

Mike Czuba

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EDUCATION:

M.F.A. in Playwriting

University of Calgary (Alberta) 2009 – June 2011

B.F.A. Playwriting Major

Concordia University (Montreal) 2005 – 2009

2017

Mask workshop with Sonia Norris. FOOT Conference, University of Toronto.

2009

Intensive LABAN acting/movement workshop with Bryan Doubt, Concordia University.

2008 - 2007

Intensive Voice and Breath workshops with Ann Skinner, Voice coach at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Organized and participated.

2002

Certificate in Journalism. Concordia University/Continuing Education.

CREATION WORK – RESEARCH

****NEW**

2023

Writer/Author: Book.

NO SHORTCUTS. The Five Chambers: A Practical Guide to Finding Your Own Creative Process.

Based on the course I teach on Creative Process and Performance Creation.

Founding member and lead (S)cientist at **Dancing Monkey Laboratories**.

<http://dancingmonkeylab.com/>

FILM:

2022 – 2024 (shoot):

Writer

THE GIRL WHO CRIED FLYING SAUCER

**Optioned by Be Collective - with Producer Dan Turoff and Dir. Jason Perlman

Based on my TYA play *BOY SEES FLYING SAUCER*.

2020

Writer

A GOOD NIGHT SLEEPS

Proof of concept, short film. Continued development on the Feature (Director Attached)

***Multiple international award winner**

2019

Director/Writer/Editor

THE VOID

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories. Short film based on “Humanoid – A Love Supreme”

***Official selection**, Calgary Comics Expo.

2017

Story Editor (Feature Film – TBD)

Dark Dispatches

Writer: Brandy Green

Sci-Fi based on underground comic series

Director/Writer/Editor

THE VOID

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories. Short film based on “Humanoid – A Love Supreme”

***Official selection**, 5th annual Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Film Festival. New York

2015

Writer/Director/Editor: Short Film

GOOD FORTUNE DRINKS TOO MUCH

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories

***Official selection** CinéDance, as part of the Bouge D’ici dance festival, Montreal, Qc

2014

Writer/Director/Editor: Short Film

(IN) VISIBLE COLLISIONS

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories, based WE MUST COLLIDE

2013

Writer/Director: Short Film

SATELLITES CAPTURED

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories, based on SATELLITES.

***Official selection** CinéDance, as part of the Bouge D’ici dance festival, Montreal, Qc

2012

Story Editor (re-writes): Feature Film

The Highland Heist.

Produced by Samuel Miller Films, New Zealand,

Written by Samuel Miller, Directed by Terry Winsor

2002

Writer: Short Film

Blocked

Dir. Gordon Currie, Starring: Andrew Kenneth Martin.

THEATRE:

2023

AFTER MOURNINGApril 2023 – Her Story Theatre. Staged Reading. Dir. Elayne LeTraunik.
Chicago, Ill.

Writer/Director/Co-Design: Inter-disciplinary Performance

SUBLIMITY (formerly **Humanoid – A LOVE SUPREME**)*March 2023 – Received a *Canada Council Digital Now* grant to finish development and continue to explore Live/Digital hybrid productions.

2021

Digby and Glass (by David Ellis Heyman)

September 2021 – One-Act, Site Specific, Digital Performance produced and directed by Wil Knoll.

Performance Coach, Assistant Director, Production support.**AFTER MOURNING**

March 2021 – South Simcoe Theatre. Staged Reading. Cookstown, Ontario. Dir. Diana Poulsen.

Writer: Full Length Play

2020

NuMb – with interruption.

November 2020 – Collaborative Dance project with Meghann Michalsky for the Fluid Festival, On-line.

Writer/Performer: 10-minute performance.**Like Tom Cruise Loves Running**

September 2020 – Explorations in digital theatre and on-line performance.

Calgary Arts Development Grant project. On-line.

Nominated for a Stinger Award in ‘New Media’*Writer/Director:** One Act play.**Boy Sees Flying Saucer**

June 2020 – On-Line Reading – Chicago Actors. Dir. Elayne Letraunik

Writer: Full Length TYA play.**Clean Up On Aisle Go F#@k Yourself** (cancelled due to COVID-19)

August 2020 – Calgary Fringe Festival, Calgary, Alberta.

