

## **JUANITA ROCKWELL: WRITER/DIRECTOR**

**Member: Dramatists Guild, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society**

**[www.juanitarockwell.com](http://www.juanitarockwell.com)**

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **WRITER/DIRECTOR/EDUCATOR, 1984 – PRESENT**

- Writer:** plays, opera libretti, lyrics, songs, audio plays, short plays, microdramas and adaptations; texts for dance-theatre, puppets, multimedia, site-specific, devised, multi-author...
- Director specializing in the creation of new works for a variety of stage and media:** as above
- Educator teaching playwriting, directing, new work development:** on faculty at Wilkes University MA/MFA in Creative Writing (PA) since 2006; and in various classes, workshops, and conferences, including University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; George Mason University (VA); University of Connecticut, Storrs; Trinity College (CT); University of Hartford (CT); National University of Heredia (Costa Rica); University of Szeged (Hungary); etc

#### **PROFESSOR, TOWSON UNIVERSITY, 1994 – 2015 (Emerita, 2016)**

- Founding Director:** MFA in Theatre, training the creator of original experimental projects
- Teaching, Graduate:** Playwriting; New Work Development; Directing; Translation/Adaptation
- Teaching, Undergraduate:** Playwriting, Directing, Project Mentoring

#### **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, COMPANY ONE THEATER, HARTFORD, CT, 1989 – 1994**

- Directed over 50 premieres for Stage and Radio** by leading experimental playwrights, including Suzan-Lori Parks, Paula Vogel, Rachel Sheinkin, Erik Ehn, Donna DiNovelli, Charles Borkhuis, et al
- Produced additional premieres** directed by Tina Landau, Valerie Curtis-Newton, Tom Prewitt, et al

#### **EDUCATION**

- MFA in Directing**, University of Connecticut (Hinkel Award for Excellence) 1987
- BS in Theatre and Semiotics**, Colorado College (Phi Beta Kappa, Linguistics Honors) 1980

#### **HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES (selected)**

- Marion International Fellowship, Performing and Visual Arts** 2016-2017
- Rubys Artist Project Grant**, 2015-2016
- Fulbright Ambassador**, 2010-2013
- Fulbright Scholar**, Costa Rica 2006
- National Endowment for the Arts Access to Excellence Award** (w/Gas & Electric Arts, Phila) 2010
- Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award:** Playwriting 2007
- Finalist:** Heideman Playwriting Award 2011
- Who's Who in the World/East/Entertainment/Women/etc**, various from 1993
- Artist Residencies:** VCCA 2018; UCross 2017, 2016; Playa 2017, 2016; Djerassi 2016; The Studios at Key West 2013; Wildacres Retreat 2013; Ko Festival of Performance 2010, 2012; Norman Mailer Writers Colony 2010; Gallaudet University Visual Playwriting Conference 2004; National Theatre Institute at O'Neill Theatre Center 1999-2004

## **PRODUCED WRITING (selected)**

\***THE SUITCASE/DER KOFFER** (libretto/direction; music/concept by Ljiljana Jovanović)  
An Die Musik Live,

•**BACKWARDS FROM WINTER** (libretto: music by Douglas Knehans)  
IHOS Music Theater/Dark MOFO, Hobart, Tasmania June 2018  
Center for Contemporary Opera/Symphony Space, NYC May 2018

•**SPLITTING ATOMS WITH A BUTTER KNIFE** (book/lyrics/music)  
Workshop reading, Maryland Ensemble Theatre, Frederick, MD 2017

•**LITTLE PATCH OF GROUND** (book/lyrics/music)  
Concert reading, Single Carrot Theater, Baltimore 2016

•**BROKEN** (commissioned, 10-minute play with songs)  
Interrobang Theatre, Baltimore 2015

•**THE CIRCLE** (commissioned, site-specific audioplay)  
banished? productions, DC 2012/2014

•**ZOO; PERFECT; WHAT THE MIND DOES; THE BIG PICTURE** (microdramas)  
One-Minute Play Festivals, EMP Collective, Baltimore 2013 and 2014

•**BETWEEN TRAINS** (book/lyrics; music Chas Marsh)  
Gas & Electric Arts, Philadelphia 2010

•**QUANTUM SOUP** (short play)  
The Acme Corporation, Baltimore 2012

•**PACKING/PECKING** (short play)  
Source Festival, DC 2009

•**LANGUAGE MONKEY** (short play)  
Source Festival, DC 2011

•**IMMORTAL: THE GILGAMESH VARIATIONS, TABLET ONE** (commissioned multi-author)  
The Bushwick Starr , NYC 2011

•**A TABLE IN HELL** (microdrama)  
The Drilling Company, NYC 2010

•**PLAYING DEAD** (commissioned, adapted from Presnyakov Brothers) City Paper Top Ten  
New Russian Drama Conference, Single Carrot, Baltimore 2010

