

CYNTHIA CROOT

email: cynthiacroot@gmail.com

website: cynthiacroot.com

phone: (646) 331-0315

Selected Directing Credits

- 2010** *Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant - Feast of Miracles*, company-created. Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, OH.
- The Sea*, Edward Bond. Whitman College, WA.
- Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant - Midsummer Feast*, company-created. American Repertory Theater, Club Oberon, Cambridge, MA
- The Secret Lives of Coats*, Stephanie Fleischmann and Christina Campanella. Workshop and premiere staging with playwright and composer in residence, Whitman College, WA
- The Millay Sisters*, (Croot, Murdy, Phillips, Sharp), Mad Cow Theatre, Orlando Cabaret Festival, FL
- Little West 12th Night*, Cynthia Croot, Rachel Murdy and Stephanie Dodd, from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. The first in a series of site-specific performances along New York's Meat Packing District, including The Brass Monkey Tavern, The Highline and The Standard Hotel, NYC
- 2009** *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*, Cynthia Croot, from *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*, by Gina Nahai. Whitman College, WA
- Her Name is Vincent*, an evening of *The Millay Sisters* and Edna St. Vincent Millay's play *Aria da Capo*, Magis Theatre Company, Abingdon Theater Arts Center, NYC
- 2008** *The Millay Sisters*, (Croot, Murdy, Phillips, Sharp), Ancram Opera House, NY
- Our Town*, Thornton Wilder, Whitman College, WA
- Whispering Voices on the Phone*, an installation based on *Apparition* by Anne Washburn, in collaboration with video artist Kristen Hutchinson. Blackfish Gallery, Portland, OR
- Apparition*, Anne Washburn, Whitman College, WA
- 2007** *The Ghost Sonata*, August Strindberg, Whitman College, WA
- Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Boulder, CO
- The Millay Sisters*, company-created (Croot, Murdy, Phillips, Sharp), Don't Tell Mama Cabaret, NYC
- Insurgency/Counterinsurgency*, a collaborative weekend of art-making and policy making at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, resulting in five new works for the stage.
- Buzz*, Cynthia Croot and Sophia Skiles, CUNY Grad Center, part of the NoPassport Conference: "Dreaming the Americas", panel curated by Brooke Stowe and Caridad Svich.
- 2006** *Scenes from the Last Five Years* - (an agit-prop hip-hop musical revue) by Tommy Smith. THAW Collaboration Weekend, part of the Culture Project's Impact Festival, Baruch College, NYC
- Cold* by Liz Blocker and the Present Tense Theatre Ensemble. Bank Street Theatre, NYC
- 2005** *Reading List*, Susan Miller. Vital Signs Festival, produced by Vital Theater, McGinn Cazale, NYC
- The Details of Silence*, Nathalie Handal. In cooperation with Nibras and the Mahrajan Al-Fan Festival of Arab Arts, Symphony Space, NYC
- The Winter's Tale*, William Shakespeare. Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Boulder, CO
- Spring Awakening*, Frank Wedekind. Harper Joy Theater, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA

- 2004** *A Teacup Full of Vodka*, Cynthia Croot, Chekhov Now Festival, Connelly Theatre, NYC
Isadora... No Apologies, Andrew Frank. Conceived and created by Lori Bellilove. Isadora Duncan Dance Foundation, Symphony Space, NYC. Reprised at Mills College, Berkeley, CA
- 2003** *The Macbeth Project*, from Shakespeare. El Rayo Misterioso Experimenta, Rosario, Argentina
- 2002** *Three Sisters*, Anton Chekhov, translation by Paul Schmidt. Chekhov Now Festival, Connelly Theatre, New York, NY. Run extended at the Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY
The Grand Design, Susan Miller. Featuring Marsha Mason and Scott Cohen. World premiere, part of "Brave New World: American Theatre Responds to 9/11" Town Hall, NYC
Venus, Suzan-Lori Parks. The Windybrow Theater, Johannesburg, South Africa; The Saartjie Baartman Women's Center, Cape Town, South Africa
Act of the Possessed, Haroldo de Campos. Brazil, Body and Soul, Guggenheim Museum, NYC
- 2001** *Uncle Vanya*, Anton Chekhov, translation by Paul Schmidt. Chekhov Now, Connelly Theatre, NYC
Buzz, Cynthia Croot and Sophia Skiles, from *The War Lover* by John Hersey. Ontological-Hysteric Theatre, New York, NY. Reprised at PS122, NYC
- 2000** *Trust*, Steven Dietz. Blue Sphere East, Raw Space, NYC
Slangrivier, Nina Steiger. New York International Fringe Festival, NYC
Mata Hari, by Croot, Herman, Mendoza and Croal. La Mama First Street Theatre, NYC
The House of Blue Leaves, John Guare. Perseverance Theatre, Juneau, AK
- 1999** *Air Traffic*, conceived and created by Cynthia Croot, a 4-episode radio program exploring the unique experiences of Alaskans. Texts by Richard Foreman, Kenneth Koch, Sherwood Anderson, Peter Cook, Sherman Alexie, Jack Cannon, Carol Lucci Wisner, Richard Housden, Gerry Sharp, Benjamin Dean, Thomas King. Performed live at Perseverance Theatre; aired statewide on KTOO FM, Douglas, AK
Nightwood, Cynthia Croot, from the novel by Djuna Barnes. Horace Mann, Columbia U., NYC
- 1998** *Machinal*, Sophie Treadwell. Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
Nightwatch, Cynthia Croot, from the novel "Nightwood" by Djuna Barnes. New York International Fringe, NYC
Dynamo, Eugene O'Neill. HERE Arts Center, NYC
Hamlet and Ophelia, from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Columbia University, NYC
Chance, 12 Poems written and selected by Mac Wellman. The House of Candles, NYC
Kiki und der Baker by Kurt Nickisch, Caterina Klusemann. Radio direction in Klagenfurt, Austria
- 1997** *Culture of Desire* (Assistant Director to Anne Bogart). SITI Company, City Theatre, Pittsburg, PA
Freak Show, Tara Knel. Adobe Theatre Company, Ohio Theatre, NYC
Daddy, Kenneth Finkle. Horace Mann Theater, Columbia University, NYC
Waiting, Tara Knel. Shapiro Theatre, Columbia University, NYC
Number 10, Samuel Beckett. Manhattan Theatre of the Ear, WKCR FM, New York, NY
Night, Harold Pinter. Manhattan Theatre of the Ear, WKCR FM, New York, NY
- 1996** *Swans*, Kara Manning. Horace Mann Theater, Columbia University, NYC
Wolf at the Door, Eric Ehn. Café Voltaire, Chicago, IL

- 1995 *Offending the Audience*, Peter Handke. Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, IL
- 1994 *White Money*, Julie Jensen. Splitting Image, Theatre Project, Baltimore, MD
Cabaret Verboten, Jeremy Lawrence. Axis Theater, Baltimore, MD
- 1993 *Largo Desolato*, Vaclav Havel. Axis Theater, Baltimore, MD

Staged Readings

- 2010 *Women in a Holy Mess* by Ai Nagai, translated by Andy Bragen. (with high speed digital uplink to playwright in Tokyo and students at the University of Illinois) Japan Society, NYC
- 2006 *Sky/Nikita Mitskevitch* by Andrei Rui. From an Evening of Belarussian Plays, curated by Aaron Landsman, part of the Culture Project's Impact Festival, Baruch College Nagelberg Theatre, NYC
The Three Hagi Sisters by Ai Nagai, translated by Loren Edelson. Japan Society, NYC
- 2006 *Softcops*, Caryl Churchill. International Foucault Society, The New School, NYC
 Empty Chalice, Judy Veramendi. Urban Stages, NYC
- 2004 *War Bride*, Cynthia Croot. Bric-a-Brac Series, Brick Theatre, Brooklyn NY
Ubu Roi, Alfred Jarry. Adapted by Christopher Carter Sanderson. Performed in tandem with THAW (Theaters Against War) protests worldwide, Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY
- 2003 *The Designated Mourner*, Wallace Shawn. THAW, Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY
- 2002 *Venus*, Suzan-Lori Parks. Featuring Tim Robbins, Kathleen Chalfant and Joe Morton (to benefit the Kazbah Project/Venus Project Worldwide). Joseph Papp Public Theatre, NYC