Writer: One-Act Play.

AFTER MOURNING

- February 2020 – The Art Studio Inc. Staged Reading. Dir. Elayne Letraunik. Beaumont, Texas.
- January 2020 – Red Deer Players – Staged Reading. Dir. Ashley Mercia. Red Deer, Alberta.

Writer: Full Length Play

PLAY DEAD

Café Koi, Calgary, Alberta. Staged Reading. *Le Salon Des Refuses #4*

Writer/Director: Screenplay

2019

AFTER MOURNING

In Participation with the Glenbow Museum – Staged reading. Alberta.

Writer: Full Length Play

Waiting on the Thunder

DIY Theatre – Alberta One-Act play festival.

Writer: One-Act play.

Like Tom Cruise Loves Running

Nickel & Dime Theatre, University of Calgary. Dir. Haley Petrowich

Writer: One-Act play

Shaniqua and the Space Queen

Café Koi, Calgary, Alberta. Staged Reading. *Le Salon Des Refuses #3*

Writer/Director: Screenplay

2018

REPRISE

Lunchbox Theatre – Official selection in the Suncor Stage One Festival of New Canadian Work. Professional Development Workshop and Staged Reading.

Dir. Valerie Planche

Writer: Full Length play

Karl Nimeni is not Dead – I Killed Karl Nimeni

Theatre Junction Grand's NEXT STAGE series, Calgary, Alberta

Writer/Director: One-Act Interdisciplinary play

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories and Theatre Junction Grand.

Boy Sees Flying Saucer

Growing Stage Children's Theatre of New Jersey. World Premiere

*Laurie Award winner. Dir. Danny Campos

Writer: Full Length TYA play.

Waiting for Gordo

Café Koi, Calgary, Alberta. Staged Reading. *Le Salon Des Refuses #2*

Writer/Director: Screenplay

2017

Karl Nimeni / Dreams Redux.

Theatre Junction Grand, La Nuit Sauvage,

Writer/Director: One-Act Interdisciplinary/Site Specific performance.

2016

Satie et Cocteau: A Rehearsal of a Play of a Composer by a Poet

Genesis Theatrical Productions, Chicago, Ill. American Premiere. Dir. Elayne LeTraunik

Writer: Full length play***Boy Sees Flying Saucer***

Growing Stage Children's Theatre of New Jersey. Staged reading.

Laurie award winner.

Writer: Full Length TYA play***Humanoid – A LOVE SUPREME***

Theatre Junction Grand, Calgary, Alberta. Artist in Residence.

Writer/Director/Co-Design: Inter-disciplinary Performance

A two week 'incubation' session to explore and develop the work.

After Us The Savage GodWine O's bar, Calgary, Alberta. Staged Reading – *Le Salon Des Refuses #1***Writer/Director:** Full length play***After Us The Savage God***

Mainline Theatre. Montreal, Qc. Staged Reading

Writer/Director: Full length play***Resistance*** by James Wade

University of Calgary. Staged Reading

Director. Master's degree thesis play presentation***WE MUST COLLIDE***

Theatre Junction Grand, Calgary, Alberta. Artist in Residence

Writer/Co-Director: Dance production

2015

REPRISE

The Blank Theatre. Los Angeles, CA. Staged Reading

Writer: Full length play

2014

WE MUST COLLIDE

Springboard Movement Fluid Festival, Calgary, Alberta

Writer/Co-Director: Dance production

2013

I AM I

- Amsterdam Fringe festival. Orange Tea Theatre. Netherlands
Dir. Lora Randolph Mander

- Taking Flight, University of Calgary's Student Works Theatre festival
Dir. Joe Rino
Writer: Full length play

SATELLITES

The Big Secret Theatre, Calgary, Alberta

Writer/Director/Designer: One Act interdisciplinary performance
Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories

Karl Nimeni is not Dead – I Killed Karl Nimeni

Arts Commons – Motel space. Calgary, Alberta

Writer/Director: One-Act Interdisciplinary play
Workshop/Inter-disciplinary production

