



JENNIFER H. CAPRARU

Director Dramaturg Prof

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BIO Originally from Montréal, Jen is Artistic Director of the award-winning Theatre Asylum, where she directs inter/national plays about humanist issues. www.theatreasylum.com. She has been Associate Dramaturg at Factory Theatre, and taught at various universities. In 2008 she founded Isôko, to help create contemporary theatre for social harmony in Rwanda, now touring internationally. www.isoko-rwanda.org/

THEATRE DIRECTING

selected

MUD + LIFE OF 3 – Maria Irene Fornés	Director	Theatre Asylum 2015 site specific Kensington Market
LES BELLES SOEURS – Michel Tremblay	Director	Buendia (CU) Labrirynt (FR) Cuban Première Havana
INCENDIES – Wajdi Mouawad	Director Workshop Reading	Semaine Théâtre Francophone, Labyrinth, Havana
THE SEVENTH SEAL - Ingmar Bergman	Director/Adaptation	DB Clarke Theatre Montréal site specific
24 EXPOSURES - Serge Boucher	Director Workshop Reading	Canadian Stage Festival Adapted by S. Tepperman
*LITTORAL - Wajdi Mouawad	Director/Adaptation, French	ISÔKO Theatre Rwanda <i>African Premiere</i>
*THE MONUMENT - Colleen Wagner	Director, Kinyarwanda	ISÔKO Theatre Rwanda 2008 > 2013 <i>African Premiere</i> Dialog Fest Poland, World Stage Toronto, MAI Montréal, Rwanda
*LULLABY - Thelon Oeming	Director/Dramaturg	Dark Horse, Factory site specific Parkdale <i>World Premiere</i>
THE ILLUSION - Tony Kushner (Corneille)	Director	Acadia University, Nova Scotia
*METAMORPHOSES - Mary Zimmerman	Director	Phoenix Theatre, Victoria BC
GAS - Jason Maghanoy	Director/Dramaturg workshop	Factory Theatre, Banff PlayRites Colony
GULAG AMERICA - Ken Gass	Director/Dramaturg workshop	Factory Theatre
BéBé The Women Behind Brecht w/Loughran/Madoc-Jones/Stubell/Thompson	Director/Concept/Co-Writer	Theatre Centre <i>World Premiere</i> Developed at Rhubarb, Nightwood Theatre
ZAY SHTIL - Bekky O'Neil	Director/Dramaturg	Tarragon Theatre Youth Series
* THE TRIALS OF JOHN DEMJANJUK - Jonathan Garfinkel	Director/Dramaturg/Producer	Harbourfront, Chutzpah Festival, Intrepid Theatre, BC Banff, NAC, Rhubarb, Ashkenaz <i>World Premiere</i>
THE CANNIBALS - George Tabori	Director	Simon Wiesenthal Centre
THE BALLAD OF WEINER SCHNITZEL -Tabori	Director	Between Stages, MNJCC
WHITE CHALAH - Lamed Shapiro	Director/Adaptation	Ashkenaz Festival, Harbourfront
WALKING TO RUSSIA - Jonathan Garfinkel	Director/Dramaturg/Producer	Theatre Asylum, Passe Muraille <i>World Premiere</i>
*MY MOTHER'S COURAGE George Tabori	Director/Adaptation/Producer	Theatre Asylum, Passe Muraille <i>Canadian Premiere</i> Harbourfront, Segal Centre, Montreal
* THE GUT GIRLS - Sarah Daniels	Director/Producer	Theatre Asylum @Theatre Centre <i>Canadian Premiere</i>
* JANEY JONES - Jen Fawcett	Director/Dramaturg	SummerWorks, Fringe Tour, Nightwood Theatre
COEUR à DEUX - Guy Foissy	Director, French	SummerWorks, Passe Muraille Main
DEAR ELENA SERGEVNA - Razumovskaya	Director/Producer	Theatre Asylum, Theatre Centre <i>Canadian Premiere</i>
LAMENT DE LA ST CATHERINE - Kemeny	Director/Dramaturg, Bilingual	SummerWorks, Factory Theatre Main
THE BOOK Composer - Koblenz	Director/Dramaturg, German	Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart Germany
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TIME	Director/Dramaturg, German	Das Labor, Berlin, Germany *award nominated

