CARLY J. BALES

director . performance artist . cultural producer

carlybales.com | carlybales@gmail.com | 954.675.8117

I focus my work on multidisciplinary performance and theatre, spanning from creating, performing, and directing unique, new performance work; to curating and elevating the work of other artists; to leading and developing artist-driven art spaces from the ground up.

[SELECT] THEATRE

In Plain Sight(site) (2020-2021)

Director, Devisor

Life or Theatre? (2018)

Director, Writer

Red Death (2017)

Lead Performer, Written by Lisa D'Amour

The Tempest (2017)

Performer, Written by William Shakespeare

1-800-MICE (2016)

Lead Performer, Writer

Stupid Ghost (2016)

Director; Written by Savannah Reich

Cleveland (2016)

Director; Written by Mac Wellman

Flatland (2016)

Devising Performer

The Maids (2015)

Lead Performer; Original text by Jean Genet

The World is Round (2015)

Devising Performer; Original text by Gertrude Stein

Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman (2015)

Lead Performer; Adapted by Maggie Villegas

[SELECT] PERFORMANCE ART

2020 - dirty~clean cleaners | Current Space

2016 - Sin Eater | Labbodies Retrospective; Current Space; Fields Festival

2016 - In Taking Space | Maryland Institute College of Arts

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2015/2016 - New Rituals of Power | EMP; The Crown; The Penthouse

2014 - 2015 - We hope you enjoy our performance | EMP; Little Berlin

2013 - hopelessly devoted 2 U | Aether Art Projects

[SELECT] CURATORIAL WORK

2015 - Imminent Domain | Performance Art | Baltimore, MD

2014, 2015 - What is Queer? | Performance and Installation Art | Baltimore, MD

2014 - Femininity and the Feminine Image | Performance and Video Art | Baltimore, MD

2014 - Of screens, remainders, and holds... | Performance Art | Baltimore, MD

2014 - We're All Strangers Here | Installation Art | Baltimore, MD

2013 - mlrrorspeak | Visual, Video, and Performance Art | Baltimore, MD

2013 - Reject the Gaze | Visual and Performance Art | Baltimore, MD

2012 - Genesis | Visual and Performance Art | Washington, DC & Baltimore, MD

[OTHER] DIRECTING WORK

Le Mondo, Founding Executive Director

2014 - Present | Baltimore, MD | lemondo.org

I am leading the redevelopment of vacant buildings into an artist-owned performance incubator and multi-use arts hub in downtown Baltimore. My experience building this arts development start-up ranges from project design and execution and event production and management to cultivating donor and cross-community relationships; creative multi-sector fundraising and grant writing; developing marketing and PR strategies; and managing and coordinating teams of staff and volunteers. My work has cultivated more than 1.5 million dollars in funds and opened Le Mondo – an artist-run performance venue, bar, and studio spaces – in 2019.

EMP Collective, Founding Artistic Director

2009 - 2018 | Baltimore, MD | empcollective.org

"A hub of artistic activity" (Baltimore City Paper) that has been recognized as Baltimore's Best Arts Collective and Best Multi-Use Space, EMP was lauded as one of the boldest "visions to change Baltimore" (Baltimore Magazine). I curated and produced approximately 20 gallery shows, 6 plays, 3 theatre festivals, and scores of other events, working with hundreds of artists.

Annex Theater, Marketing Director

2015 - 2017 | Baltimore, MD | baltimoreannextheater.org

I led development and execution of an extensive marketing and comprehensive social media plan, raising the organization's profile, increasing followers 200% on Facebook and 1000% on Instagram. I developed comprehensive, consistent messaging and press communications. As a result, the organization received more recognition and awards for its work than in its entire history.

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Pulse, Founding Curator and Producer

2014 - 2016 | Baltimore, MD

A monthly performance art salon and event series for the discussion and development of performance work in Baltimore.

ACADEMIC

Publications

2021 - Emergency INDEX Vol. 10 - In Plain Sight(site)

2019 - Emergency INDEX Vol. 8 - Life or Theatre?

2017 - Emergency INDEX Vol. 6 - Sin Eater

Artist Talks

2020 – Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore, MD

2018 – Salzburg Global Forum – Salzburg, Austria

2017 - Towson University - Towson, MD; University of Baltimore - Baltimore, MD

2016 - Johns Hopkins University - Baltimore, MD

2015 - Labbodies Retrospective; Woman Leaders in the Arts Conversation Series - Baltimore, MD

2013 - Coppin State University - Baltimore, MD

AWARDS

2020/2019 - Social Innovation Fellowship - Johns Hopkins Social Innovation Lab

2018 - Young Cultural Innovator - Salzburg Global Forum

2017 - Best of Baltimore - Le Mondo - Baltimore Magazine

2016 - Best Play - Cleveland - City Paper

2016 - Best Theater - Annex Theater - Baltimore Magazine; City Paper

2015 - Best Series - Pulse Salon and Performance Art Series - City Paper

2015 - Best Play - The World is Round - City Paper; Baltimore Sun

2014 - Best Multi-Use Space - EMP Collective - City Paper

2012 - Best Collective - EMP Collective - City Paper

^{*}A complete list of film and performance projects is available upon request.