011-2014)

A core class for 2nd year conservatory students.

- Exploring methodologies for how to analyze, research, and create a character role with an honest emotional life.

New York Film Academy: Acting for Film Department, Instructor (2010-2014)

Meisner Technique I (2010-2013)

The first core technique class for 1st year conservatory students.

- An introduction to the evolution of the Meisner technique
- Active listening
- The reality of doing in imaginary circumstances

Meisner II (2010-2013)

The second core technique class for 1st year conservatory students.

- Healthy emotional preparation
- Creating imaginary circumstances
- Building character relationships
- Text analysis
- Scene study.

Acting Techniques (2011-2012)

An introductory course for 1st year conservatory students to various acting techniques.

- Michael Chekov
- Strasberg
- Stanislavsky
- Richard Brestoff.

Text Analysis (2010-2014)

An introductory class for 1st year conservatory students.

- Analyzing a script based on Stanislavsky techniques.

Scene Study (2011)

The final capstone class for 1st year conservatory students.

- Text analysis
- Advanced scene study
- Showcase presentation of scenes.

OTHER TEACHING

Texas State University

Intro to Fine Arts (2019)

An introductory course for undergraduates.

- Diverse modes of creation and appreciation of visual and performing arts.

New York Film Academy

Acting for Musical Theatre Tweens (Summer Course 2018)

A course in the fundamentals of acting and movement for students 10-13 years old.

Improvisation (Summer Course 2018)

An introduction to the fundamentals of improvisation for high school students.

- Spolin techniques
- Second City techniques

Acting (Summer Course 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

An introduction to the fundamentals of acting for adults.

- Meisner technique
- Stanislavsky text analysis

Acting: High School Summer Course (Summer 2016, 2015)

An introduction to the fundamentals of acting and scene study.

- Meisner technique
- Stanislavsky text analysis

Monologues (2011)

An introductory course for summer course student on how to choose, analyze, and perform monologues.

- Selecting material
- Text analysis
- Audition technique

Theatre 4the People

Advanced Acting Studio (2010-2013)

A private studio scene study class for professional actors.

- Meisner technique
- Scene study
- Audition technique

Booking the Job (2011)

A three day workshop for professional actors.

- Cold readings
- Monologues
- Headshots and resumes
- Audition technique

Working Man's Clothes

Advanced Acting (2009)

A 10 week workshop for the professional actor.

- Meisner
- Stanislavsky
- Brestoff
- Scene study
- Addressing emotional blocks
- Working with a healthy psychological approach.

Emotional Freedom

A 6 week workshop for professional actors.

- Identifying and breaking down emotional blocks
- Approaching acting in a healthy mental framework.

THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTIONS (Director):

THEATER

2018 *Saint Kilda*

by Jody Christopherson

Performed at Torn Page, NYC

Remounted:

2018 Southern Theatre, Minneapolis, MN

2018 *Rusalka*

by Erika Phoebus

Performed at the Flamboyant Theater, NYC

Winner of 5 Planet Connections Awards including: Outstanding Production, Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Musical or Play with Music

2017 *AMP*

by Jody Christopherson

Performed at HERE Arts Center

Nominated for New York Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Performance Art Production,

New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Lighting Design (Stacey Boggs)

Remounted:

2018 Workshop West Playwright's Theatre Alberta, Canada

2016 ***Kiss it, make it Better***

by Erika Phoebus

Performed at the New Ohio Theater, NYC

2015 ***Venus in Fur***

by David Ives

Performed at the Matthew Corozine Studio Theater, NYC

2015 ***In Vestments***

by Sara Fellini

Performed at the Chapel in West Park Presbyterian Church, NYC

Winner of 2 NYIT Awards:

Outstanding Premier of a New Play,

Outstanding Direction

2014 ***Hazard a Little Death***

by Sara Fellini

Performed at The Paradise Factory, NYC

Winner of 2 Planet Connections Awards including: Best New Play

2013 ***The Other Mozart***

by Sylvia Milo

Performed at Cherry Lane Theater, NYC

Winner of 2 New York Innovative Theater Awards including Outstanding Solo Performance