PRESS

The Seventh Seal

"Inventive and triumphant staging...Capraru defies the odds with this small miracle. The production is as inventive as it is fresh. Taking a feather from immersive theatre (*Sleep No More*)... it gives a taste how exciting and bold theatre can be." *Cult Montréal*
"Intense and flawless. Capraru has created an astonishing experience for her audiences...passionate and poetic and almost every scene done in an innovative and imaginative way. Her use of theatre space is original and magical." *The Rover*

The Monument *International Freedom to Create Prize Nomination*

"**** We are watching an ancient, cathartic ritual...an act of resurrection and reclamation...Capraru's stark staging...the acting is spare and intense...heart-rending." *Globe 2011* "NNNN You're sure to be riveted by the last half hour of the performance and as affected as the performers clearly are." *NOW* "Capraru masterfully directs...unrelenting and disturbing, but also beautiful, powerful and brave." *The Scene*
"**** Extremely worthwhile theatre experience...Will change the way you view Rwanda." *Theatremania*

Lullaby *Dora Award Nominations for Outstanding Production, Performance*

"Lullaby has all the dark humour you'd want from the best George F. Walker, and Capraru has an excellent sense of pacing." *Eye Magazine*
"Capraru clearly lays out the play's emotional geography." *National Post*

The Illusion

"... spellbinding, Capraru has wrought a powerful potion." *Nova News* "A fantastic success...one of their best." *The Athenaeum*

Metamorphoses *Victoria Critics' Choice Award, Overall Production*

"**** Capraru is a good artistic ally for Zimmerman....she thoroughly understands the playwright's vision and ably emphasizes the play's poetic physicality and a welcome irreverence that verges on the bawdy." *Times Colonist, Victoria BC* "Excellent and imaginative piece of theatrical magic. Capraru is an outstanding talent, evidenced not only by the casts' performances but also in her fresh approach to the material...worth catching for her work alone...sheer visual poetry." *Monday Magazine*
"Capraru uses a distinctly physical approach to the staging that matches the youthful and uniformly striking cast." *CBC Radio*

BéBé

"The stunning new play *BéBé*...uses Brecht's alienation technique and Kurt Weill-like songs, to portray four fascinating muses, lovers caught up in the Brecht machine....a good show, in fact, a thrilling one....run-don't-walk." *P. Citron, 96 FM* "**** Lively and poignant....edgy and has bite....the acting is strong" *Star* "**** An admirable profusion of female talent on and off the stage" *Globe*

The Trials *Dora Award Nominations for Outstanding Performance, Original Composition*

"**** There's nothing finer, for those with strong nerves, than cabaret that's the real thing...furiously beautiful and cruelly funny...a powerful cast." *Globe* "A blistering 90-minute production...Theatre Asylum assaults us with a clever, caustic event...beautifully bitter stew of ideas." *Vancouver Sun* "TRIALS QUITE POSSIBLY THE SHOW OF THE YEAR...Capraru deserves credit for bringing *Trials* so ably to life with such a mix of drama, humour, and soul...gripping, thought-provoking, highly entertaining" *Monday Magazine*
"Like all good cabaret, the fun is on the surface but the undercurrents are deep, dark and disturbing." *Vancouver Courier*
"**** Strange and absorbing theatre....the talented cast and the director's assured grip keep us enthralled." *Eye Magazine*

My Mother's Courage *Dora Award Nominations for Outstanding Performance, Costume, Set Design*

"One to Watch...Jennifer Capraru's Theatre of Contrasts" *Globe profile*
"The mise-en-scène is very alert and devoid of sentimentality...an audacious vision" *Le Devoir, Montreal*
"**** The direction is spare and superb, both visually and emotionally." *Globe*
"Capraru uses spare means to convey complex scenes...deeply moving and illuminating art" *Montreal Gazette*
"Directed beautifully, given its switch between reality and surrealism...Not to be missed" *96 FM*

Janey Jones *Frankie Award Runner Up* "Performances and direction of this caliber are seldom seen in Ottawa...A must see" *Ottawa Citizen* "**** Capraru delivers a finely tuned, tight, energetic and powerful production" *Eye Magazine*

