

STACIE CHAIKEN

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staciechaiken.com

WRITER - PERFORMER

Don't Flinch !! : Part Two of *Porciuncula [Little Portion]*, an historic-cultural excavation of one square block of Downtown LA. Presented in the Solo Creation Festival, Son of Semele Theater, July 2018. A search for the legendary one-armed woman, said to have trained alongside world-class boxers like then-Cassius Clay, Joe Frazier, and Sugar Ray Robinson at the Main Street Gym, at Third and Main.

Saint Vibiana PRAY4US: Part One of *Porciuncula [Little Portion]*, an historic-cultural excavation of one square block of Downtown LA. Presented in the Solo Creation Festival, Son of Semele Theater, July 2018. Who is/ was Vibiana, the patron saint of Los Angeles, and where is she now, when we need her?

The DIG: death, Genesis & the double helix: 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, March 2016, Los Angeles Theater Center.

2017 Stage Raw Theater Award for Solo Performance thedigplay.com

What She Left: a solo play, based on materials from the Holocaust and Genocide Research Collection, the University of Southern California's Doheny Library. World premiere, 2011, Ray Stark Theater, Los Angeles.

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, June 2000, Pacific Resident Theater, Los Angeles. lookingforlouie.com

Short plays

That Same Stubborn Nose; *Sifting Thru Ashes*; *State of the Art*, West Bank Cafe, and NYC theaters, 1993 - 1997.

REPRESENTATIVE PERFORMANCE

Master of the House, by Shmuel Hasfari, Laguna Playhouse.

Edith Stein, by Arthur Giron, Jewish Repertory Theater, NYC. (World premiere).

Principia, by David Greenspan, Home for Contemporary Theater & Art, NYC. (World premiere).

Jack, by David Greenspan, Home for Contemporary Theater & Art, NYC. (World premiere).

Albertine in Five Times, by Michel Tremblay Lincoln Theater, Hartford, CT. Dir. Andre Brassard (US premiere).

She, by Ronn Smith, CSPS, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (World premiere).

Belshazzar's Feast, *Camillo*, and *The Sistine Floor*, The Drawing Legion. Mickery Theater, Amsterdam; NYC; and US and European tours. (World premieres).

PUBLICATIONS, PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION

- 2017 Author, forthcoming: *Remember Rwanda: A Rainbow of Broken Glass, like Teeth*, a memoir.
- 2017 Author, forthcoming from NoPassport Press: *Looking for Louie*.
- 2015 to present Director/writing workshop facilitator, 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*, a publication of the USC Shoah Foundation.
- 2013 Author, *Artistry and Innovation: Witness and Responsibility*, for Theater Communications Circle.
- 2013 Director/Producer, *Imaging Genocide: Artistic Responses to Mass Violence: Storytelling and Performance*, The USC Shoah Foundation, University of Southern California.
- 2013 Author, *Leapin' Lizards*, in William Cutter, *New Way to Present an Academic Argument*.
- 2012 Founder/Producer, *Witness and Responsibility*, a multi-disciplinary conference at the University of Southern California: 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*, for the Arts in the One World conference at Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2010 Author, *The Archaeology of Inspiration*, A multi-media *pechakucha* presentation, Theater Communications Group.
- 2009 Producer, *The Archaeology of Inspiration/The DIG*, University of Southern California.
- 2008 + 2007 Director/Producer, *What's the Story? Festival of New Solo Plays*, LA.
- 2005 Director/Writing workshop facilitator, *Getting Off (the Fence)*, Gateways Beit T'Shuvah, Los Angeles..
- 2002 Author, *The Golden Rule*, in *Cootie Shots: Theatrical Inoculations Against Bigotry*, TCG, NY.
- 2002 Director/Writing workshop facilitator, *Nada No Es Nada*, Mercado La Paloma, LA.
- 2001 Author, *The True Me*, in *Fringe Benefits' Clothes Minded*.
- 2000 Author, *The Poet*, produced for Edge of the World Theater Festival, LA.
- 1999 Author, *A Valley Girl Midrash*, in *Dancing on the Edge of the World*, Lowell House,
- 1997 Author, *Family Dinner*, in *Turn it Around: 90210 Goes Queer*.
- 1993 Co-author, with Alexis Genya, *A Wish Book*, Random House, New York.

