

Jacqueline Russell

Director. Performer. Creator. Arts Educator. Clown.

(403) 477 - 8331

jacqueline.j.russell@gmail.com

RESEARCH AREAS

Clown, Mask, Feminist
Theatre, Physical Theatre,
Trauma-Informed
Embodiment, Disability
Theatre, Theatre for
Young Audiences

AWARDS

2020
Queen Elizabeth II
Canada Graduate
Scholarship

2019
University of Calgary
Drama Graduate
Student Travel Grant

Office of the Vice
President Travel Grant

Alberta Graduate
Students Travel
Incentive

Centre for Research in
the Fine Arts Grant

Graduate Students
Association Professional
Development Grant

Alberta Graduate Excell
ence Scholarships -
Masters Research

2005
University of Alberta
Citadel Theatre Award
for Artistic Promise

EDUCATION

University of Calgary - MFA, Theatre Studies, 2018 – 2020

Thesis Title: *Feminist Clowning: Serious Pleasures and Strategic Possibilities* Supervisors: Professor Valerie Campbell and Dr. Penelope Farfan

University of Alberta - BFA, Acting with Honors, 2003 -2006

Red Deer College - Theatre Studies Certificate, 2001-2003

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Term Contract, University of Lethbridge
September – December 2023

Assistant Professor, Brandon University
September 2021 – August 2022

Sessional Instructor, University of Calgary
May 2019 – present

Sessional Instructor, Ambrose University
January 2021 - present

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Urban Curvz Theatre - Artistic Director
July 2011 - July 2015

Lunchbox Theatre - Emerging Director
September 2013 - June 2014

Evergreen Theatre - Artistic Producer
September 2008 - June 2013

CREDENTIALS

Mental Health First Aid Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2023

**Graduate Student Micro-Credentials in University
Teaching and Learning** Taylor Institute 2019 - 2021

Reconciliation through Indigenous Education Certificate
University of British Columbia 2017

Arts Management Certificate
University of Calgary/Rozsa Foundation 2012-2013

SELECTED THEATRE CREDITS

* Denotes new devised work

2025

Two Moons: A Folk Lullaby (upcoming) by Sonia Deleo* Director Handsome Alice Theatre

2024

The Play That Goes Wrong by H. Lewis, H. Shields & J. Sayer Director Keyano Theatre
Bear Necessities by Lisa Ryan Director Evergreen Theatre
Thank You for Your Order by Jessica Moss Director Stage One, Lunchbox Theatre
Oblong & Oboe Stir the Pot by C. Peters & J. Gonie*¹ Dramaturge Live Five, Saskatoon
Talking to Your Kids About Guns by Maxim Vinogradov Director University of Calgary
Translations by All Bodies Dance/Naomi Brand* Performer High Performance Rodeo

2023

Allergic to Water (workshop) by Jacqueline Russell* Creator/Performer Inside Out Theatre
North The Musical (workshop) by Ashli St. Armant Clown Consultant Dandelion Arts, California
Two Moons: A Folk Lullaby (workshop) by Sonia Deleo* Director Handsome Alice Theatre
The Wicked Witch of the Wetlands by Jana O'Connor Director Evergreen Theatre

2022

Gilgamesh by Domenick Scudera Director Ambrose University
Oblong & Oboe by C. Peters & J. Gonie* Director/Dramaturge Studio 914, Saskatoon
Stigma, Pistol & Style by Erin Pettifor*² Director/Dramaturge Calgary/Edmonton Fringe
She Kills Monsters by Qui Nguyen Director Brandon University

2020

Wagonstage by A. Jaworska & C. Zoleta Director University of Calgary
Playful Deviance (created by the ensemble) * Director University of Calgary

2019

Bridge of Jests by Jacqueline Russell* Creator/Performer Play the Fool Festival

2017

Hushabye (with Jed Tomlinson) Creator/Performer National Tour

2016

The Wilds * Playwright/Director Calgary Opera (LCAO)
The Sama Kutra (with Jed Tomlinson) Creator/Performer Toronto Festival of Clowns