The Gut Girls *Dora Award for Outstanding Costume Design, Nomination for Performance*

"**** Admirably sure-footed direction...lovely directorial touches, striking...recalls legendary Stratford *Les Belles Soeurs*...directed with a firm hand and a lot of confidence" *Globe* "**** Production serves the play well...a solid, engaging piece of work" *Star*

AWARDS ~ RESIDENCIES

Les Grand Prix Afrique Francophone 2013 – *Littoral* nominated best Mise en scène
Invited Artist to Tarmac des Auteurs, Marabout Theatre, INA, Canadian Embassy, Democratic Republic of Congo
Freedom to Create Prize Nomination, Isôko Theatre Rwanda – *The Monument* www.freedomtcreate.com/isoko-theatre-rwanda
Dora Award Nomination, Outstanding Production– *Lullaby*
Dora Award Nomination, Outstanding Production– *Marat/Sade*
Victoria Critics' Choice Award – *Metamorphoses*
Theatre Asylum has been nominated for 8 Dora awards, winning 1
Nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Directing Award by Paul Thompson
Nominated for the John Hirsch Directing Award by Elizabeth Shepherd
Metcalf Foundation Fellowship in Artistic Direction and Dramaturgy, Factory Theatre
Invited Dramaturg Banff Playwrights' Colony, with John Murrell 2004, Maureen Labonté 2006
Invited Dramaturg National Arts Centre's On the Verge
Invited Fellow to the international arts residency Schloss Solitude, Germany
Theatre Asylum is a federally registered charity funded by the Canada, Ontario, Toronto Arts Councils, Emerald, Jackman, Lunan, Flavelle, Dan, Green Foundations
Individual grants from the Canada Council, Theatre Ontario, Laidlaw, Metcalf, Goethe

EDUCATION ~ TRAINING

Master of Arts *Theatre and Performance Studies* York University
Diploma in Director Training, Recipient of Baden-Württemberg Residency Program, Germany
Diploma in Performance Training, British American Academy, England
Invited Director Lincoln Centre Directors Lab New York - Anne Cattaneo
Invited Director World Stage Master Class - John Barton, Mike Alfreds, Chris Newton, Kama Ginkas
Directing Intensive Pierre Walter Politz of the Weimar National Theatre
German language courses Goethe Institut Mannheim Germany
Summer Institute: African Political Theatre - Femi Osofisan, York University
Mime - Naomi Tyrell, Tony Montenero. Modern Dance - Toronto Dance Theatre
Recent workshops: Yael Farber: biography theatre, Adrian Howells: 1-to-1 theatre

ACADEMIC TEACHING

11 Guest Lecturer at Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Haifa University
10 Course Director, French, Dramaturgy 3, Glendon College York University
07 Course Director, French, Performance 1, Glendon College York University
06 Course Director Acting and Performance 1: Canadian Theatre, World Scene Study, Acadia University
06 Course Director Acting and Performance 2: Collective Creation, Invisible Theatre, Acadia University
09 Teaching Assistant to Dr. Robert Fothergill, Origins of Theatre full year, York University
07-12 Applied Theatre, University of Rwanda and l'Institut National des Arts, Kinshasa DR Congo.
11-13 Guest Lecturer, Film Department, York University

PUBLICATIONS

Performance Studies in Motion Ed. Citron, Aronson-Lehavi, Zerbib. Methuen Drama 2014
Performance and the Global City. Ed. Hopkins & Solga. Performance Interventions. Palgrave Macmillan 2013
Theatre & Interculturalism by Ric Knowles. Review for Theatre Survey. Cambridge Publishing 2012
Memory, Memorial and The Monument alt.theatre 2009. Reprinted as book chapter
Critical Perspectives on Canadian Theatre, Monument Playwrights Canada Press 2010
Mémoire, commémoration et mise en scène du conflit rwandais. Revue Liaison 2011 (+ articles by others on my work)

LANGUAGES Fluent spoken and written French and German. Basic Spanish. Some Yiddish, Hebrew, Kinyarwanda, Swahili

TRANSLATION *Purgatory* from the German. *The Maze* – William Kurelek, film subtitles into French

