

STACIE CHAIKEN

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WRITER PERFORMER TEACHER

PERFORMANCE

Terrain Vague [Empty Space], a performance-excavation of one square block, the largest, most expensive, contiguous piece of undeveloped land in Downtown LA, a block away from City Hall.

Don't Flinch !!

Part of *Terrain Vague [Empty Space]*. Introducing the legendary 1950s one-armed woman fighter (my creation) who trained alongside world-class boxers like then-Cassius Clay, Joe Frazier, and Sugar Ray Robinson at the Main Street Gym at Third and Main. World premiere 2019, Son of Semele, Los Angeles

Saint Vibiana PRAY4US

Part of *Terrain Vague [Empty Space]*. Who is/was 3rd-century virgin and martyr Vibiana, the patron saint of Los Angeles, and where is she now, when we need her? World premiere 2018, Son of Semele Solo Creation Festival.

The DIG: death, Genesis & the double helix. 2017 Stage Raw Theater Award for Solo Performance
An American archaeologist is summoned to a dig in the ancient Arab-Hebrew town of Jaffa. They've found something that could change everything. She's the only person who can tell them what it is. And her mother just died. And there's a lizard in her bathtub. Workshops in New York and Los Angeles. World premiere 2016, produced by Latino Theater Company at Los Angeles Theater Center; World premiere 2019, with original music, composed and performed by [Yuval Ron](#).
thedigplay.com

What She Left: a solo play, based on materials from the USC Holocaust and Genocide Research Collection. World premiere, 2011, Ray Stark Theater, produced by Visions and Voices/the Shoah Foundation.

Looking for Louie: A second-generation Russian Jewish American (sometimes) Redhead goes off in search of the mysterious great-grandfather, about whom nobody would ever speak. With a live string bass score by Eli Magen. World premiere, 2000, Pacific Resident Theater, LA, and touring.

PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTIONS

- 2021 Author, forthcoming: *Remember Rwanda: A Rainbow of Broken Glass, like Teeth*, a memoir.
- 2021 Author, forthcoming: *Kintsugi, or Shaking the Baby: cruelty, beauty, and electoral politics*.
- 2021 Author, NoPassport Press: *Looking for Louie*.
- 2015 to 2020 Story consultant/event director, *NewGround: a Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change*.
- 2013 to 2014 International Creative Director, *Kwibuka, the 20th commemoration of the genocide against Tutsi, in Rwanda*.
- 2014 Author, *An Artist in Rwanda: Folding in Grief*, in *PastForward*.
- 2013 Author, *Artistry and Innovation: Witness and Responsibility*, in *TCG Circle*.
- 2013 Director/producer, *Imaging Genocide: Artistic Responses to Mass Violence: Storytelling and Performance*, The USC Shoah Foundation.
- 2013 Author, *Leapin' Lizards*, William Cutter, *A New Way to Present an Academic Argument*.
- 2012 Founder/producer, *Witness and Responsibility*, a multi-disciplinary conference, produced with the USC Shoah Foundation: How artists respond to catastrophic narratives.
- 2011 Author, *Digging in the Dirt in Israel and LA*, in *ZEEK: A Jewish Journal of Art and Culture*.
- 2010 Author, *Manifesto 2010: Performing Identity*, Arts in the One World, Brown University
- 2010 Author, *The Archaeology of Inspiration*, A multi-media *pechakucha* presentation, TCG.
- 2009 Performer/producer, *The Archaeology of Inspiration/The DIG*, USC. A series of expert lectures and community conversations, culminating in a reading of *The DIG*.
- 2008 + 2007 Director/producer, *What's the Story? Festival of New Solo Plays*, LA.
- 2005 Director/workshop facilitator, *Getting Off (the Fence)*, devised performance, Beit T'Shuvah, Los Angeles.
- 2002 Author, *The Golden Rule*, in Fringe Benefits' *Cootie Shots: Theatrical Inoculations Against Bigotry*, TCG.
- 2002 Director/writing workshop facilitator, *Nada No Es Nada*, devised performance, Mercado La Paloma, Los Angeles.
- 2001 Author, *The True Me*, in Fringe Benefits' *Clothes Minded*.

TEACHING

2001 to present: Founder and Artistic Director, What's the Story? Los Angeles.

A studio for artists making compelling stuff, based on personal material.

www.whatsthestoryLA.com

2015 to present: Story consultant and facilitator, NewGround: a Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change, Los Angeles.

2020 to present: Mentor: Write Girl, Los Angeles.

2015: Mentor, Artizen Lab, The Music Center, Los Angeles.