2015

*Shortcut to Nirvana*³ Playwright Swallow a Bicycle Theatre
Legoland by Jacob Richmond⁴ Director Urban Curvz Theatre
A Midsummer Night's Dream Adaptation by A. Stephen Director The Shakespeare Company
The Terrible Case of Blooy Blooy Goo Playwright/Director Calgary Opera (LCAO)
The Sama Kutra (with Jed Tomlinson) Creator/Performer National Tour

¹ Nominated for SATAWARD Excellence in New Work

² Nominated for three Sterling Awards including Outstanding Fringe Director

³ Nominated for a Critics Choice Award

⁴ Nominated for two Betty Mitchell Awards

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As an educator I have taught acting, directing, playwriting, devising/creating, character study, mask, clown, physical theatre, movement/embodiment, and theatre for young audiences in a variety of formal and non-traditional spaces over the past 15 years. I am also a certified yoga instructor, and experiment with blending yoga, clown, viewpoints and other embodied practices in my research and teaching.

Teaching Experience: Credit Courses

Winter 2025	Acting IV (TH 302)	Ambrose University
	Movement IV (Th 304: Mask & Clown)	Ambrose University
	Intro to Acting II (Drama 210)	University of Calgary
Fall 2024	Acting III (TH 301)	Ambrose University
Spring 2024	Explorations in Clown (DRAM 481.09)	University of Calgary
Winter 2024	Intro to Acting II (Drama 210)	University of Calgary
Fall Term 2023	Directing I (Drama 2420)	University of Lethbridge
	Playwriting I (Drama 2750)	University of Lethbridge
	Acting I (Drama 2310)	University of Lethbridge
	Acting II (Drama 3310)	University of Lethbridge
Winter Term 2023	Intro to Acting II (Drama 210)	University of Calgary
	Movement IV (Th 304: Mask & Clown)	Ambrose University
	Intro to Theatre II (20:164)	Brandon University
	Character Study II (20:268)	Brandon University
	Character Study III (20:368)	Brandon University
Fall Term 2022	Rehearsal & Performance Classical Play (TH 222)	Ambrose University
	Intro to Acting (Drama 209)	University of Calgary
Winter Term 2022	Theatre Performance I and II (20:353/354)	Brandon University
	Intro to Theatre II (20:164)	Brandon University
	Character Study II (20:268)	Brandon University

Fall Term 2021	Theatre and Identity (20:173/36:173)	Brandon University
	Intro to Theatre I (20:163)	Brandon University
	Character Study I (20:267)	Brandon University
Winter Term 2021	Movement IV (Th 304: Mask & Clown)	Ambrose University
Spring Term 2019	Theatre for Young Audiences (Drama 367)	University of Calgary
Winter Term 2019	Approaching Interdisciplinarity (SCPA 399)	University of Calgary (Teaching Assistant)

Teaching Experience: Non-Credit Courses

August 2024	<i>Fool Bodied</i>	One North Clown and Creation
July 2023	<i>Artstrek Instructor</i>	Theatre Alberta
May - June 2023	<i>Fool Bodied</i>	Wee Witches/Inside Out Theatre
Feb 2023	<i>Beyond Words: Theatre Masks in the Classroom</i>	Calgary Teacher's Convention
Feb - Mar 2022	<i>All the School's A Stage</i>	Multiple Alberta Teacher's Conventions
June 2021	<i>Festival Adjudicator</i>	Pilot Lights Highschool Drama Festival
April 2021	<i>Intro to Directing</i>	Theatre Alberta (Workshops by Request)
Feb - Mar 2021	<i>Covid Safe Drama Games</i>	Multiple Alberta Teacher's Conventions
Jan 2020 – Dec 2021	<i>Playwriting and Collective Creation</i>	Inside Out Theatre
Feb 2020	<i>Exploring Diverse Narratives with Mask</i>	Calgary Teachers Convention
Jan 2020	<i>Mask Through Clown</i>	Side by Each Clown Collective, Comox, BC
Nov 2019	<i>Mask Intensive</i>	Central Memorial High School, Calgary, AB
Nov 2019	<i>Serious Play Clown Workshop</i>	University of Calgary
April 2019	<i>A Taste of Clown Workshop</i>	Calgary High School Drama Festival
Feb 2019	<i>Intro to Clown Workshop</i>	University of Calgary

