
SUMMARY

Erin McBride Africa is a stage director, choreographer, and theatre professor based in the Los Angeles area. She is on the faculty at College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA), California State University Northridge, and Los Angeles Mission College. She the founder and Artistic Director of Open Wings Theatre Company and Associate Artistic Director of Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival.

She is intrigued by works that spark imagination while raising challenging questions. Her passions include physically expressive theatre, collaboratively developed new works, and lively classics. Every theatre performance is a journey.

Areas of Expertise & Teaching Interests: Acting, Directing, Shakespeare, Devised Theatre, Script Analysis, Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, Community-Based Theatre, Viewpoints, Physical Theatre, Movement for Stage, Stage Management, Understanding Theatre, Stage Make-up, Theatre Appreciation, Theatre for Young Audiences, Creative Drama, Beginning Tap & Jazz, Sewing & Wardrobe

EDUCATION

MFA IN DRAMA – DIRECTING **2009**

Department of Drama

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Thesis: *Collaborative Creation: Four Theatre Companies Reconceiving Production*

B.A. THEATRE ARTS **2000**

Department of Theatre, California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

Honors Thesis Project: Producer - *Acts of Diversity* – A festival of student-directed plays by diverse playwrights.

A.A. THEATRE ARTS **1996**

Theatre Department, Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE POSITIONS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – *Open Wings Theatre Company, Santa Clarita, CA* **2018 - PRESENT**

Guiding the artistic direction of a growing theatre company producing modern plays and developing original performances for the Santa Clarita community.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – *Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, Santa Clarita, CA* **2014 - PRESENT**

Assisting in the artistic operations of a theatre company producing summer Shakespeare-in-the-park productions, including casting, scheduling, hiring designers and staff, supervising interns, contributing to grant-writing efforts, and overseeing front-of-house operations. Development of educational programming and productions.

COLLEGE TEACHING

PART-TIME PROFESSOR – *College of the Canyons - Theatre Department, Santa Clarita, CA* **2014 - PRESENT**

Currently serving as **Curriculum Coordinator** for the Theatre Department.

Currently teaching a variety of courses within the Theatre Department including:

Acting Fundamentals

Acting Shakespeare

Script Analysis

Scene Performance

Theatre History/Dramatic Literature

Understanding Theatre (Intro to Theatre, traditional & online)

Theatre Appreciation

New Play Development (& Devising), Rehearsal/Performance

Regularly directing productions in the theatre season. Also working collaboratively with other members of the Theatre Department to perform Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) assessments, discuss teaching strategies, and to plan and participate in recruitment events. Utilizing digital technologies such as Canvas, Blackboard, and cloud computing to supplement classroom teaching.

LECTURER – California State University Northridge - Theatre Department **2018 - PRESENT**

Currently teaching **Actors & Acting**, previously taught & directed **Touring Theatre** as a part time faculty member. Recently directed and choreographed a Theatre for Young Audiences musical production and have been offered the opportunity to teach an **Advanced Acting** class.

PART-TIME PROFESSOR – Los Angeles Mission College - Theater Department **2020 - PRESENT**

Currently teaching **Beginning Stage Makeup**.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

PEER GROUP LEADER – Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Los Angeles, CA **2018**

Designed and coordinated workshops and professional development opportunities for student interns at a number of non-profit arts organizations in Los Angeles County.

TEACHER – Teatro for Beginners, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural, Pacoima, CA **2013**

Taught an introductory level theatre class covering basic acting, playwriting, and theatre topics and culminating in a presentation of original 10-minute plays.

DIRECTOR/EDUCATOR – Dramatic Adventure Theatre, Ecuador **2009**

Team-taught English Language and Acting classes to students in various villages and cities in Ecuador. Led accompanying American students in the development of an original theatre piece based on our experiences in Ecuador.

PRESENTER - Osher Lifetime Learning Institute, University of California, Irvine Extension **2007-2009**

Led discussions with continuing education students on the process of developing theatrical productions from the first concept to the final performance; presented aspects of script analysis and how conceptual ideas are manifested through stage direction and design.

DIRECTOR'S VOICE: Abstract Expression

DIRECTOR'S VOICE: Still Life with Iris

TEACHING ASSISTANT – University of California, Irvine **2006-2009**

Duties included meeting individually with students to provide mentorship and advisement; grading student essays with an emphasis on clear thesis statements, strongly supported arguments, and elegant grammar; administering and grading weekly quizzes and journal entries; and implementing classroom technology.