Satie et Cocteau: A Rehearsal of a Play of a Composer by a Poet

English Theatre Berlin, Berlin, Germany. Staged Reading

Writer: Full length play

Satie et Cocteau: A Rehearsal of a Play of a Composer by a Poet

Genesis Theatrical Productions, Chicago, Ill. Staged Reading

Writer: Full length play

2012

Satie et Cocteau: A Rehearsal of a Play of a Composer by a Poet

International Mountain View Music Festival in Calgary, Alberta

World Premiere. Dir. Barry Yzereef

Writer: Full length play

I AM I

Orange Tea Theatre Company, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Dir. Sam Morris

Writer: Full length play

SATELLITES

Sage Theatre's IGNITE! festival

Writer/Director/Designer: One Act interdisciplinary performance

Boy Sees Flying Saucer

Arts Commons – Motel space. Calgary Alberta. Staged Reading

Writer: Full Length TYA play

2011

REPRISE

Lunchbox Theatre in Calgary, Alberta. Dir. Gail Hanrahan

Staged Reading as part of the Alberta Playwrights Network reading series

Writer: Full Length play.

The Adventures of Don Marcos Sebastian Guevara Fantastico.

Wagon Stage series (a collaboration between the City of Calgary and the University of Calgary). Dir. Braden Griffiths.

Writer: Full Length TYA play

I AM I

- Theatre Transit, Calgary, Alberta. Dir. Valmai Goggin.
- Centaur Theatre's Wildside festival, Montreal, Qc. Dir. Larry Lamont

Writer: Full Length play

Hope is Dead

Walterdale theatre in Edmonton.

*Won "Cradle to Stage" one-act play competition

Writer: One-Act play

2010

Hope is Dead

Nickel & Dime Theatre, University of Calgary. Dir. Claudia Serbanescu

Writer: One-Act play

Waiting on the Thunder

Sage Theatre's IGNITE! Festival, Calgary, Alberta

Writer/Director: One-Act play

2009

I AM I

Players' Theatre, Montreal, QC. Dancing Monkey Laboratories. Dir. Larry Lamont

Writer: Full Length play

Produced by Dancing Monkey Laboratories

2008

The Elusive

Tableau D'Hote Theatre. Dir. Murray Napier

*Won "Best of Montreal" as voted by the readers of the Montreal Mirror

Writer: Full length play

PUBLICATIONS:

2023

Writer/Author: Book.

NO SHORTCUTS. The Five Chambers: A Practical Guide to Finding Your Own Creative Process.

Based on the course I teach on Creative Process and Performance Creation.

Drama Notebook. TYA play ***The Adventures of Don Marcos Sebastian Guevara Fantastico.***

2021

Intermission Magazine – Article "A (sort of) Manifesto: Running Between Theatre and Film, Reimagining the Live Experience".

- 2020
Playwrights Canada Press' anthology *Refractions: Scenes*, edited by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard and Yvette Nolan. A scene from *REPRISE*
- 2019
Intermission Magazine – Article “How Prince Made me a Better Playwright” as part of their ‘Artist Perspective’ series.
- 2018
Intermission Magazine – Article “Forever Emerging” as part of their ‘Artist Perspective’ series.
- 2011
Original Works Publishing. Full Length play “*I AM I*”

AWARDS/GRANTS/COMPETITIONS

Professional

- 2022
Canada Council for the Arts – Digital Now Grant to create a Live/Digital hybrid of a multi-disciplinary original work.
- 2020
Rozsa Foundation and Calgary Arts Development Authority.
On-Line Programming Grant.
To explore and experiment with Digital Theatre: Creation and Performance
- 2017
Official selection of the 5th annual Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Film Festival. May 2017, New York. “THE VOID”

“Laurie Award” from Growing Stage Children’s Theatre of New Jersey – Boy Sees Flying Saucer
- 2016
Canada Council for The Arts Travel Grant to attend a production of *Satie et Cocteau* in Chicago
- 2015
Canada Council for The Arts Travel Grant to attend a staged reading of *REPRISE* in Los Angeles

Runner-up in Red Theatre’s playwriting competition – Chicago, Ill. *REPRISE*
*Top three out of 500 international submissions