TRAINING

Embodied Training

2021	Trauma Sensitive Yoga Foundational Training <i>with Nicola Mosely TCTSY</i>
2019	Intimacy Direction <i>with Siobhan Richardson</i>
2018	Yin Yoga Level One <i>with Alan Mileham (Yoga Passage)</i>
2018	Authentic Movement <i>with Val Campbell</i>
2012 – 2013	Certified Yoga Instructor (200 Hours) <i>Sattva School of Yoga</i>
2011	Viewpoints <i>with Rita Bozi</i>

Clown & Physical Theatre Training

2023	Neo-Bouffon <i>with Karen Hines</i>
2022	Clown Studies – History & Theory <i>with Jon Davison</i>
2021	Character Comedy Workshop <i>with Deanna Fleyscher</i>
2020	Drag King Comedy Workshop <i>with Deanna Fleyscher</i> Pochinko Technique Teacher Training <i>with John Turner</i>
2019	School for Comedy Beasts <i>with Deanna Fleyscher</i> Bouffon Master Class <i>with Nathaniel Justiniano</i>
2018	Voice for Clown <i>with Fides Krucker</i>
2017	Bouffon <i>with Eric Davis</i>
2016	Clown Workshop <i>with Amy Lee and Heather Annis</i>
2013	Boot Camp, Joey and Auguste, Advanced Boot Camp Manitoulin Conservatory <i>with John Turner Michael Kennard</i>
2011	Clown Intensive <i>with John Turner</i>
2010	Clarity in Movement <i>with David Gains</i>
2008	Baby Clown Intensive <i>with John Turner</i>
2007	Clown Boot Camp <i>with John Turner</i>
2006	Neutral Mask and Clown <i>with Jan Henderson</i>

Other Training

2024	Playing with Costume <i>with Nina Vogel</i>
2022	Audio Describer Training <i>with Inside Out Theatre</i>
2021	Placemaking and Creative Interventions <i>with Kevin Jesuino</i>
2021	Decolonizing Theatre Basics <i>with Groundwater Arts</i>
2021	Reimagining Anti-Oppressive Theatre Education <i>with Nikki Shaffeeullah and Sasha Tate-Howarth</i>
2020	Honouring Your Footsteps: Creating Personal Land Acknowledgements <i>with Jacqueline and Hunter Cardinal</i>

2014	Creation Master Class <i>with Karen Hines</i>
2013	Playwriting Master Class <i>with Colleen Murphy</i>
2013	Directing Master Class <i>with Micheline Chevrier</i>
2010	Alberta Playwrights Network TYA Workshop <i>with Meiko Ouchi & Duval Lang</i> Alberta Playwrights Network Playwrights Circle <i>with Gordon Pengilly</i>
2008	Channeling Voice <i>with Judith Thompson</i> , Playwrights Ink One Yellow Rabbit Summer Lab Intensive

PRESENTATIONS

But why is it CLOWN? ... Play the Fool Festival, Edmonton, Canada, 2023.

Clowning, Equity and Social Justice. Clown Congress, London, UK, 2022.

Going for the Unknown: Using Clown to Navigate Uncertainty. Children, Youth and Performance Conference (Online), York University, Toronto, Canada, 2021.

Break All the Rules: Female Clowns at the fin-de-siècle. Theatre History Focus Group Debut Panel, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Orlando, Florida, 2019.

Radical Bodies: Feminist Clown Practice. Women in Theatre Pre-conference, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Orlando, Florida, 2019.

