

JENNIFER H. CAPRARU

Director, Dramaturg, Educator

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BIO Originally from Montréal, Jen is Artistic Director of Theatre Asylum, www.theatreasylum.com where she directs inter/national plays by and about women and humanist issues, and has been Associate Dramaturg at Factory Theatre, and a Course Director at York University. Currently her focus is on theatre for empowerment. She is also active in film, crewing on *Shake Hands with the Devil* in Rwanda. In 2008 she founded the theatre NGO ISOKO in Rwanda www.isoko-rwanda.org/

SELECTED THEATRE DIRECTING

THE MONUMENT by Colleen Wagner	Director/Producer	ISOKO - The Theatre Source Tour of Rwanda, African Premiere
* LULLABY by Thelon Oeming	Director/Dramaturg	Dark Horse/Factory Theatre World Premiere
THE ILLUSION Corneille, adpt by Tony Kushner	Director	Acadia University, Wolfville Nova Scotia
GAS by Jason Maghanoy	Director, Workshop/Reading	Factory Theatre, Banff PlayRites Colony
METAMORPHOSES by Mary Zimmerman	Director	The Phoenix Theatre, Victoria BC
GULAG AMERICA by Ken Gass	Director, Workshop/Reading	Factory Theatre
BéBé The Women Behind Brecht Nosaty/Madoc-Jones/Stubel/Loughran/Thompson	Director/Concept/Co-Writer	Theatre Centre Co-Production World Premiere developed at Rhubarb/Nightwood Theatre
ZAY SHTIL by Bekky O'Neil	Director, Workshop/Reading	Tarragon Theatre Youth Reading Series
COEUR à DEUX by Guy Foissy	Director/Bilingual production	SummerWorks/Passe Muraille Mainspace
* THE TRIALS OF JOHN DEMJANJUK by Jonathan Garfinkel	Director/Dramaturg Producer	Harbourfront, Chutzpah & Intrepid Theatre, BC Banff, NAC, Rhubarb & Ashkenaz World Premiere
THE CANNIBALS by George Tabori	Director, Reading	Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre
CULTURE AS RESISTANCE	Director/Mise-en-Scène	Miles Nadal JCC/Holocaust Education Week
WHITE CHALAH by Lamed Shapiro	Director/Co-Adaptor	Ashkenaz Festival, Harbourfront
JANEY JONES by Jennifer Fawcett	Director/Dramaturg	Nightwood/SummerWorks/Fringe Tour
WALKING TO RUSSIA by Jonathan Garfinkel	Director/Dramaturg/Producer	Theatre Asylum @ Passe Muraille World Premiere
REMEMBER ME by Irene Watts	Staged Reading	Between Stages @ Miles Nadal JCC
* MY MOTHER'S COURAGE by George Tabori	Director/Adaptor Producer	Theatre Asylum @ Passe Muraille Canadian Premiere Harbourfront, Saydie Bronfman, Montreal
BALLAD OF WEINER SCHNITZEL by G. Tabori	Staged Reading	Between Stages @ Miles Nadal JCC
* THE GUT GIRLS by Sarah Daniels	Director/Producer	Theatre Asylum @ Theatre Centre Canadian Premiere
DEAR ELENA SERGEVNA by Razumovskaya	Director/Producer	Theatre Asylum @ Theatre Centre Canadian Premiere
LAMENT DE LA ST CATHERINE by G. Kemeny	Director/Dramaturg	Bilingual SummerWorks/Factory Mainspace
THE BOOK composed by Babette Koblenz	Director/Dramaturg	Schloss Solitude Stuttgart Germany
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TIME	Director/Dramaturg	Das Labor Berlin, Germany
PURGATORY IN INGOLSTADT by ML Fleisser	Director/Translator/Producer	Theatre Asylum North American Premiere

* Dora Award Nominations

TRAVEL LANGUAGES

East Africa, United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Turkey, Jamaica, Western + Eastern Europe, Canada, USA
Fluent spoken and written French and German, basic Spanish

EDUCATION, TRAINING

Baden-Württemberg Directing Residency Recipient, Germany
Acting Program at the British American Drama Academy, London England
Psychology at Ryerson Polytechnic University
Directing Intensive with Pierre Walter Politz. Improv Technique at Second City
Acting Technique with Richard Rose, Bob Baker, Samantha Langevin
Mime with Naomi Tyrell, Tony Montenero. Modern Dance at Toronto Dance Theatre

