



JENNIFER H. CAPRARU

Director Dramaturg Producer Professor

BIO Originally from Montréal, Jen directs internationally and is Artistic Director of the award-winning Theatre Asylum www.theatreasylum.com
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SELECTED DIRECTING

* MY MOTHER'S COURAGE - George Tabori	Director/Adaptation Romanian	Romania 2017/18 & Theatre Asylum @ Passe Muraille, Segal Montreal Ashkenaz <i>Canadian & Romanian Premieres</i>
NOS VEMOS 5 VISAGES - Guillaume Corbeil	Director/Producer Spanish	Asylum & Ludi Teatro ~ Spanish/Cuban Premiere
THE SEVENTH SEAL - Ingmar Bergman	Director/Adaptation	Ryerson University 2017 DB Clarke Montreal 2012
THE KEY – Agóta Kristof/Ibsen	Director/Adaptation	DanzaTeatro Retazos International Festival, Havana
MUD + LIFE OF 3 – Maria Irene Fornés	Director/Producer	Theatre Asylum Site Specific Kensington Market
NAPOLEON OF THE NILE –George Seremba	Director/Dramaturg	Brown University USA Staged Workshop
MANDELSTAM – Rafi Aaron	Director	Ampitheatre Site Specific Fringe Minsk Synagogue
LES BELLES SOEURS – Michel Tremblay	Director/Producer Spanish	Asylum/Teatro El Sótano Havana Cuban Première
INCENDIOS – Wajdi Mouawad	Director	Semaine Théâtre Francophone Havana staged workshop
24 EXPOSURES - Serge Boucher	Director Workshop Reading	Canadian Stage Festival adapted by Tepperman
* LITTORAL - Wajdi Mouawad	Director/Producer French	ISÔKO Theatre Rwanda <i>Rwanda Tour African Premiere</i>
* THE MONUMENT - Colleen Wagner	Director/Producer 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 Theatre Site Specific Parkdale <i>World Premiere</i>
* METAMORPHOSES - Mary Zimmerman	Director	Phoenix Theatre, Victoria BC
BéBé - The Women Behind Brecht w/ Madoc-Jones Stubel Thompson Loughran	Director/Co-Writer/Producer	Theatre Centre <i>World Premiere</i> Developed at Rhubarb & Nightwood Theatre
* THE TRIALS OF JOHN DEMJANJUK - Jonathan Garfinkel	Director/Dramaturg/Producer	Harbourfront, Chutzpah Festival, Intrepid Theatre, BC Banff, NAC, Rhubarb, Ashkenaz <i>World Premiere</i>
WALKING TO RUSSIA - Jonathan Garfinkel	Director/Dramaturg/Producer	Theatre Asylum, Passe Muraille <i>World Premiere</i>
THE ILLUSION - Tony Kushner -Corneille	Director	Acadia University
* THE GUT GIRLS - Sarah Daniels	Director	Theatre Asylum, Theatre Centre <i>Canadian Premiere</i>
DEAR ELENA SERGEVNA - Razumovskaya	Director	Theatre Asylum, Theatre Centre <i>Canadian Premiere</i>
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TIME	Director German	Das Labor, Berlin <i>* Award Nomination</i>

AWARDS

Nominated for the John Hirsch Directors Prize 2017
 Les Grand Prix de l'Afrique Francophone Nomination Best mise en scène – *Littoral*
 Freedom to Create International Prize Nomination Isôko Rwanda – *The Monument*
 Victoria Critics' Choice Spotlight Nomination Best Direction– *Metamorphoses*
 Victoria Critics' Choice Spotlight Award Best Production– *Metamorphoses*
 Dora Award Nomination, Outstanding Production– *Lullaby* and *Marat/Sade*
 Theatre Asylum has been nominated for 8 Dora awards, winning 1
 Nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Award
 Nominated for the Dwight Conquergood Award in Intercultural Performance PSi

DRAMATURGY

Associate Dramaturg Factory Theatre, and Member the Script Assessment Committee 2004/06
Dramaturg FRENEMIES- Anna Fuerstenberg Playwrights Workshop Montreal
Dramaturg Banff Playwrights' Colony Maureen Labonté 2006, John Murrell 2004
Dramaturg THE TRIALS NAC *On the Verge*
Dramaturg GULAG AMERICA - Ken Gass, Factory Workshop
Dramaturg THE VENTRILOQUIST - Larry Tremblay dir. Keith Turnbull, English Première, Factory Theatre
Dramaturg WHITE BITING DOG - Judith Thompson dir. Herbert Olshock, workshop Factory
Dramaturg INEXPRESSIBLE ISLAND - David Young dir. Herbert Olshock, workshop Canadian Rep
Dramaturg Paprika Festival, Tarragon Theatre
Dramaturg SummerWorks Youth Festival

EDUCATION ~ TRAINING

MA in Theatre and Performance Studies York University 2011
Diploma in Director Training Recipient of the Baden-Württemberg Residency, Germany
Diploma in Performance Training British American Academy, London 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
York University Summer Institute: African Political Theatre with Femi Osofisan
Directing Intensive - Pierre Walter Politz - Weimar National Theatre
German Language Course Goethe Institut Mannheim Germany
Mime - Naomi Tyrell, Tony Montenero. Modern Dance - Toronto Dance Theatre
Workshops - Adrian Howells: 1-to-1 theatre. Yael Farber: biography theatre

