

JESSICA HOLT

DIRECTOR*ARTISTIC PRODUCER*TEACHER

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PROFILE

A female-identifying, queer professional theater director and artistic producer with over fifteen years of experience directing and producing at nationally renowned theaters, championing new work and nurturing the development of diverse, bold, dynamic voices in the American theater. A passionate teacher who has taught at top-level academic institutions and leading theaters at the professional, graduate and undergraduate level. MFA, Directing: Yale School of Drama

DIRECTING (select credits)

Ironbound by Martyna Majok.....	American Conservatory Theatre**
Something Delightful Conceived and Directed by Jessica Holt.....	Virginia Stage Company**
The Comedy of Errors (cancelled due to COVID-19).....	Cal Shakes
Sense and Sensibility by Kate Hamill.....	Virginia Stage Company
The Daughters by Patricia Cotter.....	San Francisco Playhouse*
Fun Home by Bechdel/Tesori/Kron.....	Virginia Stage Company
The Resting Place* by Ashlin Halfnight.....	Magic Theatre
Speech and Debate by Stephen Karam.....	Barrington Stage Company
Rich Girl by Victoria Stewart.....	Florida Studio Theatre
Venus in Fur by David Ives.....	Virginia Stage Company
Female Beginner by Edith Freni.....	Ensemble Studio Theatre
Ugly Lies the Bone by Lindsey Ferrentino.....	Alliance Theatre
Significant Other by Joshua Harmon	Actor's Express
Bright Half Life by Tanya Barfield.....	Magic Theatre***
The Lily's Revenge, Act 5 by Taylor Mac.....	Magic Theatre***
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams.....	Boxcar Theatre
A Three Little Dumplings Adventure by Megan Cohen.....	BOA 10 Festival

* World Premiere ** Virtual Production ***West Coast Premiere

READINGS AND WORKSHOPS (select credits)

Tiger Beat by Kaela Mei-Shing Garvin.....	Bay Area Playwrights Festival
Rules of Comedy by Patricia Cotter.....	San Francisco Playhouse**
They Hystericals by Edith Freni.....	Cape Cod Theatre Project**
The Code by The Kilances (a new musical).....	A.C.T. New Strands Festival
The Last White Man by Bill Cain.....	Santa Cruz Shakespeare
Scientific Method by Jenny Connell Davis.....	Rivendell Theatre
Danny and the Rocket (a new musical) by M.Martin/C. O'Neill	Pocono Mountains Music Festival
Eureka Day by Jonathan Specter.....	The Lark Theatre
The Resting Place by Ashlin Halfnight.....	Virgin Play Festival, Magic Theatre
Another Kind of Silence by L Feldman.....	Virgin Play Festival, Magic Theatre
Laura and the Sea by Kate Tarker.....	Virgin Play Festival, Magic Theatre
The Hystericals by Edith Freni.....	Sewanee Writer's Conference
All the Roads Home by Jen Silverman.....	Alliance Keneda/Rattlestick
Sycamore by Sarah Sander.....	Bay Area Playwrights Festival
Truest by Megan Cohen.....	Berkeley Rep Ground Floor
The Cake by Bekah Brunstetter.....	Alliance Theatre
The Confession by Will Arbery.....	Alliance Theatre
Cow Play by Matthew George.....	Virgin Play Festival, Magic Theatre
Lonely Leela by Rehana Mirza.....	Virgin Play Festival, Magic Theatre

** Virtual Workshop or Reading

EDUCATIONAL (select credits)

ACT MFA Showcase for the Class of 2020 and 2021	A.C.T. MFA Conservatory
The Code (A New Rock Musical) by The Kilbanes (<i>Summer 2021</i>)	A.C.T. Young Conservatory
Constellations by Nick Payne.....	A.C.T. MFA Conservatory
The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe.....	A.C.T. Young Conservatory
Seal Boy by Ken Weitzman.....	American Academy of Dramatic Art
Sense and Sensibility by Kate Hamill	The Studio/New York