2013
Alberta Foundation for the Arts production grant for remount of original work
SATELLITES

2012
Alberta Playwriting Competition, honourable mention. *REPRISE*

2011
Runner-up for the Pam Dunn award at Infnitheatre in Montreal. *REPRISE*

Academic

2017
University of Calgary Faculty Association Travel Grant. FOOT conference in Toronto
Only 3 annually distributed university wide

2012
Nominated for a Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award

2010
SSHRC grant (Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship).
Research and develop of thesis play *Satie et Cocteau: A Rehearsal of a Pay of a
Composer by a Poet*

Queen Elizabeth Graduate Scholarship, University of Calgary

2009
Queen Elizabeth Graduate Scholarship, University of Calgary

2008
The Lou Gordon Award in playwriting, Concordia University.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY:

2022
Dramaturg/Mentor for Dancer's Studio West's Quick&Dirty festival of filmed works.

Dramaturg/Outside Eye for Megahnn Michalsky's dance film HAVEN, for Jobel Art For
Earth.

2020 – On Going
Dramaturg/Mentor/Outside Eye for *Project InTandem*, a contemporary dance production
of new choreography by Meghann Michalsky and Sylvie Moquin.

2017 - 2018
Dramaturg for Theatre Junction Grand's TJLAB artist residencies, 8 sessions - theatre,
dance, devised performance.

2013 - 2018

Monologue and performance workshop for the 'Coming-out Monologues' 2013 – 2018

2016

Monologue and performance workshop for the 'Coming-out in Faith'

Presence workshop for University of Calgary student recruiting officers

2015

Facilitated multiple acting workshops for the Soaring Indigenous Youth conference

2014

Dramaturg for the USAY (Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth) project "Family" by Olivia Brooks

2013 -2015

Presence workshops for the University of Calgary Student Leadership Exchange

2012-2017

Mentor for the Emerging Leaders Program, University of Calgary
Providing incoming students with a support system as they navigate their first year of university. A staff mentor in the Emerging Leaders Program has the unique opportunity to help shape the university experience of the mentees

2010

Acting workshop for "Empowering Women" (Support Group) through Calgary Family Services

LANGUAGES:

English (fluent reading, writing, speaking and comprehension)

French (moderate level reading, writing, speaking and comprehension)

TEACHING:

(Sessional Instructor)

*Drama 360 (Now 358) – 'Performance Creation' is an Introductory course I developed and designed to explore and develop a *creative process* through performance assignments.

University of Calgary

2023

Fall, Drama 242, Introduction to the Study of Drama.

Spring, DRAMA 358, Performance Creation in Applied Practice.

Winter, DRAMA 243, Introduction to the Practice of Drama.

2022

Fall, Drama 242, Introduction to the Study of Drama.

Spring, DRAMA 358, Performance Creation in Applied Practice.

Winter, DRAMA 243, Introduction to the Practice of Drama.

2021

Fall, DRAMA 242, Introduction to the Study of Drama.

Summer, DRAMA 358, Performance Creation in Applied Practice.

Spring, DRAMA 358, Performance Creation in Applied Practice. (Synchronous)

Winter, DRAMA 243, Introduction to the Practice of Drama. (Asynchronous)

2020

Fall, DRAMA 242, Introduction to the Study of Drama. (Asynchronous)

**(Drama 360) Spring and Summer courses cancelled due to COVID 19.

Winter, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation

Winter, DRAMA 210, Introduction to Acting II.

2019

Fall, DRAMA 242, Introduction to the Study of Drama.

Fall. DRAMA 209, Introduction to Acting I.

Spring/Summer, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation. (2 separate courses)

Winter, DRAMA 243, Introduction to the Practice of Drama.

Winter, DRAMA 210, Acting II.

*Replacement appointment (3 weeks)

Winter, DRAMA 673, Selected Problems in Playwriting II (Masters Level)

Winter, DRAMA 471, Advanced Playwriting (Undergraduate)

Winter, DRAMA 455, Advanced Topics in Canadian Theatre and Drama (Canadian Playwriting).

Marianopolis College: (Montreal)

2018

Fall, Theatre Explorations 1 and Theatre 1. (An introduction to theatre techniques and devised elements.)

