

MEGAN SANDBERG-ZAKIAN

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EDUCATION

MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts

Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

Graduate Thesis: *There Must Be Happy Endings: On the Raveling of Optimism and Honesty*

BA in Educational Studies and American Dramatic Literature

Brown University, Providence, RI

Honors Thesis: *Performance Everyday: Supporting & Sustaining Teacher Development Through the Arts.*

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Freelance Director, *Various*

2009–present

- Productions and developmental workshops at venues including The Huntington Theatre, New Repertory Theater, Perishable Theatre, Portland Stage Company, and others (see directing resume for list of selected productions).

Director-in-Residence, *Merrimack Repertory Theater*, Lowell, MA

2015–present

- Focus on developing and directing new work

Artistic Associate, *Central Square Theater*, Cambridge, MA

2013–2014

- Project development and new play development; lead Diversity & Inclusion and Connectivity initiatives.

Theater Communications Group “Future Leaders” Fellow

Associate Artistic Director, *Underground Railway Theater*, Cambridge, MA

2011–2013

- Recipient of TCG Future Leaders grant for a two-season mentorship with URT Artistic Director Debra Wise; special emphasis on support opportunities for diverse local artists and development of plays increasing public understanding of science through Catalyst Collaborative, a partnership with MIT.

Associate Artistic Director, *Providence Black Repertory Company*, Providence, RI

2005–2009

- Responsible for overseeing all aspects of theater vision, programs, production, and personnel.
- Worked closely with playwrights through play development process; produced developmental readings of plays that went on to national success such as *The Ballad of Emmett Till* (world premiere: Goodman Theatre, 2008), *Trojan Barbie* (world premiere: American Repertory Theatre, 2009).

Associate Artistic Director, *The 52nd Street Project*, New York, NY

2000–2005

- Produced, directed, and/or performed in eight productions/year at off-Broadway theaters, involving young people and artists such as Frances McDormand, Edie Falco, and Lewis Black.

RESEARCH AND CONSULTING

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant

2014–present

- Organizations including Central Square Theatre, ATHE, and universities.

- Everett Arts, *Consultant*, Providence RI 2011-2012
- Support of visioning, strategic planning, fundraising, and documentation initiatives at this community-based dance company and youth development organization.
- Manton Avenue Project, *Consultant*, Providence RI 2010-2011
- Led Participatory Evaluation process of mission and programs; conducted nationwide search for new Artistic Director to replace the founder; assisted board and staff with leadership transition.
- The ArtsLiteracy Project, *Research and Evaluation Team*, Providence, RI 1998-2000
- Conducted research/evaluation of ArtsLiteracy Project professional development program for teachers.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Harvard University, *Harvard Playwriting Festival Director/Mentor* 2010-present
- Brown University, *Visiting Lecturer, Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies*, 2010
 Course: "Performance-Making in Community"
- Rhode Island College, *Mentor (MFA in Performance and Society)* 2006-2009
- The Yale School of Drama's The Dwight Edgewood Project, *Playmaking Instructor* 2003, 2008

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Identity, Difference, and Representation: Serving a Diversifying Student Body Through the Arts*, ATHE Leadership Institute (2016)
- Changing Values, Changing Communities: Case Studies From the Front Lines*, panel at TCG national conference, San Diego (2014)
- TCG Fall Forum on Diversity and Inclusion, Diversity and Inclusion Pre-Conference*, selected as organizational participant in ongoing TCG Diversity and Inclusion initiative (2012, 2013, 2014), panelist on "Diversity and Inclusion Institute: Learnings, Successes, and Challenges from the Field" (2013)
- Walking Our Talk*, workshop for MFA students, Goddard College, VT (2014)
- There Must be Happy Endings?: Hopeful Artmaking in a Chaotic World*, seminar for MFA students, University of Missouri Kansas City (2013)
- Interdisciplinary Improvisation*, workshop for Music Performance MA students, Boston Conservatory (2013)
- The xx Playwright in Boston*, panelist on session examining gender in the local new play sector, Boston Center for the Arts/Company One (2013)
- Applauding in Context: Public Engagement of Audiences as Organizational Cornerstone*, convener and facilitator of panel at TCG Annual Conference, Boston (2012)
- Co-Organizer of *Making, Meaning, and Context: a Radical Reconsideration of Art's Work*, three day convening at Goddard College (2011)
- Participatory Interpretation: Making Meaning Through Performance*, workshop for Public Humanities Professionals, John Nicholas Brown Center for the Public Humanities, Brown U., Providence RI (2011)
- Creating a Collaborative, Site-Based Curriculum (and Bringing it all Back Home)*, collaborative seminar, Imagining America Conference, Seattle, WA (2010)
- Collaboration in the Visual Arts Classroom*, workshop for MFA students, RISD, Providence RI (2010)
- Story-Telling Lab*, workshop for MFA students, Goddard College, Plainfield, VT (2009)

PUBLICATIONS

- “Slightly Beyond Knowing: The Neo-Utopian Vision of Harriet Jacobs”, Forward to *Harriet Jacobs* by Lydia R. Diamond (Northwestern University Press, 2011).
- “Introduction,” Forward to *Sila* by Chantal Bilodeau (Talonbooks, 2015).
- “The Ferguson Theater Syllabus,” *American Theater* online, December 2014, with Claudia Alick.
- “Real Theatre for Real Life: African Artists Speak Out,” *TYA Today*, Spring 2008 (reprinted in Namibia's *New Era* newspaper and on the African Children and Youth Theater Arena website)
- “Arising From Sullen Earth: The 52nd Street Project’s Transformative Teen Shakespeare Program”, *Teaching Artist Journal*, Vol. 8, Issue 3, July 2010, pages 165-174.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Diversity and Inclusion: Carmen Morgan, Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations

Management of Cultural Institutions: Gayle L. Gifford, ACFRE

Dramaturgy: Oskar Eustis

Teaching Artistry: The ArtsLiteracy Project; Shakespeare and Co.; Liz Lerman Dance Exchange; Daniel Sklar

HONORS AND AWARDS

Princess Grace Foundation Theater Fellowship, 2015

Lincoln Center Directors Lab, participant, 2012

Theater Communications Group Future Leaders Fellow, 2011-2013

Resident Artist at Perishable Theatre, 2009-2011

Rhode Island Council For the Humanities Research Grant Recipient, 2011

TCG Observership Grant Recipient, 2008

ASSITEJ-USA Ann Shaw Fellowship Recipient, 2005

WRNI, Rhode Island’s NPR News Station, *Community Advisory Board Member*, 2008-2012