## **PRODUCED WRITING (selected, cont.)**

- **WHAT'S A LITTLE DEATH** (commissioned, book/lyrics: music Chas Marsh)  
Baltimore Theatre Project & Source Festival (DC) 2008
- **LUNAR PANTOUM: FOR TIBET** (text for dance theatre)  
Maryland Institute College of Art 2002
- **A CAVE IN THE SKY** (play w/puppets)  
Artists at St. Ann's Puppet Lab/Culture Project, NYC 2001
- **WATERWALK: SURFACE AND DEPTH** (commissioned, opera libretto: music Robert Macht)  
The Labyrinth/Hopkins Bayview Hospital, MD 2001
- **THE WORLD IS ROUND** (adapted libretto from Gertrude Stein; music James Sellars)  
Company One Theater/Wadsworth Atheneum 1993

## **STAGE DIRECTION, PROFESSIONAL PREMIERES (selected)**

NOBODY IS EVER MISSING opera by Tim Holt 2025  
**The Voxel, Baltimore, MD**

THE SUITCASE/DER KOFFER music-theater work by Ljiljana Jovanović/Juanita Rockwell 2019  
**An die Musik LIVE, B'more; Horowitz Center/Monteabaro Hall, Columbia, MD;  
Howard University/Childers Recital Hall, WDC; Towson University, MD**

KAWA TO KAWA dance-theater co-direction w/ creator Naoko Maeshiba 2012  
**Baltimore Theatre Project, MD**

24, 7, 365 play by Jennifer Nelson 2011  
**Theatre of the First Amendment, DC/VA**

MAD BREED play with songs by Jacqueline C. Lawton 2008  
**Active Cultures, DC**

BARELY THERE play by Charles Borkhuis 2006  
**The Ontological, NYC**

SHOOT THE MESSENGER Site-specific performance by Jeffrey Walker 2005  
**Church Farm Barn, Ashford, CT**

BURN multimedia performance, co-direction with creators Steve O'Hearn and Jackie Dempsey 2001  
**Squonk Opera/City Theatre, Pittsburgh**

**STAGE DIRECTION, PROFESSIONAL PREMIERES (selected, cont.)**

FALLING ON HEARING EYES play by Willy Conley 1998  
**Worldwide Deaf Theatre Conference, CT**

THE WORLD IS ROUND opera by Juanita Rockwell/James Sellars 1993  
SUNSPOTS play by Charles Borkhuis w/projections by Bill Morrison 1992  
LOSS OF VIRGINIA play with songs by Rachel Sheinkin 1992  
THE OLDEST PROFESSION play by Paula Vogel 1991  
BETTING ON THE DUST COMMANDER play by Suzan-Lori Parks 1990  
**Company One Theater/Wadsworth Atheneum/Hartford Arts Center CT**

**STAGE DIRECTION, PROFESSIONAL (selected)**

ACT A LADY play w/songs by Jordan Harrison 2013  
**Iron Crow Theatre, Baltimore**

GOING TO ST. IVES play by Lee Blessing 2007  
SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME play by Frank McGuinness 2006 (City Paper Top Ten)  
**Everyman Theatre, Baltimore**

CHANSON DADA opera by James Sellars/Tristan Tzara 1993  
**Memorial de America Latina, São Paulo, Brazil**

FOR LOVE OF THE DOUBLE BASS, music-theatre by James Sellars 1991  
**Tour to Madrid, Helsinki, London**

PLAY play by Samuel Beckett 1989  
**Washington Project for the Arts, DC**

MISANTHROPE play by Moliere 1987  
**Blue Heron Theatre, NYC**

**CO-CREATED PERFORMANCE (selected)**

•**OUT OF THE SHADOWS: a solstice audio tour and art installation**  
**Created by Team Holler Joy: Michele Minnick and Juanita Rockwell, co-instigators**  
In collaboration with our Sabina-Mattfeldt neighbors, Baltimore, December 2020

•**NIGHT OF JOY IN THE HOLLER: an antidote to Covid and Election Day Stress**  
**Created by Team Holler Joy: Michele Minnick and Juanita Rockwell, co-instigators**  
In collaboration with our Sabina-Mattfeldt neighbors, Baltimore, November 2020

**CO-CREATED PERFORMANCE (selected, cont.)**

•**SHIVER STORIES IN THE HOLLER**

Co-created with Temple Crocker and Dan Hanrahan

The Performing House, Baltimore 2016

**DIRECTION OF WORKSHOP PRODUCTIONS AND READINGS (selected)**

SKI DUBAI by Laura Jacqmin (staged reading) 2011

**Theatre of the First Amendment, Fairfax, VA**

DEEP DIVIDE by Charles Borkhuis (staged reading) 2007

**Flea Theater, NYC**

NO GOD BUT YEARNING (as THE SOUND OF WAVES)