TEACHING

- 2001 to 2018 Founder/artistic director, What's the Story? Studio, LA.
Group-process workshop for writers and performers: making and presenting powerful stories, based on personal material. www.whatsthestoryLA.com
- 2015 to 2018 Story consultant, NewGround: a Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change, LA.
Crafting and presenting stories about personal experience.
- 2015 Mentor, Artizen Lab, The Music Center, LA.
- 2013 to 2014 Writing and performance workshops, Kigali Genocide Memorial.
Student survivors of the Rwandan genocide (AERG), Kigali, Rwanda, making a play.
- 2001 to 2013 Performance faculty, University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts.
Fundamentals, Intermediate and Advanced Acting; Solo Performance, Character Acting.
- 2005 to 2013 Instructor, University of Southern California Dornsife College of Letters & Sciences:
Freshman Seminars: *Truth or Dare* and *The Archaeology of Inspiration*.
- 2008 Artist in residence/instructor, Hebrew Union College. *Personal Midrash*.
- 2005 to 2006 Drama teacher, New Community Jewish High School, Los Angeles.
- 2005 Guest instructor, Tel Aviv University School of Theater. (Fulbright Senior Specialist)
Master classes in *Solo Performance* and *Shakespeare in translation*.
- 2004 Guest instructor, Tel Aviv University. Master classes: *Gesture for performance and visual artists*:
co-taught with Ruth Weisberg, USC Roski School of Fine Arts.
- 2003 to 2004: Guest instructor, Tel Aviv University. (Fulbright Senior Specialist)
Master classes in *Solo Performance* and *American drama in translation*.
- 2000 Guest lecturer, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.
Master class in *Autobiographical Performance*.
- 1997 to 2002 Writing and performance facilitator, Fringe Benefits. Devised performance
and community story-making with LGBTQ communities in Los Angeles,
and Orthodox Jewish communities in Crown Heights, NYC.
- 1993 to 1996 Performance teacher, Circle in the Square Theater School, NYC. Scene study,.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 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.
- Royal National Theatre Studio, London.
- Acting: Lenore Dekoven; Kathryn Gately (Meisner); Alan Langdon; Vivian Matalon.; Larry Moss (LA)
- Personal story and solo performance: Ken Campbell (London); Spaulding Gray (NYC)
- Physical technique: Loyd Williamson (NYC).
- Voice + dialects: Patsy Rodenberg (London); Kristin Linklater (NYC)

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, LA
Pen USA • Rogue Machine Theatre, LA

GRANTS & AWARDS

2019-2020 Cultural Trailblazer, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.
2018-2019 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 USC Visions & Voices: *Imaging Genocide*, produced with the USC Shoah Foundation
2011 USC Visions & Voices: *What She Left* (formerly, *Next Year in Jerusalem*)
2009 Durfee Foundation Artists Completion Grant: *The Dig*.
2009 University of Southern California Visions & Voices: *The Dig*.
2008 Artist in Residence, Hebrew Union College.
2006 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Fellowship: *The Dig*.
2003 to 2008 Fulbright Foundation Senior Specialist,; *Performance and Story*.
2004 Fellow: Mishkan Omanim, Herzliya, Israel,; *Looking for Louie* and *The Dig*.
2004 The Durfee Foundation Artists Completion Grant: *Looking for Louie*.
2003 to 2008 Roster of Touring Artists: *Looking for Louie*, California Arts Council.
2003 *The HOME Project/Armenia*: community performance based on immigrant experience in the Armenian community, Glendale, University of Southern California Arts Initiative Faculty Collaboration grant.
2002 Artist in Residency grant for *The HOME Project: El Proyecto Mi Tierra*, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.
2001 to 2003 *The HOME Project/West Adams*; *The HOME Project/USC*.
Community performances based on story workshops about immigrant experience, USC Arts Initiative Faculty Collaboration grants.