Education

Columbia University – New York, NY (1999/2001)

Master of Fine Arts – Theatre Directing. Coursework in classical and experimental texts, theatre history, dramatic theory and criticism, interdisciplinary collaboration, set design, theatrical adaptation, playwriting, and two years training in the Viewpoints. Thesis: adapted and directed “Nightwood” from the novel by Djuna Barnes. Professors: Arnold Aronson, Anne Bogart, Elinor Fuchs, James Leverett, Kristin Linklater, Andrei Serban, Robert Woodruff.

SITI Company – Saratoga Springs, NY (1998)

Advanced instruction in the Viewpoints and Suzuki methods of actor training.

Washington College – Chestertown, MD (1991)

Bachelor of Arts – Drama. Graduated cum laude. Awarded Clark Porter Medal. Member of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Dean's List, Washington College Scholar and MD General State Scholarship recipient. Honors for design and direction of senior thesis: Jean Genet's *The Maids*.

Awards and Fellowships

- NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors**, Theatre Communications Group, NYC (2007-2009)
- TCG/ITI Eastern Europe Travel Grant**, Theatre Communications Group, International Theatre Institute, for travel to Zagreb, Croatia with Venus Worldwide (2008)
- Innovation in Teaching Award**, Whitman College, WA, for research residency in Damascus, Syria (2008)
- Residency Award from the New Pacific Studio**, Vallejo, CA (2006)
- Residency Award from the U Cross Foundation**, Sheridan, WY (2002)
- Kazbah Project Residency Award for research in South Africa**, Arts International, NYC (2002)
- Shubert Fellowship** to create *Air Traffic* at Perseverance Theatre, AK, Columbia University, NYC (1999)
- Shubert Fellowship** to assist Anne Bogart on *Culture of Desire*, Columbia University, NYC (1998)
- Directed Research Fellowship**, Columbia University, NYC (1997-1998)

Conference and Lectures

Arts in the One World, Brown University, RI (March, 2010)

Presented talk on work in Syria and participated in panel on the arts and activism.

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, Washington DC (July 2009)

Attended conference roundtables and public presentations.

Theatre Communications Group Conference, Baltimore MD (June 2009)

Featured Guest, with public display of portfolio as a fellow of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors.

Fadjr International Theatre Festival, Tehran, Iran (January, 2009)

Presented lecture on Theatre of the Islamic World - as seen in the U.S. and the Arab Middle East.

NoPassport Conference – *Dreaming the Americas*, CUNY, New York, NY (February, 2007)

Presented *BUZZ*, an adaptation of John Hersey's novel *The War Lover* created with actress Sophia Skiles, and moderated session entitled "Intercultural Illuminations: Practice and Performance." Panelists included Ruth Margraff and John Jesurun.

Harper College – Chicago IL (February, 2005)

Guest lecturer discussing theatre and cultural life in Syria, part of Harper College's Symposium "Syria: What's Next?"

Amnesty International Firefly Project – New York, NY (January, 2005)

Helped organize conference at OfficeOps for AI Firefly's *AND SO FORTH: a Post-Inaugural Assembly*. Panelists and participants included several OBIE award-winning theater companies.

Damascus University – Damascus, Syria (December, 2004)

Guest lecturer on contemporary U.S. actor training practices at the Higher Institute for Theatrical Studies.

Radical Alternative Theatre International Conference – Argentina (December, 2003)

Co-organizer and facilitator of R.A.T. conference at the El Rayo International Experimenta (Roasario, Argentina). Co-curated an afternoon of theatre presentations, taught a bi-lingual Viewpoints workshop (in Spanish and English) and collaborated with the Wilaldea Theatre Collective (Buenos Aires, Argentina) to promote exchange of training methods between U.S. and Latin American artists.