2013 to 2014: Writing Workshops, Kigali Genocide Memorial, Rwanda.

Weekly group-process creative process for student survivors of the Rwandan genocide.

2013: Guest Instructor, American Jewish University, Los Angeles.

Storytelling; the crafting and dissemination of substantial content via traditional and new media.

2001 to 2013: Performance Faculty, University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts. Instructor for courses in Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Acting; Character Acting; Solo Performance and Storytelling; Directed Studies in Writing for Performance.

2005 to 2013: Instructor, University of Southern California Dornsife College.

Invited to create provocative creative-process courses for incoming freshman.

2008: Artist-in-Residence, Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles.

A course for advanced rabbinical students on appropriate use of personal material in their work.

2005 - 2006: Drama Teacher, New Community Jewish High School, Los Angeles.

2005: Master Teacher, Tel Aviv University.

Fulbright Senior Specialist: Solo Performance; Performing Shakespeare in translation.

2004: Master Teacher, Tel Aviv University.

Gesture: A Master Class for Fine Arts and Theatre Students, co-created and taught with Ruth Weisberg, University of Southern California Roski School of Fine Arts.

2004: Guest Lecturer, the Shandy Rudoff Creative Writing Program, Bar Ilan University, Tel Aviv. Personalization of biblical story in creative work.

2003 to 2004: Master Teacher, Tel Aviv University.

Fulbright Senior Specialist: Solo Performance; Performing Modern American Plays in translation.

2001 to 2003: Instructor, American Jewish University School of Continuing Education.

A course in excavation of oral history and the use of personal material in creative work.

2000: Guest Lecturer, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

Autobiographical Performance: The effective use of personal material in writing for performance.

1997 to 2002: Workshop leader, Fringe Benefits, Los Angeles.

Devised performance and community story-making with LGBTQ communities in Los Angeles; orthodox Jewish communities in Crown Heights, New York.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Royal National Theatre Studio Actors Training, London, 1993.

Acting (NYC): Lenore Dekoven; Kathryn Gately; Alan Langdon; Vivian Matalon

Acting (LA): Larry Moss.

Solo performance: Ken Campbell (London)

Physical technique: Loyd Williamson (NYC).

Vocal production and dialects: Patsy Rodenberg (London); Kristin Linklater (NYC)

EDUCATION

MFA, Creative Writing, Antioch University, Los Angeles

MA, Theater, Directing, University of California, Berkeley

BA, summa cum laude, Theater & Religious Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Actors Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA • Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights - ALAP

Alliance of Jewish Theatres - AJT • Association of Writers and Writing Programs - AWP

Creative Visions • Dramatists Guild of America • Fractured Atlas

Independent Writers of Southern California - IWOSC • Jewish Artists Initiative

Los Angeles Stage Alliance (Ovation Voter) • NoPassport • Pacific Resident Theatre

Pen America • Rogue Machine Theatre

GRANTS + AWARDS

2019 to 2020 Cultural Trailblazer, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

2018 to 2019 Cultural Trailblazer, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

2018 to 2019 Fellow, [The Wallace Annenberg Helix Project](#)

2017 Los Angeles Stage Raw Theater Award for Solo Performance: *The DIG*.

2015 to 2016 Institute for Jewish Creativity: *Inquiry Fellowship and Dream Lab Fellowship*.

2013 Visions & Voices: *Imaging Genocide*, produced with the USC Shoah Foundation.

2011 Visions & Voices: *What She Left*, produced with the USC Shoah Foundation.

2009 Durfee Foundation Artists Completion Grant: *The Dig*.

2009 Visions & Voices: *The Dig*, and *The Archaeology of Inspiration*.

2008 Artist in Residence, Hebrew Union College.

2006 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Fellowship: *The Dig*.

GRANTS + AWARDS, continued

- 2003 to 2008 Fulbright Foundation Senior Specialist; *Performance and Story*.
- 2004 Fellow: Mishkan Omanim, Herzliya, Israel.
- 2004 The Durfee Foundation Artists Completion Grant: *Looking for Louie*.
- 2003 to 2008 Roster of Touring Artists: *Looking for Louie*, California Arts Council.
- 2003 USC Arts Initiative Faculty Collaboration grant: for *The HOME Project/Armenia*: story personal story workshops in the Armenian community, Glendale,
- 2002 Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Artist in Residency grant for *The HOME Project: El Proyecto Mi Tierra*, at Mercado La Paloma.
- 2001 to 2003 USC Arts Initiative Faculty Collaboration grants: for *The HOME Project/West Adams*; and *The HOME Project/USC*. Personal story workshops, resulting in devised performance by students in a literacy class, born outside the United States.