The Children (a hip hop musical) by Phillip Howze.....	Carlotta Festival of New Plays, Yale School of Drama
Seagull by Anton Chekhov.....	Yale School of Drama
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare.....	Yale School of Drama
We Are Proud to Present a Presentation... by Jackie Sibblies Drury.....	Yale Summer Cabaret
Why Torture Is Wrong, and the People... by Christopher Durang.....	Yale Summer Cabaret
Have I None by Edward Bond.....	Yale Cabaret
M.A.H. (museum play) by Kate Tarker.....	Yale Summer Cabaret
Dead Ends. by Ryan Campbell.....	Yale School of Drama
Our Town by Thornton Wilder.....	West Valley College
Dis/Connected by Bennett Fisher.....	New Conservatory Theatre Center

ASSISTANT DIRECTING (select credits)

Why We Have a Body (Associate Director) by Claire Chafee, Dir: Katie Pearl	Magic Theatre
Disgraced by Ayad Akhtar, Dir: Susan Booth, Alliance Directing Fellowship.....	Alliance Theatre
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Dale Wasserman, Dir: Susan Booth, Alliance Directing Fellowship.....	Alliance Theatre
American Night by Richard Montoya, Dir: Shana Cooper	Yale Repertory Theater
Macbeth by William Shakespeare, Dir: Mark Jackson.....	Shotgun Players
Proof by David Auburn, Dir: Robert Kelley.....	Theatreworks
Red by Chay Yew, Dir: Robert Kelley.....	Theatreworks

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP/FELLOWSHIPS/PRODUCING

National Directing Fellowship

2016-2017

National Directing Fellow with the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, National New Plays Network, the Kennedy Center, and SDCF

Alliance Theater

2015 – 2016

Phil Kent Directing Fellow

- Report directly to Artistic Director Susan Booth to support all aspects of artistic programming and production

Yale Summer Cabaret

2014

Co-Artistic Director

- Programmed and produced a 5-show summer season for not-for-profit theatre with a \$150,000 budget. Directed 3 of those shows.

Guided Tour

2012 – 2015

Co-Founder/Artistic Producer/Performer

- Co-founded, devised, produced and performed Guided Tour, a site-specific, participatory, reality-fiction blurring immersive live tour event, providing “fictional tours of real spaces” on the Yale campus in New Haven. Tours included: *The Unofficial Official Yale Tour*, *Ghost Tour*, *The Magical Mystery Tour*, and *The University Studios Tour*, and the live talk-show *Seth and Hunter Talk about Everything*.

The Bay One Acts Festival

2009 – 2012

Artistic Director

- Programmed and produced annual month-long short play festival featuring two programs of 5-6 plays each with a \$25,000 budget.

Threshold: theatre on the verge

2007 – 2011

Artistic Director/Co-Founder

- Produced the new play *Terroristka* by Rebecca Bella at the Berkeley City Club
 - Created and oversaw private donor fundraising campaign. Planned, coordinated and executed multiple fundraising dinner/performance events in theaters and homes throughout the Bay Area.