Courses: Development of Theatre A, B, & C (Assistant to Cliff Faulkner)

Acting Theory (Assistant to Robert Cohen)

TEACHER – Collaborative Creation Workshops, The SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA **2004**

Led SOB Theatre Company members in exercises in devising original work.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER – Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA **2000**

College preparatory high school courses, grades 9-12.

ACTOR/EDUCATOR – Touring Shakespeare, LAUSD, Los Angeles, CA **1998-1999**

Toured Los Angeles Unified School District middle schools as a part of a Service Learning project, performing excerpts from Shakespeare plays and teaching Shakespearean language and verse.

TUTOR – Reading From Scratch **1995-2000**

Trained by dyslexia expert Dorothy van den Honert

Tutored individual elementary school students using science-based teaching techniques developed to train dyslexic individuals' brains to learn phonetic reading through the use of enhanced lateralization.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

PERFORMING ARTS

Intimacy Directors & Coordinators (IDC) – Los Angeles, CA

Completed Level 1 training and on the path to full certification as an Intimacy Director & Coordinator

SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY – Lenox, MA

Shakespeare & Company's summer actor training program focusing on Linklater Voice Work, Shakespearean Text, Folio Work, Movement, Elizabethan Dance, & Stage Combat

DIRECTORS LAB WEST (West Coast version of the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab)

A program for emerging directors that offers a series of workshops, seminars, readings, and productions that enables participants to learn and grow as artists and working professionals.

SITI Company (Formerly "Saratoga International Theater Institute")

Suzuki & Viewpoints training led by SITI Company members Ellen Lauren, J. Ed Araiza, & Stephen Webber

CORNERSTONE INSTITUTE INTENSIVE & COMMUNITY-BASED THEATER COURSE

Training in Cornerstone Theater Company's collaborative community-based methodology culminating in the creation of community-specific productions. Taught by Bill Rauch, Paula Donnelly, & Laurie Woolery

BEIJING OPERA MASTER CLASS

Classical Chinese Movement taught by Professor Fan Yisong of the Shanghai Theatre Academy

TERPSICHORE DANCE CENTER

Ballet, tap, & jazz classes.

ADDITION CLASSES & WORKSHOPS ON VARIOUS TOPICS – Alexander Technique, Laban Movement, Jacques

Lecoq Techniques, Puppetry, Theatre of the Oppressed, Clowning, Stage Combat, Aerial Silks Physique

EDUCATION/PEDAGOGY

Skilled Teacher Certificate – College of the Canyons Professional Development

Two-semester workshop covering current research on teaching, learning, and cognitive science, with practice of new approaches and techniques to enhance student success, within a learning community of fellow professors.

Community-Based Learning and High Impact Practices – College of the Canyons Professional Development

Faculty training in the primary pedagogy associated with Civic and Community Engagement used throughout college and university campuses nationwide, taught by nationally recognized CBL specialist, Gail Robinson.

Teaching Strategies Workshop – College of the Canyons Professional Development

Workshop on best practices in teaching with a focus is on self-reflection to enhance and develop authentic best practices for each participant. Topics covered: Core ideas and Principles of Effective Teaching; Developing Effective Course Syllabi; Effective Classroom Communication; Classroom Climate; Active Learning; Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment.

Online Teaching Certification

Certification to teach online courses through College of the Canyons Institute of Teaching and Learning.

CurricUNET Assessment Module Training

Training to use CurricUNET Assessment Module to record assessment plans and results to improve student learning and increase institutional effectiveness.

Canvas and Blackboard Learning Systems

Training to use both Canvas and Blackboard Learning Systems, including: designing new courses, navigating the learning environment, customizing settings, effectively utilizing discussion boards and collaboration tools,

groups, web links, Grade Center, uploading syllabi and course documents, how to effectively use e-mail, messages, and assessments (exams & quizzes), and other Internet tools and products that can supplement the electronic learning systems experience.

PUBLICATIONS

Collaborative Creation: Four Theatre Companies Reconceiving Production. Thesis. (MFA Drama). University of California, Irvine, 2009.

Art as Metaphor for Society. 2008-2009 Season Playbill. Department of Drama, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California, Irvine.