WRITING *Coincidence or Conspiracy* (Rhubarb) BéBé, short stories, poetry. Adaptation of the novel *Kip Flynn* (in progress)

ADDITIONAL DRAMATURGY

Dramaturge for Rahul Varma, Deb Filler, Bruce Gibbons Fell. Dramaturg, Paprika Festival Tarragon
THE VENTRILOQUIST by Larry Tremblay Production Dramaturg dir. Keith Turnbull, English Première, Factory
WHITE BITING DOG by Judith Thompson Production Dramaturg dir. Herbert Olshock, Factory Theatre
INEXPRESSIBLE ISLAND by David Young Production Dramaturg dir. Herbert Olshock, Canadian Rep
Associate Dramaturg and member of Factory Theatre Script Assessment Committee 2004-06

CONFERENCES ~ PANELS

12 Dwight Conquergood Award Runner-Up for Intercultural Performance PSi
11 Invited Artist, Magnetic North. Paper with Kim Solga, ASTR, Montréal
10 Invited Artist, Isra-Drama Festival, Tel Aviv. Paper for RS/PS Schechner Conference, Haifa University.
08-12 Guest Speaker: Brown University's Arts in One World, Macalester College USA, Humber College,
Western, Brock, Laurier, Bishops, Glendon, York, Canadian Centre for Genocide Studies
00-10 Panelist: Ashkenaz Festival, Holocaust Education Week, Koffler Centre

MEDIA

Interviews/press; CBC Radio, TV, Radio Canada International, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, Now, Eye, Vancouver Courier, Le Devoir, Montreal Gazette, Times Colonist, Rwanda's New Times, academic journals.

www.tikkun.org/tikkundaily/2011/09/14/the-art-of-revolution-spoken-word-video-and-performance-art-to-change-the-world-jen-caparu-and-isoko-rwanda/#more-25169 Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6YoNN6RyKU Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBNhXhv6SAQ

Video www.cbc.ca/news/arts/story/2011/04/25/rwanda-theatre.html

AFFILIATIONS

Member of Theatre Without Borders, Theatres Against War
Council Representative, Directors & Choreographer's Committee CAEA 2005-2006
Awards Jury Member, SummerWorks Festival 2004. Past member of PACT, TAPA.
Theatre Assessor for the Canada Council. Volunteer Member of Cultural Arts, MNJCC

ASSISTANT DIRECTING

Murx Den Europaer by Marthaler	Assisted Christoph Marthaler	Volksbühne Berlin
Purgatory In Ingolstadt by ML Fleißer	Assisted Crescentia Dünßer	Landestheater Tübingen, Germany
Faust 3 after Goethe	Assisted Pierre-Jean Valentin	Landestheater Tübingen
8 Songs for a Mad King, Miss Donithorne's Maggot	Associate Director (Maxwell-Davies)	Musica Festival Strasbourg France
La Bête by David Hirson	Assisted John Palmer	Centaur Theatre Montréal

PERFORMANCE

selected

Metamorphoses	Franz Kafka	Various	Jan Komarek Prague, Czech Republic
Blood and Ice	Liz Lochead	Elise	Alisa Palmer Theatre Asylum, Annex Theatre
Marat/Sade	Peter Weiss	Corday	Greg Kramer Umbrella Factory <i>Dora Nomination Outstanding Production</i>
The Laundry	David Guerdon	Lena	Greg Kramer Son of Incubus, Poor Alex
Something for Ed	Hillar Liitoja	Singer	Hillar Liitoja DNA Theatre.
The Man of Mode	George Etheridge	Harriet	Craig Walker Glen Morris Theatre
3 Penny Opera	Bertolt Brecht	Polly	Jon Michaelson Bathurst Street Theatre
Suicide in B Flat	Sam Shepard	Laureen	The Rivoli

FILM

Film Script Supervisor, notably *Shake Hands with the Devil*. Casting experience. Film directing with Jeremy Podeswa, Mort Ransen. Editing at Trinity Square Video. Member of Cinematheque Ontario, NABET

TRAVEL

Rwanda, DR Congo, Rep of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Cuba, Israel, Egypt, Arab Emirates Turkey, Jamaica, Europe, USA

references available upon request