TEACHING/COACHING

Lecturer

Maggie Flanigan Studio

2021

- *Script Analysis*

- Guest Teacher** **A.C.T.; Virginia Stage Company; Ring of Keys** 2020
- *Secret to Sides: Strategies for Cold and Prepared Reads*
 - Led workshops of 2 – 12 hours for actors focusing on sharing a set of strategies to empower the actor in their auditions, both virtual and in-person
- Private Audition Coach** **Jessica Holt Coaching** Ongoing
- Private audition coaching for professional actors and students prepping for BFA and MFA programs
- Guest Teacher** **National Association of Latino Producers, Los Angeles** March 2018
- *Mastering Your Craft: Directing Actors NALIP Latino Lens Series*
 - A four-hour seminar for filmmakers sharing a set of strategies, tips and tricks to help them unlock the secrets of the scene and ignite the imagination of their actors. The workshop provided techniques for breaking down the scene, shared basic principles for working with actors and rehearsal techniques that help the director and actors work together.
- Guest Teacher** **American Academy of Dramatic Art, NY** 2017-2018
- Coached and mentored students in the course: *Audition Technique*
 - Provided feedback after watching students’ monologues in an a “Mock EPA” format in order to help them develop skills, strategies and tools to better succeed with their auditions in the professional world.
- Directing Mentor** **Fordham University** Fall 2017
- Mentored senior directing/performance student on her senior thesis production project *Gruesome Playground Injuries* by Rajiv Joseph.
- Teacher** **Alliance Theatre** 2015-2016
- Designed and led the skills-building workshop: *Scene Study and Audition Skills Building Workshop*.
- Lecturer** **West Valley College** 2009 – 2012
- Designed syllabus and taught *Introduction to Acting*
 - An acting class geared towards majors aimed to build a foundation in Stanislavski-based acting technique.
 - Designed syllabus and taught *Introduction to Theater*
 - A G.E. breadth class providing foundation in all facets of theater including theater history, production, dramatic literature and the relationship between theater, society and culture.
- Acting Coach** **Stanford Business School** 2010
- Coached MBA business students in the course *Acting with Power*
 - This course, led by social psychologist Deborah Gruenfeld and theater professor Kay Kostopoulos, drew on acting craft and the science of psychology to help MBA students who have trouble "playing" authoritative roles: those who find it difficult to act with power, status, and authority.
- Lecturer** **UC Berkeley** 2004 – 2009
- Designed syllabus and taught *Intermediate Acting*.
 - This class is geared towards undergraduate Theater majors, that expands upon basic concepts taught in Fundamentals of Acting. Through exercises, improvisation, scenes and monologues, the actor works toward the goal of increasing range, depth and flexibility.
 - Designed syllabus and taught *Fundamentals of Acting*.
 - This is an entry-level class that focuses on releasing and cultivating the actor’s inherent creativity. Through exercises, improvisation, scenes, and monologues, the actor begins to develop basic techniques designed to stimulate the imagination, develop vocal and physical ability, increase awareness of self and others, introduce effective ways to analyze texts, think critically about the craft of acting, and enhance self-confidence and communication skills.
- Teaching Artist** **New Conservatory Theatre Center** 2009 – 2012
- Taught *Introduction to Improvisation*.
 - Geared for the adult theater enthusiast, a dip-your-toe-in-the-water introductory improv workshops using games and exercises to explore the basic concepts and skills of improvised theatre.

- Lecturer** **Evergreen Valley College** 2009
- Taught *Beginning Actin*
 - An acting class geared towards majors aimed to build a foundation in Stanislavski-based acting technique.
- Lecturer** **Academy of Art University** 2007 – 2009
- Taught *Respect for Acting*
 - An acting class for non-majors in the Motion Pictures and Television (MPT) department.
 - Taught *Introduction to Acting, Pre-College Summer Art Experience*
 - Taught fundamentals of acting technique to pre-college students, ages 14 to 17, for six-week sessions. Through exercises, improvisation, scenes, and monologues, the actor begins to develop basic techniques designed to stimulate the imagination.

ARTISTIC RECOGNITION

Boston Globe's "Critic's Pick" for *Speech and Debate* (Barrington Stage Company, 2017), Nominated for Best Direction by Broadway World Atlanta for *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Alliance Theatre, 2016), New Haven Review's Best of Cab '46 "Best Pre-Existing Play," for *Have I None* (Yale Cabaret); SF Bay Guardian "Best of 2011 Theatre" for *A Three Little Dumplings Adventure* (BOA); SF Bay Guardian "Best of 2011 Theatre" for *The Lily's Revenge* (Magic); SF Bay Times Top 10 Best of Theater for *Private Fears in Public Places* (RVP); BATCC Nomination for Best Direction and Best Ensemble for *Loot* (Masquers Playhouse)

EDUCATION

Yale School of Drama, MFA, Directing

Directing: Liz Diamond, David Chambers, Robert Woodruff, Karin Coonrod, Tim Vasen, Shana Cooper, May Adrales, Jeanie O'Hare **Acting:** Ron Van Lieu, Peter Francis James, Christopher Bayes, Walton Wilson, Jane Nichols

University of California, Berkeley, MA, Performance Studies

University of California, Los Angeles, BA, Cultural Anthropology, Theater Minor