

Brian Shaw

Theater Department
Columbia College Chicago
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Education

M. A. DePaul University, School for New Learning, Chicago, June 1997
Curriculum Design in Applied Performance Studies
University President Honoree

B.A. Columbia College Chicago, Theater: Acting Concentration, June 1986
Valedictorian of Graduating Class

Academic Positions

○ **Administration**

Associate Chairperson, Theater Department, Columbia College Chicago
2004 - present

Acting Chairperson, Theater Dept., Columbia College Chicago, Fall 1999

Assistant Chairperson, Theater Dept., Columbia College Chicago, 1993 – 2004

○ **Teaching**

Full-Time Faculty, Tenured, Columbia College Chicago, 2004 – present

Visiting Research Fellow, University of East London, Fall 2007

Full-Time Faculty, Tenure Track, Columbia College Chicago, 1999 – 2004

Artist-in-Residence, Columbia College Chicago, 1989 – 93

Adjunct Faculty, Columbia College Chicago

Interdisciplinary Arts and Education: Graduate School, 1996 & 2002

Theater Department, 1988—89

Adjunct Faculty, Associated Colleges of the Midwest: Urban Studies Program

Theater Elective Instructor: 1997

Awards

- Faculty Development Award, Fall 2007
- Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination, Columbia College, 2005
- Excellence in Teaching Award, Columbia College, 2003
- Faculty Development Award, Spring 2003
- Faculty Development Award, Spring 2001
- Cited for Honorable Mention in the 1999 Excellence in Advising Award
- Cited for "Outstanding Contribution to Columbia College" for the organization and facilitation of departmental academic advising for 300+ students, 1994.

Academic Courses Taught

• Acting & Performance*

I approach the teaching of acting using the body of the performer as the point of departure. The goal is to build deep awareness within the actor of the body's structure and use it to locate and generate impulse to support immediacy and authenticity in performance. This structural awareness is the basis for explorations of space, dynamics and relationship in scripted and/or unscripted material.

Courses taught: Acting I: Basic Skills
 Acting I: Scene Study & Acting II: Advanced Scene Study
 Acting II: Character & Ensemble
 Acting III: Physical Theater
 Acting III: Brecht
 Acting III: Farce and the Absurd
 Acting III: Acting & Performing
 Acting III: Pinter & Albee
 Acting IV: Capstone
 Body Movement for the Actor II

• Service Learning Classes*

I have developed and taught service-learning courses that integrate college students into youth theater projects. The courses are designed to teach college students how to use theater skills within the wider community and develop their abilities as teaching artists. The courses are delivered through community partnerships based in reciprocity of results and equity in participation.

Courses taught: Community-Based Performance
 Teaching Practicum
 Creating Performance Seminar

*Syllabi for all courses taught are available on request.

Curriculum Development

I am responsible for curricular development and oversight in the Theater Department. In that capacity, I have written proposals for and seen the following through the curricular process:

- Comedy Studies Program (www.comedystudies.com) 2006
- Interdisciplinary BA & BFA in Playwriting, (Theater and Fiction Writing Departments) 2003
- BFA in Acting & BFA in Directing, 2001
- Minors in Acting and Directing, 1996
- Redesign of BA in Acting and BA in Directing, 1996
- Introduced Theater Department Workshop Series, 1995

The Theater Workshop Series is a series of short-term workshops in specialized areas of theater practice and performance.

- Worked with faculty on the development of numerous new courses.

International Exchange

Since 2001, I have been active in building and delivering international exchange programs through the Theater Department. These programs have begun with faculty exchange and shared pedagogy, but have always had student exchange as the desired outcome.

- 2008 Student and Faculty Exchange with Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and the University of East London (UEL).
- 2007 Visiting Research Fellow at the University of East London (UEL) during fall sabbatical
- 2007 Faculty exchange with DIT
- 2007 Student and Faculty Exchange with UEL
- 2006 Student Exchange with UEL
- 2005 Joint presentation at the CASTL Institute in Chicago with faculty from UEL
- 2004 Faculty exchange with UEL
- 2003 Student exchange with the Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad, Serbia & Montenegro
 - Directed student performance at the INFANT festival, Novi Sad, June 2003
- 2002 Faculty exchange with the Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad
- 2001 Faculty exchange with the Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad

Community Teaching Experience

- **Physical Theater and Movement-Based Workshops**

Residency in Plasticene Physical Theater Techniques, University of Miami, Oxford Ohio, 2008

Physical Theater Intensive, Plasticene at UIC Studio Theater, July 2001 – 2008.