Cultural Approaches to Theatre Clowning. Play the Fool Festival, Edmonton, Canada, 2017.

Women in Theatre. Girls Gone Wilde Festival, Urban Curvz Theatre, Calgary, Canada, 2015.

BROADCAST INTERVIEWS

[The Admirable Art Form of Clowning](#), Global News Morning Winnipeg, Global News 2017.

TEXT INTERVIEW

Scott, Shelley. "Feminism as a Marketing Tool: Calgary's Urban Curvz." *Canadian Theatre Review*, vol.165, 2016, pp. 48–54. <https://doi.org/10.3138/ctr.165.010>

"Interviews with Artistic Directors conducted by Women's Caucus members between September 2011 and February 2016", *Playwrights Guild of Canada: Women's Caucus Newsletter*, 2016. <https://playwrightsguild.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Womens-Caucus-AD-Interviews-Master-Document.pdf>

Scott, Shelley. "Women's Theatre Festivals as Counterpublics: Groundswell, FemFest, and The Riveter Series." *Theatre Research in Canada*, Vol. 35, no. 1, 2014, p. 103. <https://doi.org/10.3138/tric.35.1.103>

PUBLICATIONS

"Dancing in the Chaos: Creating a Feminist Clown Practice." Re-clowning – The political in the clown. VOICES Magazine Issue V. Theater der Zeit, 2024.

Feminist Clowning: Serious Pleasures and Strategic Possibilities (Master's thesis, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada, 2020). <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/112320>

"A Clown of His/Her/Their Own: Clown and Gender Performativity." *Canadian Theatre Review* 183, Summer 2020. <https://doi.org/10.3138/ctr.183.012>

"Aint' Nuthin' But A She Thing..." *All Stages Magazine*, Theatre Alberta Publication, Spring 2015.

"Interview with Governor General's Award-winning playwright Catherine Banks." *Arts Commons Magazine*, Spring 2013.

SERVICE

Hit that Jive (Board Member)

2024 – ongoing

Hit That Jive Productions is an Edmonton-based non-profit arts organization that cultivates experiences for artists and audiences that focus on curiosity and play. The organization produces the annual [Play the Fool Festival](#). As a board member, I support the artistic team in providing mentorship and performance opportunities for emerging and seasoned artists and hosting performers and teachers from across the globe to work with our artists and perform for local audiences.

Alchemy Festival Supervision

Winter Term 2023 & 2024

The Alchemy Festival is a three-week, tri-division celebration of student work in music, drama, dance, and interdisciplinary performance at the School for Creative and Performing Arts at the University of Calgary. I supervise groups of students creating devised work, offering mentorship, dramaturgical feedback, and guidance in navigating the technical process.

Screaming Goats Collective (Board Member)

2021 - 2024

The [Screaming Goats Collective](#) is a non-profit society strengthening the creative communities of both Eastern and Western Canada with a focus on interdisciplinary devised creation in Mohkinstsis (Calgary, Alberta). I have been privileged to volunteer as a board member for the past several years, supporting productions and workshops that dismantle disciplinary borders by incorporating the virtuosity of circus and the storytelling power of theatre, evoking a performative experience that is both spell-casting and strange.

Brandon University Gender & Women's Studies (Committee Member)

2021 - 2022

This committee at Brandon University in Manitoba engages in a variety of activities aimed at inviting students to challenge prevailing notions of gender and sexualities and to learn about gender relations as they have been constructed culturally, globally, historically, and institutionally. Members organize the Beyond Gender Annual Lecture, award scholarships and offer courses within their discipline that are cross-registered with Gender and Women's Studies.

Ambrose University Marketing & Recruiting (Committee Member)

2020 - 2021

Sessional instructors with connections to the professional theatre community were invited to join this committee to advise and collaborate on marketing and recruitment strategies. Through this opportunity, I learned more about the challenges academic institutions face and contributed to recruitment planning and strategizing.