Spark the Passion. 2007-2008 Season Playbill. Department of Drama, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California, Irvine.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BOARD POSITIONS, & AFFILIATIONS

Ovation Voter – Los Angeles Stage Alliance (2018-current)

VP of Member Action (Executive Board) – Part-Time Faculty United, AFT Local 6262 (2016-current)

Adjudicator – Hart High School Theatre Festival/College of the Canyons Recruitment Event (2014-present)

Building Power/Strategic Campaign Initiative Committees, College of the Canyons (2016-2017)

Santa Clarita Women’s Conference, Planning Committee Member (2014-current)

College of the Canyons, Professional Development Mentor Program, Program Participant (2014)

Company of Strangers (Los Angeles, CA), Production Manager & Company Member (2012-present)

Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights, Listed Director (2009-present)

University of California, Irvine Alumni Association, Member (2009-present)

The SOB Theatre Company (Hollywood, CA), Co-founder, Producer, Production Manager, & Director (2001-2005)

Arts for Equality (Los Angeles, CA), Artistic Associate (2008)

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Twelfth Night (virtual) by William Shakespeare (March 2021) College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2021
Riffing on Shakespeare (virtual live theatre) Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, Santa Clarita, CA	2020
A[Void]: a devised play about fear by the ensemble College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2019
Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, Newhall Family Theatre, Santa Clarita, CA	2019
Millennial Artist of Color by Jeffrey Lo Exposition Review Showcase (Hollywood Fringe Festival), Hollywood, CA	2019
The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2019
Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them by A. Rey Pamatmat Open Wings theatre company, Santa Clarita, CA	2019
Walidad the Grasscutter by Jay Kasten (school tour) Santa Clarita Shakespeare, Santa Clarita, CA	2018
Dial Meow for Murder (puppet performance) by Steve Troop College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2018
The Little Prince by Rick Cummins and John Scoullar from the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Santa Clarita Shakespeare, Santa Clarita, CA	2018
The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Kent Stephens California State University Northridge, CA	2018

<i>The Wise Ones</i> by Rochelle Perry Eclectic Company Theatre, North Hollywood, CA	2017
<i>A Piece of My Heart</i> by Shirley Lauro College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2017
<i>Operation</i> by Vanessa Stewart Fast & Loose, Sacred Fools, Hollywood CA	2017
<i>Coffee Chronicled: a devised play about time</i> by the ensemble College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2017
<i>Friends & Fantasies</i> by Monica Green Fast & Loose, Sacred Fools, Hollywood CA	2016
<i>Bluebeard's Bride: A Gothic Opera</i> Book & Music by Enrique Acosta Short+Sweet Festival, Hollywood CA	2016
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, Towsley Canyon Park, Santa Clarita, CA	2016
<i>Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead</i> by Bert V. Royal College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita, CA	2016
<i>Save Our Marriage</i> by Rochelle Perry Annual Hollywood Performance Marathon at Theatre of NOTE, Hollywood, CA	2016
<i>Save Our Marriage</i> by Rochelle Perry Scripted & Staged at Eclectic Company Theatre, North Hollywood, CA	2015
<i>Twelfth Night: A Rock Musical</i> by William Shakespeare, Music by Jay Africa Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, Towsley Canyon Park, Santa Clarita, CA	2015
<i>Cymbeline</i> by William Shakespeare Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, Towsley Canyon Park, Santa Clarita, CA	2014
<i>As it is in Heaven</i> (staged reading) by Arlene Hutton The Spectrum Playhouse, Lee, MA	2011
<i>Abstract Expression</i> by Theresa Rebeck University of California, Irvine	2009
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (scenes) by William Shakespeare Pegasus School, Huntington Beach, CA	2009
<i>Asterisk</i> by Erik Ehn World Premiere Weekend, Irvine, CA	2009
<i>The Emily Project</i> by Erin McBride Africa & Company World Premiere Weekend, Irvine, CA	2009
<i>Two Rooms</i> by Lee Blessing University of California, Irvine	2008
<i>BFE</i> by Julia Cho University of California, Irvine	2008
<i>Still Life with Iris</i> by Steven Dietz University of California, Irvine	2007
<i>29/12</i> by Annette Lee (world premiere staged reading) Upper Reaches Theatre, Long Beach, CA	2007
<i>As it is in Heaven</i> by Arlene Hutton University of California, Irvine	2007
<i>Desdemona, a Play about a Handkerchief</i> by Paula Vogel University of California, Irvine	2006
<i>29 Things To Do on a Rainy Day</i> by the SOB Theatre Co. SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA	2005
<i>Measure for Measure</i> by William Shakespeare SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA	2004
<i>Veronika Decides to Die</i> adaptation by Erin McBride Africa of the novel by Paulo Coelho SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA	2003
<i>Italian Mothers</i> adaptation by Erin McBride Africa CSUN Theatre Guild, Northridge, CA	2000
<i>Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread</i> by David Ives CSUN Theatre Guild, Northridge, CA	1998
<i>My Corner of the Playground: Scenes & Staged Poems</i> Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA	1996