Structure, Contact and Conflict, Lucky Plush Dance at the Dance Center of Columbia College, 2007

Body Awareness and Kinesthetic Response, University of Indiana at Gary, Theater Program, 2006

Observing the Now: Improvisation and Spontaneity in Practice and Performance, for the Chicago Seminar on Dance and Performance, Links Hall, 2005

Physical Improvisation for The Second City, Chicago, 2005

Residency in Plasticene Physical Theater Techniques, at Illinois Wesleyan University, March, 2005

Spaces of the Body for the School of the Art Institute, April 2004

Blocking and Spatial Dynamics for the Palatine School District Arts Program, May 2003

Movement Instructor: Voces Ansiosas/Anxious Voices at Association House, July/August 2002 & 2003

Plasticene Physical Theater Studio at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, 2001-2002

Physical Theater & Improvisational Workshop, Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad, Serbia, June 2001 & June 2002

Physical Acting & Text, Plasticene Studio at the ACM Arts Program, November/December 2000

Ensemble Creation, Plasticene, Chicago Park District Arts Partner, Chase Park, March/April 1999

Space of the Body & the Body in Space, School of the Art Institute, Oct. 1998

Object Encounters, The Couch Potato Club, Columbia College, Oct. 1998

Physical Theater Workshops, in conjunction with Plasticene, 1996—1999

Developing Character through Physicality, Illinois High School Theater Festival, 1995 & 1996

Insta-Ton-O'Theater, Northwestern University Cherubs Program, 1994 – 1996

Large-Scale Puppetry, RedMoon Theater, Arts in the Park, 1995

• **Community-Based Performance Workshops & Projects**

Teaching Artist Internships: Over the course of several summers, I have worked to place and supervise Columbia students in teaching artist positions with youth theater programs.

- Association House of Chicago, FreeStreet Programs, The Goodman Theatre & Music Theater Workshop, July/August 2007.
- FreeStreet & Association House, Summer 2005.

- Young Chicago Authors, Free Street Programs and Association House, Summer 2004.
- FreeStreet Programs, 2003
- Duncan YMCA/Chernin Center for the Arts, Youth Theatre Workshop, 2002
- FreeStreet Programs, Association House of Chicago, Duncan YMCA/Chernin Center for the Arts, 2001

Recyclone: A Resource Re-Use Project: Recyclone is a 'green' theater project that re-uses scenery from past theatrical productions toward the creation of new performances. (www.culturalreuse.org for more information)

- Association House of Chicago, Spring 2006
- FreeStreet Programs, Spring 2005.

Community Education Site: This project places a class of Columbia Theater students as student teachers in an after-school or arts integration program with a community arts organization.

- El Cuarto Ano High School, Chicago, Spring 2008
- El Cuarto Ano High School, Chicago, Spring 2007.
- Association House of Chicago, Voces Ansiosas Program, Spring 2004
- Association House of Chicago, Voces Ansiosas Program, Spring 2003

Vocal Learning Community: Young Chicago Authors and Theater Department Voice Training for the Actor I class. Service Learning Module. 2004

Gallery 37 Discussion & Workshop, Storefront Theater, Chicago. March 2001

Creative Consultant, FreeStreet Programs, July 2000.

Storytelling & Performance, Plasticene, Chicago Park District Arts Partner, Chase Park, August/September 1999

Personal Vision in the Public Voice: Storytelling Workshop, Chicago School of Professional Psychology, June 1998.

Initiating Community Performance, in conjunction with Community Performance, Inc. Various Locations, 1996—1998.

Creative Collaborations, a workshop in creativity, Columbia College Liberal Education Department, 1995.