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

RESIDENCIES ~ FUNDING

Invited Artist Danza Teatro Retazos, Havana Cuba - Hans Seidel Foundation. Invited Artist Tarmac des Auteurs, Kinshasa DR Congo
Fellow at artist residency Schloss Solitude, Germany. Metcalf Foundation Fellowship in Artistic Direction, Factory Theatre
Theatre Asylum is funded by the Canada, Ontario, Toronto Arts Councils, Emerald, Jackman, Lunan, Flavelle, and Green foundations.
Individual grants: Canada Council, Theatre Ontario, Laidlaw Foundation, Metcalf, Goethe Institut

PUBLICATIONS *Performance Studies in Motion* Methuen Drama. *Performance and the Global City*, Palgrave Macmillan. *Critical Perspectives on Canadian Theatre* Playwrights Canada Press. *Theatre & Interculturalism* by Ric Knowles, review for Theatre Survey Cambridge. *Memory and Memorial* alt.theatre. *Mémoire, commémoration, mise en scene* Revue Liaison.

WRITING *Coincidence or Conspiracy* (Rhubarb), *BéBé*, film scripts, poetry

TRANSLATION *Purgatory in Ingolstadt*, German to English. *The Maze – William Kurelek*, film subtitles English to French

ACADEMIC TEACHING Course Director in French, Dramaturgy 3 & Performance 1, Glendon College. Performance 1 & 2, Acadia University. Teaching Assistant to Dr. Robert Fothergill, York University. Applied Theatre, University of Rwanda & l'Institut National des Arts, Kinshasa DR Congo.

CONFERENCES ~ PANELS Invited Artist, Magnetic North, Isra-Drama Festival, Tel Aviv. Guest Speaker: Brown University, Macalester College USA, Humber College, Western, Brock, Laurier, Bishops, Glendon, York, Canadian Centre for Genocide Studies. Panelist Ashkenaz Festival, Holocaust Education Centre, Koffler Gallery

AFFILIATIONS Member of Theatre Without Borders, Theatres Against War. CAEA Council, Directors & Choreographer's Committee 2005/06. Jury Member, SummerWorks 2004 under Franco Boni. Member PACT, TAPA. Assessor, Canada Council.

ASSISTANT DIRECTING

Murx Den Europaer by Marthaler	Assisted Christoph Marthaler	Volksbühne Berlin Germany
Purgatory In Ingolstadt by ML Fleißer	Assisted Crescentia Dünßer	Landestheater Tübingen, Germany
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

PRESS

Nos Vemos 5 Faces "The performance is superlative." *Juventude Rebelde* "Confuses and detonates the senses, reaping applause and well deserved success" *Tribuna de la Habana* "Nos Vemos is a master class of how to understand theatrical art in a renewed, contemporary way, yet with order and coherence. Capraru has managed to insert herself colossally into the Cuban theatre scene." *Cubaescena*

Mud & Life of 3 "NNNN Fierce Fornés...superb performances...chilling, tough to shake." *NOW* "A stroke of genius. Both plays exceptionally well written, well staged, well acted." *Mooney* "Capraru has done a formidable job in bringing to life these two different plays" *Slotkin* "Theatre Asylum's evening of Fornés' brilliant work...a world of startling vital theatre...no room for tedium in Asylum's wonderful mounting of two plays....Layered direction, monumentally mind-blowing freezes...brilliant triumvirate of actors" *Bateman Reviews*

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...acting is spare and intense...heart-rending." *Globe* "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*

Metamorphoses **Victoria Critics' Choice Nomination for Direction, Award, Overall Production**

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

Bébé "The stunning new play *Bébé*... portrays four fascinating muses, caught up in the Brecht machine....thrilling....run-don't-walk." *Citron, 96 FM* "**** Lively and poignant...the acting is strong" *Star* "**** An admirable profusion of female talent on & off stage" *Globe*

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

***** There's nothing finer than cabaret that's the real thing...powerful cast." *Globe* "A blistering 90-minute production... Asylum assaults us with a clever, caustic event...beautifully bitter." *Vancouver Sun* "TRIALS 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, highly entertaining" *Monday Magazine* "Like all good cabaret, the fun is on the surface but the undercurrents are deep, dark and disturbing." *Vancouver Courier* "****.talented cast and the director's assured grip keep us enthralled." *Eye*

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" *Citron, 96 FM*

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

***** Admirably sure-footed direction...lovely directorial touches, striking...recalls the 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*

The Seventh Seal "Inventive and triumphant staging...Capraru defies the odds with this small miracle...production is as inventive as it is fresh. Taking a feather from immersive theatre (*Sleep No More*)... gives a taste how exciting and bold theatre can be." *Cult Montréal*
"Intense and flawless. Capraru has created an astonishing experience...passionate and poetic...innovative and imaginative." *The Rover*

Mandelstam "Creates a stunning atmosphere...plays with shadows and puppets brilliantly." *Theatre Reader* "...brilliant director who knows how to make poetic dialogue come alive through physicality... brilliant and moving tableaux." *Bateman* "Actors are singularly good." *Mooney*