<i>The Boy Friend</i> by Sandy Wilson Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA	1995
<i>The Bald Soprano</i> by Eugene Ionesco Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA	1994
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> by Gilbert & Sullivan Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA	1993

ASSISTANT DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<i>The Arsonists</i> by Max Frisch – Assistant to Ron Sossi The Odyssey Theatre Koan Ensemble, Los Angeles, CA	2010
<i>You, Nero</i> by Amy Freed (World Premiere) - Assistant to Sharon Ott South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, CA	2009
<i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare - Assistant to J.R. Sullivan Utah Shakespearean Festival	2008
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> by Bock, Harnick, & Stein - Assistant to Jim Christian Utah Shakespearean Festival	2008
<i>A Little Night Music</i> by Stephen Sondheim & Hugh Wheeler - Assistant to Stefan Novinski South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, CA	2007
<i>Sunday in the Park with George</i> by Sondheim & Lapine - Assistant to Eli Simon University of California, Irvine	2007
<i>The Other Shore</i> by Gao Xingjian - Assistant to Jeffrey Weinckowski SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA, Edge of the World Theatre Festival, BackStage West <i>Pick of the Week</i>	2003
<i>Cymbeline</i> by William Shakespeare - Assistant to Linda deVries California State University, Northridge	2000

CHOREOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Frequently serve as choreographer on productions I direct, including *The Stinky Cheese Man* (musical), *The Little Prince*, and all Devised productions.

<i>Spider Baby the Musical</i> music by Enrique Acosta based on the screenplay by Harold Hill 10 th Avenue Arts Center, San Diego, CA	2012
<i>The Other Shore</i> by Gao Xingjian – Tango & Abstract Mannequin Dance SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA	2003
<i>Oedipus the King</i> by Sophocles – Vaudeville Style Chorus, Musical Theatre, & Soft Shoe/Tap SOB Theatre Co, Hollywood, CA	2002
<i>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum</i> – Courtesans Solos (Various Styles) Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA	1996
<i>Ye Olde Madrigal Feast</i> – Elizabethan Pavane Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA	1995
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> by Gilbert & Sullivan Taconic High School, Pittsfield, MA	1993
Show Choir, Cheerleading Squad, Chorus Holiday Shows	1990-93

PERFORMANCE/ACTING EXPERIENCE

Maria (understudy) – <i>Twelfth Night: A Rock Musical</i> by William Shakespeare (Santa Clarita Shakespeare Fest)	2015
Calavera – <i>Lumbre</i> by Joe Luis Cedillo (Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA)	2005
Katrin – <i>Mother Courage</i> by Bertolt Brecht (S.O.B. Theatre Co., Hollywood, CA)	2005
Speaker #5 – <i>Textbooks & Fences</i> by Joe Luis Cedillo (Tres Chingasos Theatre Collective) 5 th Annual Los Angeles History Project, Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA	2002
Juanie – <i>El Colonel</i> by Joe Luis Cedillo (Tres Chingasos Theatre Collective, Sylmar, CA)	2002
Jokasta – <i>Oedipus the King</i> (musical adaptation) by Sophocles (S.O.B. Theatre Co., Hollywood)	2002