University of Calgary

2018

Spring/Summer, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation. (2 separate courses)

Winter, DRAMA 673, Selected Problems in Playwriting II. (Master's level course investigating dialogue and thesis play development.)

2017

Fall, DRAMA 355, Introduction to Canadian Theatre and Dram. (Lecture course exploring contemporary Canadian Theatre.)

Winter, DRAMA 460, Performance Creation II. (Advance course building on the creation and development techniques acquired in DRAMA 360.)

Spring/Summer, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation. (2 separate courses)

2016/17

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

Spring, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

2015/16

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

Spring, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

2014/15

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 460, Performance Creation II.

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

'One Day @ University of Calgary' Continuing Education. FIF 601 *Your Everyday Presence*. One day workshop on re-connecting to presence taught through acting techniques.

Spring, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

2013/14

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

Fall, Continuing Education, HUM 520-001 Drama Theory and *Acting for everyday Presence*.

Spring, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

2012/13

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 360, Performance Creation.

Spring, DRAMA 571, Effective Communication Through Performance. (Designed and Instructed. A course open to entire University using acting techniques to develop a stronger presence when public speaking)

2011/12

Fall and Winter, DRAMA 200, Introduction to Acting. (First year acting course open to the entire University)

TEACHING:

(Workshop Leader – Instructor)

Concordia University: (Montreal)

(TPER 201/202 and TDEV 298 classes usually consist of about 60 to 120 students broken down into weekly four, 4-hour studio workshops of 14 to 18 students)

2009

Winter, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting I.

Winter, TPER 202, Introduction to Acting II.

Summer, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting.

2008

Winter, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting.

Winter, TDEV 298, Telling Tales.

Summer, TPER 201 and TPER 202, Introduction to Acting.

Summer, TPER 202, Introduction to Acting II.

Fall, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting.

2007

Winter, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting.

Winter, TDEV 298, Telling Tales.

Summer, TDEV 298, Telling Tales.

Summer, TPER 202, Introduction to Acting II

Fall, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting.

Fall, TDEV 298, Telling Tales.

2006

Fall, TPER 201, Introduction to Acting

Fall, TDEV 298, Telling

TEACHING:

(Teaching Assistant)

University of Calgary:

2011

Winter, FINA 205, Story (This class is open to the entire University, breaking down the elements and infiltration of story in society)

2010

Fall, Drama 371, Playwriting I. Teaching Assistant.

Fall, FINA 203, Creativity (This class is open to the entire University, studying the fundamentals and development of creativity)

Winter, Lectures: Drama 240, Brecht, Stravinsky.

2009/2010

Fall/Winter, Drama 240 (Introduction to Theatre History) Weekly tutorial.

Concordia University: (Montreal)

2009

Winter, THEA 211, (Script Analysis).

2008

Winter, THEA 303 (Theatre History 1).

Summer, TDEV 498 (Designing/Conducting an Acting workshop), Apprentice. This is course is geared towards building the skills required to teach TPER 201/202.

Fall, PROD 211 (Introduction to Theatre Production - This course introduces the mechanics of theatre production in the areas of space, genre and staging.)

ORGANIZATIONS

2014 - Present

Member of PGC – Playwrights Guild of Canada.

2014 - Present

Member of the Board of Directors for NUTV - the University of Calgary's student run television station – creating programming and providing skills training.

CONFERENCES/PAPERS:

2020

“A Thr(3)e Dimensional Text: Playwriting for an Alt-traditional Structure” – Imagining Differently, Centre for Imaginative Ethnography Symposium, York University. (**Cancelled due to COVID-19**)

2018

“Our Own Witnesses” – Plenary Session address at the Puppet Power conference (theme: story), University of Calgary.

2017

“A Thr(3)e Dimensional Text – Writing as Sound”, FOOT 2017. Festival of Original Theatre at the University of Toronto, Centre for Drama.

2014

“Art! A Philosophy for Everyone, Not an Object for the Few”, Last Lecture Series, University of Calgary’s Student Union

2010

“Behave Yourself a Monkey is Watching You”. “Confounding Expectations” Graduate Student Conference, University of Calgary