Libretto Donna DiNovelli, Music David Rodwin (workshop music theater production) 2002

**Mabou Mines/Suite, NYC**

**DIRECTION OF UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIONS (selected)**

RED DEATH play by Lisa D'Amour 2008

**University of Baltimore County, MD**

BETWEEN TRAINS play w/songs by Juanita Rockwell 2014

WHAT ONCE WE FELT play by Ann Marie Healy 2012

MARAT/SADE play with songs by Peter Weiss 2010

ALCHEMY OF DESIRE/DEAD MAN'S BLUES play with songs by Caridad Svich 2002

MARISOL play by José Rivera 2000

QUEEN MAB (THE FIRST EFF) play by Donna Dinovelli 1998

THE ILLUSION play by Tony Kushner 1996

ETTA JENKS play by Marlane Meyer 1995

**Towson University, MD**

**PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDINGS (selected)**

•*Backwards from Winter*, opera libretto

**Libretto booklet: Blue Moon Plays, Virginia Beach, VA 2018**

•*Between Trains*, play with songs

**Book: Blue Moon Plays, Virginia Beach, VA 2017**

•*Critical Mass*, essay by Juanita Rockwell

**Journal: Leonardo/ISAST Volume 50 Issue 3 June 2017**

## PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDINGS (selected, cont.)

•*Packing/Pecking*, short play in UnSaddest Factory: The Third Annual Ten Minute Play Festival  
**Book: Thinking Beard Press, Baltimore, 2011**

•*Playing Dead* adaptation from Brothers Presnyakov in New Russian Writing  
**Scripts on CD: Center for International Theatre Development, Baltimore 2010**

•*The World is Round* libretto by Juanita Rockwell/G. Stein, Music by James Sellars  
**Score: Hog River Music, Hartford 1993**  
**Libretto: Company One Theater, Hartford 1993**

•*Songs from Between Trains*, lyrics by Juanita Rockwell, music by Chas Marsh  
**CD recording: Mobtown Studios, Baltimore 2014**

•*The Circle*, audioplay by Juanita Rockwell (dir. Carmen Wong)  
**MP3 recording: banished? productions, DC 2013**

•*The World is Round* libretto by Juanita Rockwell/G. Stein, music by James Sellars (dir. Juanita Rockwell)  
**CD recording and sheet music: Hog River Music, Hartford 2002**

•*Foreign Bodies* radio play by Charles Borkhuis (dir. Juanita Rockwell)  
**CD recording: Exit 3 Productions (WBGO for National Public Radio) NYC 2001**

•*The Sound of Fear Clapping* radio play by Charles Borkhuis (dir. Juanita Rockwell)  
**CD recording: The Radio Stage (WNYC for National Public Radio) NYC 1995**

•*Tantalus* radio play by John McDonough (dir. Juanita Rockwell) 1993  
**CD recording: ZBS Studios, Saratoga Springs, NYC 1993**

•*May: The Month of Lust & Revolution* and *Soundscary* (dir. Juanita Rockwell)  
by Erik Ehn, Bridget Carpenter, Eliza Anderson, Sue Bennett, Donna DiNovelli, John C. Russell, Heidi Carla, Rachel Sheinkin 1992, 1993  
**Audio Cassettes: Company One Theater, Hartford (broadcast live, WWUH) 1992-1993**

## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS NOT LISTED ABOVE (selected)

•**Teaching Artist:** Sofia, BG; sponsored by Art Office, BG & The Drama League, NY 2013

•**Member: US Dramaturg's Delegation** Yekaterinburg, RU; Center for Int'l Theatre Dev't 2005

•**Sister States Project Delegate:** Baltimore/Lodz, Poland 2005

•**US Delegate:** ITI World Conference of Professional Theatre, Marseille, France 2000

•**Co-Director:** ITI/TCG Conference: Int'l Origins for New Theatre Practice, Towson University 2000

### **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS NOT LISTED ABOVE (selected)**

- Member:** US Director's Delegation to Hungary/Slovakia 1999
- Toured: Mentored grad student project** to Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged & Veszprem, HU 1997

### **ADDITIONAL POSITIONS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (selected)**

- Faculty/Program Consultant:** Wilkes University Creative Writing MA/MFA(PA) 2005
- Panelist:** Convening on Global Performance; Georgetown University 2012
- Presenter:** Dramatists Guild Conference (VA) 2011
- Presenter:** Association of Writers & Writing Programs (Denver) 2010; (Chicago) 2009
- Pre-Publication Manuscript Evaluator,** Gallaudet Press 2010, 2011
- Presenter:** Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Toronto) 1999, (NYC) 2003
- Board Member:** National Training Committee of Int'l Theatre Institute (NYC) 1997-2004
- Member:** Gov's Advisory Commission, Arts Careers for People w/Disabilities (Balto) 1998-2002
- Member:** Artist's Board, The Radio Stage, WNYC (NYC) 1993-98