Conferences

Center for Institutional Studies: University of East London, London 2007

Keynote: *Balancing Outcomes: Building Value through Partnerships*

European League of Institutes of the Arts: Teachers Academy, Brighton 2007
Workshop: *Skeletons. Skeletons in Space. Skeletons Meet Skeletons in Space.*

One State: Together in the Arts, Illinois Arts Alliance at Illinois State University
Panelist: *Supporting Collaborative Process*

ATHE Conference, Chicago 2006

Panelist: *Models of Inquiry: SOTL in the Theater Studio*

Panelist/Demonstration: *Plasticene Physical Theater Actor Training*

CASTL Institute of the Carnegie Foundation. SoTL Scholar. Chicago, IL 2005.

Service Learning in the Arts, Learn and Serve America, Sarasota, FL, 2005.

Panelist: *Community Arts Partnerships and Service Learning Opportunities*

PAC/Edge Chicago, Text/Non-Text Panel Discussion, Athanaeum Theater, Chicago, 2005.

ATHE Conference, Chicago, 2001: *Panelist/Workshop Leader: Maximizing Flow: A Pedagogy for the New Acting Student*

ATHE Conference, Toronto, 1999: *Panelist: Interdisciplinary Study in Theater and Social Change*

ATHE Conference, San Antonio, 1998: *Panelist: Ethics in Community Performance*

Contact Collaborations, Contact Improvisation Workshop, Oberlin, OH. 1997.

Committees

• College-Wide

Task Force on Technology and Academic Advising, 2008

Task Force on Integrative Education, 2008

Curriculum Committee: School of Fine and Performing Arts, 2005-07

Departmental Representative:

Urban Missions, a collaborative partnership between Community-Based Arts Organizations and Columbia College Professional Departments, under the auspices of the Center for Community Arts Partnerships. 1999 – present

Search Committee: Associate Provost, 2006

Search Committee: Director of the Center for Community Arts Partnerships, 2005

Search Committee: Tenure Track Position in the Film Department, 2006

Chairperson, Student Affairs Committee of Columbia College Chicago, 2002-2003

Curriculum Committee: Columbia College Chicago, 1997-1999

Committee on Undergraduate Retention: Columbia College, 1995 - 1997

Chairperson, Subcommittee on Retention Activities Beyond the Classroom, 1996 – 1997

- **Departmental**

Coordinated Five Year Program Review and authored final report, 2006-07

Departmental Curriculum Committee Member, 2000—present

BFA Committee Member, 2001—present

Senior Showcase Committee member, 2000—present

Search Committee: Tenure Track Position in Playwriting 2005 & 2006

Publication and Documentary

The Making of Woyzcek. The Portfolio Center of Columbia College Chicago. Dirk Matthews, Producer. Chicago, 2006. Video documentary of the rehearsal and performance of *Woyzcek*.

Reaping the Benefits of Partnerships Built on Trust. *Art/Vision/Voice*. Columbia College Chicago and Maryland Institute College of Art, Chicago, 2005. Co-Authors Julie Simpson, Carmel Avegnon Sanders and Ann Wiens document the Teaching Practicum class from 2003.

Teaching Practicum. Center for Community Arts Partnerships, Columbia College Chicago, 2004. Paul Teruel Producer. Video documentary of the Teaching Practicum class of 2003.

Jan Erkert Choreographer, *The Chicago Dance Project*, WTTW Chicago, Chicago, 2004. Video documentary of the development and performance of *Man/Woman/Wood/Feathers*.

The Making of Head Poison, *Artbeat*. WTTW Chicago, Chicago, 2001. Video documentary of the development and performance of *Head Poison*.

Performance

- **Company Affiliation**

Founding Member, Plasticene, a theater company devoted to the creation of new works of physical theater, 1995 - 2007.

Associate Director, Community Performance, Inc., a community arts organization devoted to the development of community through involvement in the performing arts, 1996 - 1998.

Company Member, Blind Parrot Productions, a Chicago-based theater company devoted to bringing new dramatic works to the stage, 1988 - 1990.

- **Theater**

Ghostlights, creator and performer with Plasticene for *Looptopia*, City of Chicago Arts Festival, 2008.