Snug/Lion – <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare (Box & Co., Lenox, MA)	2000
Dancer – <i>Exodus Redundant</i> (modern dance) by Jennifer Seigle, (CSUN)	2000
Julia & Imogen – <i>Touring Shakespeare</i> scenes by William Shakespeare (LAUSD)	2000
Helen & Posthumus' Mother – <i>Cymbeline</i> by William Shakespeare (CSUN)	2000
Jesse (originated role) – <i>Shelter</i> by Erica Paley Stevens (CSUN)	1997
Betty – <i>Sure Thing</i> by David Ives (CSUN)	1998
Ensemble – <i>Tintypes</i> by Mary Kyte with Mel Marvin and Gary Pearle (CSUN)	1998
Annie – <i>The Real Thing</i> by Tom Stoppard (BCC)	1996
Horse – <i>Equus</i> by Peter Shaffer (BCC)	1995
Gert – <i>Par For the Corpse</i> by Jack Sharkey (BCC)	1995
Enid – <i>A Chorus of Disapproval</i> by Alan Ayckbourn (BCC)	1994
Hermione – <i>The Winter's Tale</i> by William Shakespeare (Shakespeare & Company)	1993
Rosalind – <i>As You Like It</i> by William Shakspeare (Fall Festival of Shakespeare, Pittsfield, MA)	1992

TECHNICAL THEATRE & DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Stage Management

American Idiot by Billy Joe Armstrong & Michael Mayer, Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA
7, EIGHT, 9... by Joe Luis Cedillo (world premiere), Company of Strangers, Hollywood, CA
Loveswell by John Fortson, Two Roads Theatre, Studio City, CA
The Greeks by Euripides, Aeschylus (4 productions), California State University, Northridge, CA
August 29th by The Latino Theatre Company, Festival of Chicano Theatre Classics, Los Angeles, CA
The Other Shore by Gao Xingjian, The S.O.B. Theatre Co., Hollywood, CA
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett, The S.O.B. Theatre Co., N. Hollywood, CA
Talking With... by Jane Martin, Thespis, Williamstown, MA
The Real Inspector Hound by Tom Stoppard, The Riggs Theatre, Stockbridge, MA

Properties Crew/Design Assistance

Ragtime Terrence McNally, Lynn Ahrens, & Stephen Flaherty, CLO of South Bay Cities, Redondo Beach, CA
The Marvelous Wonderettes by Roger Bean, Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities, Redondo Beach, CA
Fall Festival of Shakespeare, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA

Costume Staff & Wardrobe

Love's Labours Lost by William Shakespeare, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA
The Wiz by Charles Smalls & William F. Brown, California State University, Northridge, CA
Hamlet by William Shakespeare, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA
Macbeth by William Shakespeare, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA
The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA

Costume Design

The Sound of a Voice by David Henry Hwang, California State University, Northridge, CA
Equus by Peter Shaffer, Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA

Scenic Painting & Construction

2003/2004 Season, The S.O.B. Theatre Co., Hollywood, CA
Frankenstein in Love by Clive Barker, Sacred Fools, Hollywood, CA
Acts of Diversity (Festival of Plays), California State University, Northridge, CA
All In the Timing by David Ives, California State University, Northridge, CA
Blythe Spirit by Noel Coward, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

Light Board Operator

The Pool/Hell's Kitchen by Jeffrey Wienckowski, California State University, Northridge, CA
Something's Afoot by David Vos, James McDonald, Robert Gerlach, BCC, Pittsfield, MA

Stage Crew

The Wizard of Oz by Edgar Harburg & Harold Arlen, Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities, Redondo Beach, CA
Working by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso, California State University, Northridge, CA

Postcard Graphic Designer

The Other Shore by Gao Xingjian, The S.O.B. Theatre Co., Hollywood, CA

Concessions Manager

Summer Season, Shakespeare & Co., Lenox, MA

Workshop Puppeteer

Brothers Grimm & Sisters Wilde by Mia Truxaw, California State University, Northridge, CA

Box Office Staff

BCC Players 1994-1996 Seasons, Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA

HONORS, AWARDS, & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HONORS AND AWARDS:

Department of Drama Graduate Fellowship, UC Irvine
UC Irvine Scholarship Grant
Undergraduate Scholastic Achievement (CSUN, 2000)
National Society of Collegiate Scholars Membership (CSUN, 2000)
Arts Council Theatre Awards (CSUN, 1999 & 2000)
Dean's List (CSUN, 1998-2000)
Completion of the Theatre Honors Program (CSUN, 1998-2000)

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

Keyboardist and singer for **The MOODS** rock band – Los Angeles/Orange County, CA.
www.themoods.net

Designer & seamstress for **Mod Mentality**, a shop on Etsy.com selling handmade handbags and artwork.
www.modmentality.etsy.com