TEACHING, THEATRE FOR DEVELOPMENT

07 Bilingual Course Director, Drama Studies, Glendon College, York University
07 Workshop Leader, Film Classes, Rwanda Cinema Centre. Workshop Leader, Kivu Writers, Rwanda
07 Director, community groups for Mashirika, at Kigali Aids Conference. Workshop Leader, youth groups for Never Again
07 Director, workshops of *The Monument* (Gisozi Memorial, Kigali) and *Littoral* (National University of Rwanda)
06 1st and 2nd year Performance Guest Lecturer, Acadia University, Nova Scotia

GRANTS, AWARDS, RESIDENCIES

06 Invited director/dramaturg to Banff Playwrights' Colony with Jason Maghanoy under Maureen Labonté
06 Nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Director's Award by Paul Thompson
05/06 Associate Artist in Dramaturgy and Artistic Direction at Factory Theatre, funded by the Metcalf Foundation
03 Invited director to the World Stage Directors Master Class with John Barton, Mike Alfreds, Chris Newton, Kama Ginkas
01 Invited director to the Directors Lab at the Lincoln Centre Theatre, New York, with Dramaturg Anne Cattaneo
03 Invited director/dramaturg to Banff Playwrights' Colony with Jonathan Garfinkel under John Murrell
98 Nominated for the John Hirsch Director's Award by Elizabeth Shepherd
96 Invited Artist-in-Residence at Schloss Solitude, Germany
Theatre Asylum has been nominated for 8 Dora Mavor Moore awards, winning 1
The company is a federally registered charity and receives support from the Canada, Ontario, and Toronto Arts Councils
The Jackman, Lunan, Flavelle, Dan, Green Foundations, UJA, Guild Electric, Four Seasons Hotels, and individuals
Personal grants received from the Canada Council, Theatre Ontario, Ministry of Culture and Communications, Goethe Institut

ADDITIONAL DRAMATURGY

THE VENTRILOQUIST by Larry Tremblay Production Dramaturg to Keith Turnbull, English Language Première, Factory Theatre
WHITE BITING DOG by Judith Thompson Production Dramaturg to Herbert Olshock, workshop for Factory Theatre
INEXPRESSIBLE ISLAND by David Young Production Dramaturg to Herbert Olshock, workshop for Canadian Rep
2004-2007 Member of the Factory Theatre Script Assessment Committee under Bill Lane
2006 Dramaturg/Mentor for the Paprika Festival of playwrights under 21, Tarragon Theatre

WRITING

Co-Translation of *Purgatory*, from the German. Short film screenplays, stories, poetry

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Holocaust Education Week, Ashkenaz Festival: "Making Art from the Holocaust" panel participant
Acadia University, Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund: "Shaking Hands with the Devil- Adventures of a Script Girl in Rwanda" talk and slide show

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

04/07 Council Member, Directors and Choreographer's Committee, Canadian Actors Equity. Jury Member for SummerWorks Festival. Member of PACT, Toronto Theatre Alliance, Theatre Assessor for the Canada Council. Volunteer Member on the Cultural Arts Committee, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

ASSISTANT DIRECTING

Apprentice Director at the Landestheater Tübingen, Germany on 4 productions; to Crescentia Dünßer, Otto Kukla, Marcello Diaz, Pierre-Jean Valentin
MURX DEN EUROPAER Assisted Christoph Marthaler The Volksbühne, Berlin
8 SONGS FOR A MAD KING/ MISS DONITHORNE'S MAGGOT Associate Director Musica Festival, Strasbourg, France
LA BÊTE by David Hirson Assisted John Palmer Centaur Theatre, Montréal
UNDER MILKWOOD by Dylan Thomas Movement Director Alumnae Theatre