Columbia University, School of the Arts, Graduate Theatre Division – New York, NY (September, 2002)

Guest speaker with Bridgit Evans of the Kazbah Project, discussed international theatre collaboration in South Africa and the challenges of intercultural dialogue. Hosted by Kristin Linklater.

Publications - Author

Roundtable: Theatre in New York and the Arab Middle East with interviews from artists in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the U.S., *New York Theatre Review*, 2009.

A Letter from Syria *Theater Magazine*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Winter 2006.

Publications - Subject

Voicing Dissent: American Artists and the War on Iraq by Violaine Roussel, Bleuwenn Lechaux, Routledge 2009. Chapter 2.4 "Cynthia Croot: Temporally Rooted Devotion."

Interview - What's On Syria profiled in magazine regarding potential exchange program with Whitman College, 2008.

Activist in the Theatre interviewed in *Washington College Magazine*, Summer 2007.

Profiles up-and-coming artists featured, *New York Theater Review*, 2007.

Teaching Experience

Higher Education

Whitman College – Walla Walla, WA (Fall 2007 - present) Assistant Professor, Theatre Department. Courses include Theory and Performance, Theater in the Arab World, Directing, Acting, Voice and Movement.

Washington College – Chestertown, MD (2000-2006) Viewpoints instructor in recurring workshops for undergraduate theatre students and professors. An improvisational movement system for actors, choreographers and directors, the Viewpoints were developed by Anne Bogart.

Bucknell University – Lewisburg, PA (October, 2001) Guest artist with Susan Miller, hosted by the Women's Studies Department. Staged Miller's Obie Award-winning play *My Left Breast* to mark breast cancer awareness month. Informal and formal talks with drama students and campus community.

Bryn Mawr College – Bryn Mawr, PA (Fall, 1998) Associate Professor and Guest Director of Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*. Production hours constituted coursework – students received evaluation and college credit for participation. In addition to directing the main stage production, designed curriculum and taught Acting I, incorporating Viewpoints, Boleslavsky and Stanislavski techniques.

Teacher and Artist Training

Peace Education Center, Teachers College, Columbia University – New York, NY (2005)

Guest Instructor for the Afghan Institute for Learning, founded by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Sakena Yacoobi. Explored theatre skills and conflict resolution training for use in schools in Afghanistan.

International Institute for Peace Educators, – Rhodes, Greece (July – August, 2005)

Guest artist, team-taught workshop entitled *Representation and Perception in War Time - Close-up: Syria* with collaborator Nathalie Applewhite. Provided teacher-training and lesson plans exploring the power of art and the media to influence international conflict.

Theaters Against War / Hunter College – New York, NY (April, 2004)

Helped facilitate *Resistance 101: a Creative Peace and Justice Teach-In* including speakers, panel discussions, and performances from prominent civil libertarians, academics, journalists, students, and theater activists

The Kazbah Project / Imagining Peace Project, Columbia University – New York, NY (September, 2001)

Researcher and instructor, helped train teaching artists working with students during the first few weeks after the September 11th terrorist attacks. Efforts were aimed at challenging stereotypes and discouraging ethnic violence.

Perseverance Theater – Juneau, AK (1998)

Guest director of John Guare's *House of Blue Leaves* and instructor of eight-week Viewpoints Training Intensive.

Secondary Education

IRC (International Rescue Committee) Refugee Resettlement Program – Bronx, NY (2006)

Guest instructor in after-school theatre program with refugees aged 14- 19 from Sierra Leone, Uganda and Guinea. Curriculum based on social theatre model (Augusto Boal) incorporating personal narratives and English vocabulary skills.

New York University – New York, NY (November, 2003)

Provided adjudication and commentary for the New York Student Shakespeare Festival

East Harlem Middle School at Exodus House – New York, NY (2002-2003)

Designed curriculum and team-taught collaborative playwriting and acting classes. Spring 2003 semester culminated in a performance of the student-created play *Destination Station*.

Park School – Brooklandville, MD (1992-1993)

Taught visual and performing arts and creative writing during two summer sessions at progressive, private Baltimore Middle School. Adapted and co-directed 80-student theatre production drawn from world myths and folk tales.