Nominated for 6 awards including:

Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Premier of a New Play,

Outstanding Full Length Script

Nominated for Off Broadway Alliance Award for Best Solo Performance

Nominated for Drama Desk Award for Sound

Still touring internationally with three different actors performing the show

Major Remounts:

2013: Mozarthaus, Salzburg Germany

2014: HERE Arts Center, NYC

2015: St. James Theater. London

2012 ***Tar Baby***

by Desiree Burch and Dan Kitrosser

Performed at New Orleans Fringe Festival, LA

Nominated for NYIT Award for Performance Art Production

Remounted:

2013: Daryl Roth Theater 2, NYC

2014: San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, CA

2014: SUNY New Paltz, NY

2010 ***Grimm Reality***

by Bekah Brunstetter, Chisa Hutchinson, Dan Kitrosser, Zack Friedman, and Cassandra Hume

Performed as co-production with Bryant Park Corporation in Bryant park, NYC

2010 ***The New Normal***

by Donnetta Lavinia Grays

Performed at the Wings Theater, NYC

2009 ***True West***

by Sam Shepard

Performed at 181 Avenue B Apt 1A, NYC

Selected as Critic's Pick Flavorpill

Selected as Offoffonline Pick of the Week

2009 ***Fresh Kills***

by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder

Performed at 59E59 Theater C, NYC

Selected as Critic's Pick Flavorpill

2008 ***The cowboy is dying...***

by Donnetta Lavinia Grays

Performed at the June Havoc Theater, NYC

Selected as Critic's Pick NYtheatre.com

2007 ***52 Man Pick Up***

by Desiree Burch

Performed at ARS Nova, NYC

Toured internationally for 5 years.

Major Remounts:

2008: New York Fringe Festival, NYC

2008: The Ohio Theater, NYC

2010: Edinburg Fringe Festival, Scotland

2007 ***I Used to Write on Walls***

by Bekah Brunstetter

Performed at the Gene Frankel Underground Theater

2007 ***Arms and the Octopus***

by Casey Wimpee

Performed at The Ohio Theater, NYC

Remounted:

2007: Galapagos Art Center, NYC

2007 ***Many Worlds***

by William Borden

Performed at the Red Room, NYC

Critic's Pick NYtheatre.com

Critic's Pick Offonline

2005 ***To Nineveh: A Modern Miracle***

by Bekah Brunstetter

Performed at The American Place Theater, NYC

Winner of 6 NYIT Awards including:

Outstanding Production

Outstanding Direction

Outstanding Ensemble

Outstanding Original Full Length

Selected as Season's Best Offonline

2005 ***Green***

by Bekah Brunstetter

Performed at The American Place Theater, NYC

DEvised AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PRODUCTIONS

2011 ***Shakespeare Unravelled***

by the Theater 4the People ensemble

Performed in Times Square and Central Park

A unique and personal theatrical experience for one audience member at a time performed in public for free mixing Shakespeare, personal monologues, improvisation, and music.

Remounted: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,

MUSICALS

2014 ***The Wedding Singer***

Music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, book by Beguelin and Herlihy

Performed at the Connelly Theater, NYC

ACADEMIC PRODUCTIONS

Theater

2018 ***Mr. Burns*** by Anne Washburn.

Performed at Texas State University, Patti Strickel Harrison Theater

2018 ***Zu's Earth*** by Sidney Rushing

Texas State University, PHS Studio Theater

- 2017 ***We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884–1915*** by Jackie Sibblies Drury
Texas State University, PHS Studio Theater

NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

- 2016 ***Kiss it, Make it Better*** by Erika Phoebus
Theatre 4the People, NYC
Staged Reading at Clinton Cameo Studios
- 2015 ***In Vestments*** by Sara Fellini
Theatre 4the People, NYC
Staged Reading at The Tank, NYC
- 2014 ***Hazard a Little Death*** by Sara Fellini
Venus Theater Festival
Staged at the Cabrini Repetory Festival
- 2013 ***The Other Mozart*** by Sylvia Milo
Venus Theater Festival
Staged at the Cabrini Repertory Theater, NYC
- 2012 ***Tar Baby*** by Desiree Burch and Dan Kitrosser
TerraNOVA, NYC
Staged at PS122/SoloNOVA Festival
- 2010 ***Mommy in Manhattan*** by Bekah Brunstetter, Alixx Schottland, and Alyssa Bauman
Multimedia Staged Reading at the Flamboyant Theater
- 2009 ***Miss Lily Gets Boned*** by Bekah Brunstetter
Staged Reading at Lark Play Development Center, NYC
- 2008 ***Wind in the Willows*** by Janine Nabers
Working Man's Clothes Productions
Staged Reading at 45th Street Theater, NYC
- 2007 ***You May Go Now*** by Bekah Brunstetter
The New School
Staged Reading at New School Mainstage
- 2006 ***Torch #2*** by Bekah Brunstetter
Soho Think Tank

ACTING EXPERIENCE

SELECTED CREDITS:

2012 *Butcher Holler Here We Come*

by Casey Wimpee

Role: Hiccup (Lead)

Directed by Leah Bonvissuto

Performed at Cincinnati Fringe-OH,

Remounted:

2012: New Orleans Fringe, LA

2013: Watertower Theater, Dallas TX,

2014: EMP Collective-Baltimore MA

2015: The Tank, NYC

2016: IRT Theater, NYC

2011 *Kill Devil Hills*

by Casey Wimpee

Role: Cannonball (Supporting)

Directed by Cole Wimpee

InterAction Theater-Chicago IL

2010 *Pontiac Firebird Variations*

by Casey Wimpee

Role: Dickey (Lead)

Directed by Matthew Hancock

3 Legged Dog Theater, NYC

2009 *New Car Play*

by Justin Swain

Role: Alan (Lead)

Directed by Jake Witlen

Performed at The Ohio Theater, NYC

Remounted:

2010: The Ohio Theater

ADDITIONAL ACTOR TRAINING

2012-2016 Matthew Corozine at the Matthew Corozine Studio, NYC

Meisner based technique

2003-2005 Fred Kareman at the Wynn Handman/Fred Kareman Studio Carnegie Hall NYC,
Meisner Technique, Professional Level Class- 2003-2005

2003 Terry Martin- Watertower Theater Dallas TX,
Meisner Technique

2002 Larry Silverberg- School for Film and Television NYC,
Meisner Technique- 2002 Summer Intensive

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND PRODUCING CREDITS

Artistic Director of Theatre 4the People

2010-2016

2016 Produced *Lou* by Haley Rice, staged reading at The New Ohio Theater, NYC

2015 *Unsex Me Here* (HERE Arts Center, NY), devised theater piece created out of
Playworks Project

2014 Oversaw the development and creation of the Playworks Project

2010 *Short Love* festival featuring new plays by Bekah Brunstetter, Dan Kitrosser, Justin
Swain, and Zack Friedman.
Produced at The Ohio Theater, NYC

Artistic Director of Working Man's Clothes

2005-2009

Produced over 20 new plays and 5 short play festivals as Artistic Director in 4 years.

2008

Created and Curated the **Naked Bootleg** performance series which gave small shows in
development a chance to perform for an audience.

Notable playwrights:

Chisa Hutchinson

Dan Kitrosser

Casey Wimpee

2007

Created the **Lost Works Project** which searched out acclaimed shows that have not been produced in New York City because of controversial subject matter.

Productions:

2007 *Penetrator* by Anthony Neilson adapted by Bekah Brunstetter
Performed at American Place Theater, NY

2009 *Fresh Kills* by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder.
Performed at 59E59 Theaters, NY

2005

Created and developed the **New Works Development** reading series for WMC.

Award winning playwright Lee Blessing:

"The developmental reading series of Working Man's Clothes Productions is a significant asset to new play development in New York City. The work is excellent, the attitude professional and the dedication obvious."

Notable Playwrights and plays that participated in New Works Development:

Romulus Linney

Chisa Hutchinson

Samuel Brett Williams

Andrew Rosendorf

Janine Nabers