PERFORMANCE

Blood and Ice	Lohead	Elise	Alisa Palmer/Theatre Asylum @Annex
Metamorphoses	Kafka	Various	Jan Komarek/Sound Image, Prague
*Marat/Sade	Weiss	Corday	Greg Kramer/Umbrella Factory
The Man of Mode	Etheridge	Harriet	Craig Walker/Glen Morris Theatre
Graphic Mime Theatre	Collective	Mime/Instructor	2 seasons school touring
3 Penny Opera	Brecht	Polly	Jon Michaelson/Mercury Theatre
Angel City	Shepard	Miss Scoons	Jon Michaelson/Mercury Theatre
Suicide in B Flat	Shepard	Laureen	Theatre Kathartic
Chamber Music	Kopit	Aviatrix	Theatre Asylum @Tarragon

PRESS NOTICES

Lullaby Dora Award Nomination for Outstanding Production 2007
“Lullaby has all the dark humour you’d want from the best George F. Walker, and Capraru has an excellent sense of pacing.” *Eye Magazine* “Capraru clearly lays out the play’s emotional geography.” *National Post*

The Illusion “A fantastic success... very entertaining production, one of the best.” *The Athenaeum* “... spell-binding, Capraru has wrought a powerful potion...moves ably from comic excesses to meditations about the nature of love.” *Nova News*

Metamorphoses “**** Capraru is a good artistic ally for Zimmerman...she thoroughly understands the playwright’s vision and ably emphasizes the play’s poetic physicality and a welcome irreverence that verges on the bawdy.” *Times Colonist, Victoria*
“Excellent and imaginative piece of theatrical magic. Capraru is an outstanding talent, evidenced not only by the cast’s performances but also in her fresh approach to the material itself...lworth catching for her work alone.” *Monday Magazine, Victoria*
“Capraru uses a distinctly physical approach to the staging that matches the youthful and uniformly striking cast.” *CBC Radio, Victoria*

BéBé “The stunning new play Bébé...uses Brecht’s alienation technique, & Kurt Weill-like songs, to portray four fascinating muses, lovers caught up in the Brecht machine...a good show, in fact, a thrilling one...run-don’t-walk.” P. Citron, 96 FM
“**** Lively and poignant...edgy and has a bite...acting is strong” *Star* “An admirable profusion of female talent on and off stage” *Globe*

The Trials “**** There’s nothing finer, for those with strong nerves, than cabaret that’s the real thing... everything becomes furiously beautiful and cruelly funny...a powerful cast.” *Globe* “A blistering 90-minute production...so true to the spirit of classic antiestablishment cabaret. Theatre Asylum assaults us with a clever, caustic event...no one is spared in this beautifully bitter stew of ideas.” *Vancouver Sun* “TRIALS QUITE POSSIBLY THE SHOW OF THE YEAR... Capraru deserves credit for bringing *Trials* so ably to life with such a mix of drama, humour, and soul...gripping, thought-provoking and highly entertaining” *Monday Magazine*
“Like all good cabaret, the fun is on the surface but the undercurrents are deep, dark and disturbing.” *Vancouver Courier*
“**** Strange and absorbing theatre...the talented cast and the director’s assured grip keep us enthralled.” *Eye Magazine*

My Mother’s Courage “One to Watch...Jennifer Capraru’s Theatre of Contrasts” *Globe profile*
“**** The direction is spare and superb, both visually and emotionally...Shepherd’s is the finest acting I’ve seen in Canada” *Globe*
“Capraru uses spare means to convey complex scenes...deeply moving and illuminating art” *Montreal Gazette*
“The mise-en-scène is very alert and devoid of sentimentality...an audacious vision” *Le Devoir, Montreal*
“Directed beautifully, given its switch between reality and surrealism...Not to be missed” *96 FM*

Walking to Russia “*** A well-crafted production...textured, visually striking, and lyrical” *Globe*
“...skillfully directed, it unfolds in a series of strong vignettes” *Canadian Jewish News*

Janey Jones “Performances and direction of this caliber are seldom seen in Ottawa...A must see” *Ottawa Citizen*
“**** Capraru delivers a finely tuned, tight, energetic and powerful production” *Eye Magazine*

The Gut Girls “**** Admirably sure-footed direction...lovely directorial touches, striking...recalls legendary Stratford Les Belles Soeurs”
“Directed with a firm hand and a lot of confidence” *Globe* “**** Production serves the play well...a solid, engaging piece of work” *Star*

References Available Upon Request