Folger Shakespeare Theatre – Washington, D.C. (1991)

Shakespeare in the Schools Instructor. Team-taught the Folger curriculum in Baltimore City Middle Schools with Center Stage Theatre Education and Outreach staff.

Related Experience and Affiliations

Associate Artist, LoNyLa (2010 - present)

Founded by J. Dakota Powell, LoNyLa is "a global network and transatlantic lab that links London, NY and LA to help artists connect, collaborate and develop material for stage, film and television."

League of Professional Women of the Theater (2008 - present)

Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (2008 - present)

NoPassport Coalition – New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA (2005 - present)

Member of pan-American theatre coalition with an emphasis on US Latina/o and Latin American writing.

The Venus Project Worldwide – New York, NY (2001 - present)

Co-Founder and Director of *Venus*, by Suzan-Lori Parks. VPW first produced *Venus* as a reading at the Pubic Theatre, NYC with Academy Award-winner Tim Robbins, Tony Award-nominee Kathleen Chalfant and film and television actor Joe Morton. A subsequent research residency in Mafikeng, Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa was funded by Arts International. Our full production of *Venus* with local South African cast members premiered at the Windybrow Theatre in Johannesburg, 2002, coinciding with the repatriation of the remains of Saartjie Baartman (a.k.a. the Venus Hottentot) from the Musee del l'Homme in Paris to her homeland. Our final performance in South Africa was at the Saartjie Baartman Women's Center on National Women's Day, concurrent with her burial in the Eastern Cape. In August 2008 we embarked upon *Venus* on Radio in Croatia - our first broadcast version of the story, in cooperation with The Women's Room in Zagreb.

Theaters Against War – New York, NY (2003 - 2009)

Lead organizer of grassroots collective with over two hundred member theaters and over 1,000 listserv participants worldwide. Activities include monthly pro-peace cabarets, teach-ins, post-show discussions, march contingents, youth outreach initiatives, calls to action and town hall meetings intended to be replicated in local communities to promote engaged citizenship and artist-driven activism. Recipient of Village Voice OBIE Grant (2004). Recent projects include the THAW Collaboration Weekend (with the Culture Project, NYC), THAW on the AIR – a radio series showcasing experimental, politically engaged theatre artists on WBAI Radio, New York, NY, and the THAW scholarship, granting funds to artists working in conflict zones.

Center for International Conflict Resolution, Columbia University – New York, NY (2004 - 2007)

Selected to represent emerging U.S. artists as part of a four-person delegation to Syria funded by the U.S. State Department. The 2004-2005 exchange introduced the U.S. team to colleagues from the University of Damascus during several weeks of residency in both countries. Exchange included meetings with such luminaries as Noam Chomsky, the U.S. and Syrian Ambassadors, and many other religious leaders, dignitaries, academics and artists from both countries. Work inspired by this exchange continues, we hope to improve relations between nations through innovative use of media and the arts. Currently I am pursuing an Arab-American drama exchange in cooperation with the Whitman College, WA.

Amnesty International Firefly Project – New York, NY (2003 - 2007)

Member of artist-driven chapter of Amnesty International using the arts to respond to global injustice.

Axis Theatre – Baltimore, MD (1992 - 1994)

Artistic Associate and founding member of critically acclaimed Baltimore theatre company producing new and established texts. Directed Vaclav Havel's *Largo Desolato*, and *Cabaret Verboten* by Jeremy Lawrence.

