

JOSH COSTELLO

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EDUCATION

- 2003 M.F.A. Directing, University of Washington, Seattle
Studied with Jon Jory
- 1996 B.F.A. Theatre, Boston University
double concentration in Theatre Education and Stage Direction

CURRENT POSITION

Aurora Theatre Company

Literary Manager and Artistic Associate, started August 2012

- directing one play each year in mainstage season
- primary participant in season planning, casting, and all artistic decisions
- procuring, reading, and reporting on scripts
- administering Aurora's annual new play discovery and development festival
- developing and maintaining relationships with playwrights, agents, and publishers
- proposed and implemented structural changes to the new play development program in order to maximize development opportunity for playwrights and increase chances of participating plays going on to mainstage world premieres
- created new student matinee program with free and discounted tickets for local high schools and in-school workshops with cast members
- writing dramaturgical articles for playbills
- leading talkbacks and seminars related to the plays
- primary participant in planning new programs

ARTS LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Marin Theatre Company (LORT)

Artistic Director of Expanded Programs / Director of Education, March 2007 to July 2012

Head of Education, Outreach, and Theatre for Young Audiences divisions

Budgeting, hiring, producing, etc. The position combined Artistic Director and Managing Director for these divisions, with a budget over \$250,000 and over 35 part-time and seasonal employees.

- **The Canal Project:** produced new commissioned play project based on current events in San Rafael immigrant community, workshop production at MTC and at community venue.
- **School Tour:** worked with board and donors to create new school tour program on Equity TYA contract; commissioned and developed new plays with tie-ins to state education standards by Steve Yockey, Dan Wolf & Tommy Shepherd, Lauren Gunderson; produced and directed tour productions. Annual participation from over 20 schools and over 4000 students. Public performances at MTC's second stage theatre and community venues.
- **Development:** extensive work with funders, including developing new donors, writing grants, expanding relationships with existing donors, speaking at donor events.
- **Special Events:** produced events such as acting competitions, preshow lectures, workshops.
- **Student Matinee Program:** worked with new donors to create named program for student matinee performances of mainstage season productions, offering discounted and free tickets to schools as well as in-school workshops with cast members and teaching artists, serving over 850 students from

at least 12 schools annually. Applied for and received NEA grant to grow program further in 2011, reaching over 1400 students.

- **Marin Young Playwrights Festival:** founded new playwriting competition for teens, including workshops in schools, performances of finalists, and staged reading with professional (AEA) actors and director for winning script.
- **Young Writers Group:** created teen writing group for MYPF finalists and others.
- **Education:** expanded in-school and afterschool drama class programs in partnership with area schools and youth organizations. Grew these programs from seven to fifteen schools and from about 70 to over 200 students per session. Developed 'Story to Stage,' a new storytelling and playwriting curriculum for youth afterschool classes. Started semester-long in-school residency programs bringing drama to alternative/continuation high schools.
- **Internship Program:** developed new intern program with over 15 interns annually in all departments. Partnered with Cal Shakes and other theaters to create Internpalooza, an annual one-day conference including workshops and performances for interns.
- **Teen Advisory Board:** repurposed program into group for teen leaders from several area high school drama departments; participants were liaisons between theatre and teen community and helped produce events, readings, and the Marin Young Playwrights Festival.
- **Performance Guides:** worked with Literary and Marketing departments to produce educational Performance Guides for mainstage and touring productions, wrote dramaturgical articles as well as suggestions for classroom exercises.
- **Summer Camps:** produced and administered all-day, three- and four-week summer camps with a wide variety of skills classes and fully designed student productions. Around 90 students, 10 interns, and 20 teaching artists each summer.

Directed mainstage productions

- *Lovers & Executioners* by John Strand
- *My Children! My Africa!* by Athol Fugard
(highest rating from SF Chronicle, six Bay Area Critics Circle Award nominations)

Member of core Artistic staff

- participated in season planning and selecting winners of national playwriting competitions.
- attended auditions, rehearsals, production meetings, etc.
- led Q&A sessions after performances twice per week.

Marin Shakespeare Company

Education Director, September 2006 to February 2007

- administered various Education programs, including in-school and afterschool drama classes
- more than doubled the size of the Education programs in less than six months.

Impact Theatre

Founder and first Artistic Director, 1996-2000

- produced four full seasons, including 10 world premieres, three festivals of new short plays.
- oversaw all aspects of administration, including fundraising, grantwriting, budgeting, marketing and publicity, hiring, casting, development, season planning, scheduling, etc.
- built awareness in the community; attracted a diverse audience with a mix of traditional theatregoers and young people in their teens and twenties
- Bay Area Critics Circle awards, great reviews in the San Francisco Chronicle, Oakland Tribune, SF Bay Guardian, SF Weekly, East Bay Express, etc.

The Play Ground Playwrights Festival (Boston, MA)

Artistic Director, 1995-1996

- planned and produced two-week festival of new plays as undergraduate at Boston University.

