

SUSAN STROUPE

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DIRECTING AND DEVISING RESUME

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Katalepsis (Core Devising Team)

Katalepsis is currently in early stages of devising (although initial devising meetings were held prior to the pandemic), and will be performed sometime between late fall 2022-early spring 2023. Set in the far future, *Katalepsis* will be an exploration of how humans create culture, how we connect to each other under the most dire of circumstances, and what the legacy of humanity could be for the planet.

Untitled Coffin Show (Core Devising Team/Director)

Working with Baltimore artists Lisi Stoessel and Francisco Benavides, this piece will be a puppet and object based show intended for touring. An original concept from Francisco Benavides, this piece will tell the journey of two friends dragging a coffin through the end of a war, pulling from ancient stories like *The Odyssey*, and using clowning, puppetry, and physical comedy to explore the heavy subjects of grief, war, and the baggage we carry from mass trauma. Target performance date is spring of 2023.

Untitled Cave Play (Core Devising Team/Performer)

Working with long-time collaborators Jessica Lopez-Barkl and Emily Windler of *In Strange Company*, this piece will be an adaption of true story, of two people who lived in a cave in Central Park for a year during the Great Depression. Linking history to our experience of isolation, disconnection, and crisis during the pandemic, this piece will use clowning, physical comedy, and object puppetry to explore how relationships change in quarantine, the economic disparities that arise during a crisis, and what humans will do to feel “normal” under the most absurd circumstances. Currently in virtual workshopping, with an intended performance date in 2023.

DIRECTING & DEVISING / COLLABORATION HISTORY

Core Devising Team: *rECHollection*

rECHollection was Submersive Productions’ first in-person performance since the pandemic began, and was devised with an ensemble of visual artists and performers, and performed in Druid Hill Park. Set in the near future, *rECHollection* was created to be an open-ended exploration between audience and Baltimoreans of the future, brought together in a temporal rift in the park, exploring questions of community, survival, memory, and interdependence. *rECHollection* was a performance that stood on its own, but we are also considering it a prologue to much larger future project, *Katalepsis*. Performed Oct-Nov 2021.

Director: *This Remains*

This Remains was a devised, site-specific performance created with UMBC students as their first in-person performance since the fall of 2019. Students created original characters and stories, and sculpted a journey for the audience through the outdoor spaces that surround the Performing Arts Building, opening up space for questions about history, mythology, fairy tales, identity, and what we want future generations to remember about us. Performed October 2021.

Ensemble Deviser/Lyricist/Performer: *The Oresteia: Live!*

An adaptation of Aeschylus' Oresteia Trilogy as a 1940s-style radio musical comedy. First devised and performed in Albuquerque, NM in 2007, this updated version was re-adapted for Zoom performance with original In Strange Company members, and performed virtually Dec 2020.

Deviser/Performer: *Out of Time*

Commissioned for the first cohort of the Performance Interface Lab, which was experimenting with 1:1 virtual immersive experiences in the first months of pandemic. *Out of Time* was created in collaboration with Joan Cummins, and explored our relationship to the concept of time through map-making. Sold out, extended run April-May 2020

Devising Ensemble/Performer: *See Also*

Submersive Productions. Performed at the George Peabody Library, commissioned as the first theatrical piece of their concert series *In The Stacks*, Feb 2020.

Director: *Hunting & Gathering*

By Brooke Berman. Produced by University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), October 2019.

Core Devising Team/Dramaturg: *MASS/Rabble*

Submersive Productions. A wordless immersive movement piece performed at the Baltimore War Memorial, inviting audiences to consider how people move in masses, and what moves them. In collaboration with Berlin-based Butoh artist Yuko Kaseki. April 2019.

Core Devising Team: *The Institute of Visionary History And Archives of the Deep Now*

Submersive Productions. A 6-episode immersive experimental story-telling series hosted at the historic Peale Museum. Core Team worked with 6 individual and groups of performers to devise original, experimental works based on a framing device of a fictional secret society. The episodes ranged from 20 minutes to 8 hours. Performed Sept-Dec 2018, with a second run of Episodes 2 & 3 in July/Aug 2019.

Teaching Artist/Devising Facilitator: *The Last Day on Earth*

Devised with 7th/8th Graders at the Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School through Baltimore Center Stage's Young Playwrights Festival. Students performed their work at BMPCS February 2018, and two pieces remounted at Centerstage for the annual Young Playwrights Festival, May 2018.

Director: *The Orphan Sea*

By Caridad Svich. Regional Premiere, Cohesion Theater Company. Directed in Repertory with Cecelia Raker's *La Llorona*. March-April 2018, Baltimore.

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Conceiver and Director: *The Goodies*

A new devised piece for Iron Crow Theatre Company, a modern re-telling of the Salem Witch Trials, devised with an acting ensemble of women of color. Premiere December 2017, Baltimore.

Co-Director: *H. T. Darling's Incredible Musaeum*

Co-director with Glenn Ricci and Lisi Stoessel. An immersive, devised work with six actors, premiering at the Peale Museum, Baltimore MD, March-May 2017, with a remount Nov-Dec 2017

Director: *Peter Pan*

By J.M. Barrie. Produced by All-of-Us-Express Children's Theater, East Lansing, Michigan, July-August 2016.

Co-Devising Facilitator/Director: *You've Gone Too Far*

Co-Facilitator/Co-Director with Ann Turiano for a performance-sharing project between the St. Paul School for Girls (private, Baltimore County) and the Monarch Academy (public, Baltimore City), in which 6th and 8th grade girls created original works based on the theme of boundaries: geographical, societal, and metaphorical. Performed at the Monarch Academy May 2016.

Director: *Harry and the Thief*

By Sigrid Gilmer. Produced by Strand Theater Company at St. Mark's, March-April 2016.

Festival Director: *Brainstorm 5: The Ties That Bind*

Festival Director for Brainstorm, a nearly annual short play festival produced by Glass Mind Theatre in Baltimore. Facilitator for recruiting and managing seven playwrights, seven directors, and an ensemble of actors that created original works over the course of 5 weeks. Oversaw the transition from a general theme to one that focused on the community conversations and engagements following the unrest in the city following Freddie Gray's death. June 2015.

Co-Director: *The Mesmeric Revelations of Edgar Allan Poe*

Co-director with Glenn Ricci, an immersive, devised work with six actors, premiering at the historic Pratt House, Baltimore, MD, March 2015. Devised as part of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance's Rubys Grant. Second run Oct-Dec 2015.

Director: *The All-American Genderf*ck Cabaret*

Written by Mariah McCarthy. Produced by Glass Mind Theatre at Gallery 788, April 2014

EDUCATION

Towson University: MFA in Theatre Arts, 2012

Macalester College: BA, Major: English Literature & Creative Writing, Minor: Theatre, 2005

COMPANY AFFILIATIONS

Artistic Associate and Founding Collaborator, Submersive Productions

Teaching Artist Ensemble, Baltimore Center Stage

Ensemble Member, In Strange Company