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New York City

Little West 12th Night
Her Name is Vincent
The Millay Sisters
Scenes from Last Five Years
Cold
Reading List
Details of Silence
Isadora...No Apologies
Three Sisters
Act of the Possessed
The Grand Design
Uncle Vanya
Buzz
Trust
Slangrивier
Mata Hari
Dynamo

Croot, Murdy and Dodd
Millay, Croot, Murdy and Sharp
Croot, Murdy and Sharp
Tommy Smith
Liz Blocker and PTPP
Susan Miller
Nathalie Handal
Andrew Frank
Anton Chekhov
Haroldo de Campos
Susan Miller
Anton Chekhov
from Hersey's *The War Lover*
Steven Dietz
Nina Steiger
Croot, Croot and Herman
Eugene O'Neill

Site-specific in the Meat Packing District, NYC, 2010
Abingdon Theater Arts Complex, 2009
Don't Tell Mama/ Ancram Opera House, 2008
Culture Project/ Baruch College, 2006
PTTP/ Bank Street Theatre, 2006
Vital Theater/ McGinn Cazale, 2005
Nibras/ Symphony Space, 2005
Isadora Duncan Dance Co./ Symphony Space, 2004
Connelly Theatre and Brick Theater, 2002
Guggenheim Museum, 2002
Brave New World/ NYC's Town Hall, 2002
Chekhov Now, Connelly Theatre, 2001
Ontological-Hysteric and PS122, 2001
Blue Sphere East, Raw Space, 2000
New York International Fringe Festival, 2000
La Mama First Street Theatre, 2000
HERE Arts Center, 1998

US and International

Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant
Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant
The Millay Sisters
Whispering Voices on Phone
Julius Caesar
The Winter's Tale
The Macbeth Project
Venus
The House of Blue Leaves

ensemble-created
ensemble-created
Croot, Murdy and Sharp
from Washburn's Apparition
William Shakespeare
William Shakespeare
ensemble-created
Suzan-Lori Parks
John Guare

Cleveland Public Theatre, OH, 2010
A.R.T.'s Club Oberon, Cambridge, MA, 2010
Mad Cow Theatre, Orlando, FL, 2010
Blackfish Gallery, Portland, OR, 2008
Colorado Shakespeare Festival, CO, 2007
Colorado Shakespeare Festival, CO, 2005
El Rayo Misterioso/Wilaldea, Argentina, 2003
Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa, 2002
Perseverance Theatre, Juneau, AK, 2000

College and University

The Secret Lives of Coats
Moonlight on the Ave of Faith
Apparition
Our Town
Insurgency/Counterinsurgency
The Ghost Sonata
Spring Awakening
Machinal

Fleischmann and Campanella
from the novel by Gina Nahai
Anne Washburn
Thornton Wilder
THAW Collaboration Weekend
August Strindberg
Frank Wedekind
Sophie Treadwell

Whitman College, WA, 2010
Whitman College, WA, 2009
Whitman College, WA, 2008
Whitman College, WA 2008
SIPA, Columbia University, NYC, 2007
Whitman College, WA, 2007
Whitman College, WA, 2005
Bryn Mawr College, PA, 1999

Staged Readings

Women in a Holy Mess
Sky/Nikita Mitskevitch
The Three Hagi Sisters
Softcops
Empty Chalice
Ubu Roi
The Designated Mourner
Venus (with Tim Robbins)

Ai Nagai
Andrei Rui
Ai Nagai
Caryl Churchill
Judy Veramendi
Alfred Jarry
Wallace Shawn
Suzan-Lori Parks

Japan Society, NYC, 2010
Culture Project/ Baruch College, NYC, 2006
Japan Society, NYC, 2006
International Foucault Society, NYC, 2005
Urban Stages, NYC, 2005
Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY, 2004
Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY, 2004
Public Theatre, NYC, 2002

Awards and Distinctions

NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors (2007-2009), Guest Speaker at Fajr International Theater Festival Tehran, Iran (2009), TCG/ITI Eastern Europe Travel Grant - Croatia (2008), Member SDC and League of Professional Theatre Women (2008-present), Residency at New Pacific Studio, CA (2006), Delegate in Cultural Exchange with Columbia University's SIPA and the University of Damascus, Syria (2004), Residency at U Cross Foundation, WY (2002), Kazbah Project Residency in South Africa, funded by Arts International (2002), Shubert Fellowship to create Air Traffic radio series, Perseverance Theatre, AK (1999), Shubert Fellowship to assist Anne Bogart, Portland Stage, ME (1999)

Education

MFA Directing, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2001
BA Drama, Washington College, MD, cum laude, honors, ODK, 1991