The Strangerer, Jim Lehrer

Theater Oobleck at The Chopin Theater, Chicago 2008

Until One Falls, co-creator and performer with Plasticene

Gates-Abeggian Theater, University of Miami at Ohio, 2008
One False Note: Or How to Rob a Bank, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 The Storefront, Chicago 2006
The Perimeter, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 The Viaduct Theater, 2004.
Man/Woman/Wood/Feathers, contact improvisation duet, 2004
 choreographed by Jan Erkert for “Pivot” at the Dance Center of
 Columbia College, 2004
Blank Slate, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 PAC/edge Festival at the Athanaeum Theater, 2004
The Palmer Raids, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 PAC/edge Festival at the Athanaeum Theater, 2003
And So I May Return, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 Viaduct Theater, 2002.
Waving Goodbye, Jonathan Blue
 Naked Eye Theatre at the Steppenwolf Studio, 2002.
Head Poison, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 Gallery 37 Storefront Theater, 2001
Come Like Shadows, co-creator with *Plasticene*
 Chopin Theater, 1999
4 X 4, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 Lunar Cabaret, 1999.
Have Not Hold, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 New Studio of Columbia College, 1998.
volume XII, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 Blue Rider Theater, 1998.
 Pfeiffer University, North Carolina, 1998.
 Athanaeum Studio Theater, 1997.
doorslam, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 PANG at FreeStreet Programs, Chicago, 2001
 Viaduct Theater, Chicago, 2000
 J. Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, 1998.
 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Theater Workshop, 1996.
 Art a la Carte, Chicago Cultural Center, 1996.
 Steppenwolf Studio Theater, Chicago, 1996.
 Chopin Studio Theater, Chicago, 1995.
Refuge, co-creator and performer with *Plasticene*
 National Pastime Theater, Chicago, 1999
 Links Hall, Chicago, 1998.
 Schaeberle Studio, New York, 1996.
 Dance Chicago, Athaneum Theater, Chicago, 1996.
 Plasticene Studios, Chicago, 1996.
When Shadows Flee, and Daylight Slips Away, Dead Man

The Neo-Futurists, Chicago, 1995.
 Lexus Praxis, Chicago, 1994.
More Confusion for the Perplexed, Various Roles
 Theater for the Age of Gold, Chicago, 1995.
The Revenger's Tragedy, Hippolito
 The Neo-Futurists, Chicago, 1995.
Camille: A Travesty, Gaston
 Cloud 42 at the Body Politic, Chicago, 1994.
Tiny Dimes, Neil
 Famous Door Theater, Chicago, 1994.
The Lulu Sex Tragedies, Dr. Schon
 Prop Theater, Chicago, 1994.
The RedMoon Winter Pageant, Ensemble
 Logan Square Auditorium, Chicago, 1994 & 1995.
Ward 6, The Doctor
 Curious Theater Branch, Chicago, 1993.
I, Figaro, Figaro
 Curious Theater Branch, Chicago, 1993.
Chopin in Space, Stash/Hitler
 Stage Left Theater, Chicago, 1993.
The Saliva Milkshake, Martin
 Stage Left Theater, Chicago, 1993.
Bitter Friends, David Klein
 National Jewish Theater, Skokie, 1992.
Moby Dick, Dagoo
 RedMoon Theater, Chicago, 1992.
The Cezanne Syndrome, Gilbert
 Vicious Circle Productions, Chicago, 1991.
Ragged Dick, Bunner
 Immediate Theater Company, Chicago, 1991.
The Relapse, Worthy
 EconoArt Theater, Chicago, 1990.
Oedipus: A Requiem, Haimon
 Blind Parrot Productions, Chicago, 1990.
The Seagull, Trigorin
 The Huge Theater Company, Chicago, 1989.
Much Ado About Nothing, Benedick
 The Getz Theater, Chicago, 1989.
Lovers and Keepers, Fred
 Blind Parrot Productions, Chicago, 1988.
 Hispanic Theater Festival, Miami, 1988.
Gas Mask 101, Hooch
 Mary-Arrchie Theater, Chicago, 1988.
The Dybbuk, Chennoch

National Jewish Theater, Skokie, 1987.
Erendira, Various Roles
Theater of Change, Toronto, 1987.
This is What Happens in Orangeville, The Teacher
Festival of the Americas, Montreal, 1987.
Theatre Puisse Muraille, Toronto, 1987.
DNA Theater, Toronto, 1986.