DIRECTING

Off-Broadway

- **59E59 Theaters**

Ideation by Aaron Loeb (New York premiere)
Critics' Pick –New York Times

Mid-Size Regional theatres

- **San Francisco Playhouse**

Ideation by Aaron Loeb (world premiere, Glickman Award winner)
Theatre Bay Area Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play
“[Wild Applause/Highest Rating]” “...very funny, sharply staged and brightly performed” –SF Chronicle
Reborn by Zayd Dohrn (world premiere)

“A major triumph... Costello has drawn magnificent performances from his three-actor ensemble” –Huffington Post

- **Aurora Theatre Company**

The Heir Apparent by David Ives (regional premiere)

2016 Top Ten –San Jose Mercury News

Detroit by Lisa D'Amour (regional premiere)

2015 Top Ten –San Jose Mercury News

Wittenberg by David Davalos (regional premiere)

“copious waves of laughter... a comic feast of brain-ticklers” –SF Chronicle

- **Marin Theatre Company**

My Children! My Africa! by Athol Fugard

“[Wild Applause/Highest Rating] Packs an enormous punch... a skilled director” –SF Chronicle

Lovers and Executioners by John Strand (regional premiere)

“The degree of skill and glee director Josh Costello [applies] enhances the local premiere” –SF Chronicle

- **Magic Theatre**

House of Lucky by Frank Wortham

“Exhilarating, intoxicating trip...Costello's seamless staging” –SF Chronicle

New plays

- **Custom Made Theatre Company** (San Francisco)

Little Brother adapted from the novel by Cory Doctorow (world premiere)

“requires watching... skillfully done... a tense, power-packed play” –Marin Independent-Journal

“the most exciting thing on stage just now, alive like few other productions in its response to the present moment”
–SF Bay Guardian

- **Impact Theatre** (Berkeley)

many new plays as founder and Artistic Director, and later as guest director

“a powerful, well-acted drama... this is no-frills theatre at its best” –Oakland Tribune

“Costello directs with a sure hand” –East Bay Express

- **The Marsh** (San Francisco)

House of Lucky by Frank Wortham (also played New York Fringe Festival, others)

Bay Area Critics Circle Awards for Original Script, Solo Performance; Bay Guardian Solo Performance Award

“delivers the thrill of a performance virtuoso riding high and hard on the power of the spoken word” –SF Chronicle

- **KOCE-TV: Storefront Theatre Live** (Orange County's PBS affiliate, also broadcasts in Los Angeles)

The Rover by Aphra Behn, adapted by Josh Costello (live television broadcast)

OC Weekly Theatre Award nominations for Best Ensemble, Best Direction

- **The Crucible** (industrial arts center, Oakland)

Romeo & Juliet: The Fire Ballet

“a brimming stew of aerial dance, break dancing, martial arts and, of course, constant combustion” –SF Chronicle

Shakespeare and other classics

- **Shakespeare-by-the-Sea** (Los Angeles)

Hamlet

“a first-rate production of working professionals who demonstrate their talents under the informed, high-spirited

- direction of Josh Costello” –Long Beach Press-Telegram
The Misanthrope by Moliere, adapted by Richard Wilbur
 “a delight from beginning to end” –Long Beach Press-Telegram
- **The MET Theatre** (Hollywood)
Macbeth
 “kudos to Costello's very creative staging” –BackStage West
 - **Cal Shakes, American Conservatory Theatre, South Coast Rep, SF Shakes, UC Riverside, others**
 many productions for training programs with student actors

Other freelance directing

- **various companies** (Bay Area, Seattle, southern California)
 “Josh Costello has wrought an organic production whose every facet fits the larger mosaic, forming a harsh, wrenching, bittersweet tale” –Orange County Register
 “CRITIC’S PICK” –BackStage West
 OC Weekly Theatre Award for Best Ensemble, nominations for Best Direction, Best Production
- workshops and readings with companies including Playwrights Foundation, Aurora Theatre Company, SF Playhouse, Marin Theatre Company, Just Theatre, PlayGround, more.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(representative listing)

South Coast Rep Young Conservatory

- **Acting** (2003-2005)

American Conservatory Theatre Young Conservatory

- **Performance Project** (2006)
 Directed students in fully staged script-in-hand performance of Brecht’s *Galileo*.
- **Shakespeare** (1999)
- **Improvisation** (1996-1997)

American Academy of Dramatic Arts

- **Theatre History** (2005, 2006)

University of California, Riverside

- **Theatre 010: Introduction to Acting** (2005-2006)

California Shakespeare Festival

- **Acting** (2000, 2002)
- **Shakespeare** (1997)
- **Scene Study** (1998, 1999)

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

- **Advanced Acting Workshop** (2005)
 Culminated in public performances of *Julius Caesar* at the Zeum in San Francisco.

Additional teaching experience includes Cal State Long Beach; Vector Theatre Conservatory; Marin Theatre Company; Marin Shakespeare Company; many more. Full CV available upon request.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- As playwright/adaptor:
 - *Little Brother* (adapted from the novel by Cory Doctorow)
 - staged readings with SF Playhouse
 - premiere production with Custom Made Theatre company, January 2012
 - published in Theatre Bay Area magazine, Jan/Feb 2013
 - nominated for the Steinberg New Play Award, runner-up for the Glickman
 - German translation premiered in Austria, February 2014
 - *Ubu for President* (freely adapted from Alfred Jarry), Shotgun Players production, 2008
 - *The Rover* (adapted from Aphra Behn), Chance Theatre production, live television broadcast (see above under Directing)
 - *Syrup* (adapted from Maxx Barry), workshop production at University of Washington
 - *Henry IV: The Impact Remix* (adapted from Shakespeare), Impact Theatre production
- Theatre Bay Area New Works Fund panelist, 2009
- Theatre Bay Area Gender Parity Advisory Committee member, 2014
- Adjudicator, San Juan Islands New Plays Festival 2005
- Dramaturg on various productions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **California Shakespeare Festival:** Internship in Education and Administration
- **Directors' Lab West 2004**
- Conferences attended include TCG 2007 (including Arts Education preconference); TCG New Leaders Conference 2008; Theatre Bay Area (several, sometimes as panelist); TYA One Theatre World 2011.

REFERENCES

Lesley Currier

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