- **Commercial, Industrial & Corporate**

Midas Muffler “Groundhog Day Scenario” Training Video, 2008
Midas Muffler “Groundhog Day Scenario” Training Video, 2007,
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Industrial Film, 2006.
Valenite, Trade Show Narration, 1994, 1996 & 1998.
American Girl Place, Creative Consultant, 1995
Commonwealth Edison, Industrial Film, 1993.
Montgomery Ward, Commercial. Regional, 1993.
RJ Reynolds, Industrial Film, 1993.
MTI Vacations, Voice Over, 1991.
United Stationers, Voice Over, 1991.
Micatin, Commercial Extra, National, 1991.
Zenith Computers, Voice Over, 1990.
Hallberg Insurance, Voice Over, 1990.

- **Corporate Skills Workshops**

Corporate Voice Training, Panduit Corporation, June 1998.
Corporate Communications Workshop and Performance, Marriott Corporation,
Employee Appreciation Ceremony, May 1998.

Direction

Table of Contents, Co-Director with Luis Crespo and Monika Kimrey,
Association House of Chicago and Columbia College Chicago, at Association
House, 2006.
Woyzeck, Georg Buchner
11th Street Studio, Chicago 2006.
Re-Cyclone, Co-Director with Bryn Magnus, FreeStreet Programs and
Columbia College Chicago, at Pulaski Park, 2005.
scale/vaga, International Festival of Alternative and New Theater
Kulturni Centar, Novi Sad, Serbia, June 2003.
Crowbar, Mac Wellman
Getz Theater, Chicago, 1998.
Out My Window, Community Performance, Inc.
Co-Director of Edgewater/Uptown Community performance, 1997.
Chicago 60640, Community Performance, Inc.

- Directed one of a series of oral histories gathered and performed by members of the Chicago Uptown and Edgewater neighborhoods, 1996.
- Dracula, Mac Wellman
11th Street Studio, Chicago, 1995.
- Monologue, Harold Pinter
Neo-Futurists, Summer Shorts, 1995.
- Rhinoceros, Eugene Ionesco
Getz Theater, Chicago, 1994.
- Faith, Charity & Hope, Odon von Horvath
Tight & Shiny Productions, Chicago, 1994.
- Rosmersholm, Henrik Ibsen
11th Street Studio, Chicago, 1993.
- Kind Ness, Ping Chong
Chopin Theater, Chicago, 1992.
- Sarita, Maria Irene Fornes
11th Street Studio, Chicago, 1992.

Design and Technical

Staff

- Oak Park Festival Theater
Technical Director, Summer Shakespeare Festival, 1991 - 1995.
- Scenic View, Inc.
Staff Carpenter, Part-Time 1991 - 1993.

Production

- Duct, written and performed by Stephanie Shaw
Lighting Design, NeoFuturists, 2000
- Another Lousy Day, written and performed by David Kodeski
Lighting Design, Neo-Futurists, 1999
- You Are Not Here, Neo Mondo Solo
Lighting Design, Neo-Futurists, 1999
- volume XII, Plasticene
Lighting Design, Athanaeum Studio Theater, 1997.
- Good Eatin', Neo Mondo Solo
Production Design, Neo-Futurists, 1997.
- doorslam, Plasticene
Scenic Design and Technical Direction, Chicago Productions and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 1995 - 1996.
- Monologue, Harold Pinter
Lighting Design, Neo-Futurists, 1995.
- The Fever, Wallace Shawn
Production Design, Lower Wacker Productions at Next Lab Theater, 1994.
- Rosmersholm, Henrik Ibsen
Scenic Design, 11th Street Studio, Chicago, 1993.
- Are You Now, or Have You Ever Been...?, Eric Bentley

Lighting Design, Big Game Theater, 1993.
Sarita, Maria Irene Fornes
Scenic Design, 11th Street Studio, 1992.