

TAMARA L. KISSANE

www.artistsoapbox.org www.tamarakissane.com

Piedmont Laureate 2020

PLAYWRIGHT

Love and Kisses, Seed Art Share, Our Stage, Your Screen ~ An evening of Zoom plays, February 2021.

Radiant Edges of the Earth, Burning Coal ~ Annual Oakwood play series, TBD 2021.

The Kafka Project (working title), Honest Pint, commissioned piece in development, reading TBD 2021.

Game On, Artist Soapbox, audio anthology, 5 minute audio piece, released Oct 2020.

Thunderclap, Burning Coal 19th Amendment Project, 10 min play, online August 2020.

- Also produced by Mad Cow Theatre in October 2020.

Leveraging Mr. Bumble, PlayMakers Repertory, STUCK monologue, online July 2020.

The New Colossus, Artist Soapbox, audio drama, released April 2020.

- Recipient of Manbites Dog Theatre Fund grant
- Recipient of Mary Duke Biddle Foundation discretionary fund

Jesus Pancake, Artist Soapbox, audio drama, release date 2021.

- Recipient of Ella Fountain Pratt Emerging Artist Grant, Durham Arts Council
- Staged reading, NC State, University Theatre, Fall 2019

Master Builder (after Henrik Ibsen), Artist Soapbox, audio drama, released July 2019.

- Women's Theatre Festival Fringe Production

Master Builder (after Henrik Ibsen), Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, commissioned, full production, January 2018.

The New Colossus, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, commissioned, full production, May 2016.

Girl in the Midst, REDBIRD Festival, commissioned, festival cancelled, 2016.

CO-PLAYWRIGHT

ARGO, University Theatre, NC State University, September 2020.

- Audio adaptation of Jason and the Argonauts, co-written with faculty member, Rachel Klem.

Audio Drama Serials, Soapbox Audio Collective/Artist Soapbox, present.

- Facilitating two writers' collectives creating serial audio dramas for release post-COVID.
- Tentatively titled: *Jesus Pancake* and *The Last Glacier Hotel*

Creekside: The Journey of a Young Environmentalist, Curious Theatre Collective, school performances, 2019-present.

Sally's Ride: To space and beyond!, Curious Theatre Collective, school performances, Fall 2017-present.

NC Mysteries, Common Wealth Endeavors, commissioned, reading, August 2015.

Up Styx Creek/Dog From Hell, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, commissioned, full production of adaptation, September 2009.

@liberty, both hands theatre company, full production, 2008.

the parent project, both hands theatre company, full production, 2007.

exactly what t(w)o do, both hands theatre company & Manbites Dog Theatre, Other Voices Series, full production, 2006.

brooms: a play about saying yes, both hands theatre company & Manbites Dog Theater, Other Voices Series, full production, 2006.

piece~meal, both hands theatre company & Manbites Dog Theater, Other Voices Series, full production, 2005.

brooms: a play about saying yes, both hands theatre company & Manbites Dog Theater, Other Voices Series, staged reading, 2004.

squeaky wheels, both hands theatre company, full production, 2001.

imaginary numbers, both hands theatre company, full production, 1997.

SCRIPT CONTRIBUTOR

The Reckoning, Archipelago/CINE, feature film, release date 2019.

Behind the Boots, Summer Sisters, full production, August 2015.

The Emotions of Normal People, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, full production, December 2015.

Monster Camp, Summer Sisters, full production, August 2014.

The Wooster Group's Diary of Anne Frank, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, full production, May 2013.

Tangled, Summer Sisters, full production, August 2013.

the abundance project, both hands theatre company, full production, 2009.

with other people, both hands theatre company, full production, 2002.

HONORS from INDY Week: Best Original Scripts of 2004, 2005, and 2007. Best Ensemble in 2014, 2011, 2010, 2008. Best Choreography 2013. Best Supporting Performance 2012. Top Ten Plays of 2017 (Acting).

SELECTED PRESS:

- RDU On Stage: Review: Tamara Kissane's Audio Drama THE NEW COLOSSUS May Satiates the Appetite of Audiences Mourning Live Theater
- IndyWeek: Listen to a New Six-Part Podcast of Tamara Kissane's Unhinged Chekhov
- IndyWeek: Profile on Tamara Kissane and the Master Builder Audio Drama
- Creatives in Conversation: Tamara Kissane: Theatre-maker and Podcast Host
- RDU On Stage: Theater Podcast Featuring Durham Theater-maker Tamara Kissane

- RDU On Stage: Triangle Theater-maker Tamara Kissane writes about the birth of her audio drama
- IndyWeek: The Hidden Link between Tamara Kissane's new play Master Builder and her podcast Artist Soapbox
- The New Colossus Updates Chekhov for an Entitled, Infantile Internet Age
- Seagull adaptation: Clever, engrossing
- Colossal Colossus

ADDITIONAL RELATED EXPERIENCE

Podcast Host and Creative Coach, Artist Soapbox, Durham, NC. 2017-present.

Host of podcast featuring original audio fiction + interviews with Triangle-area (NC) artists about their creative process. Weekly podcasts including theatre artists, dancers, musicians, consultants, entrepreneurs and visual artists. Co-facilitator of Creative Accountability Groups and Functional Feedback Workshops. Panelist and Workshop leader at Women's Theatre Festival 2019. Featured speaker at HOME BREW for local artists with new work. Featured panelist at Triangle ArtWorks Lunch & Learn. Named best local podcast by Indyweek, 2018. Recipient of Durham150 grant to feature Durham artists, Summer 2019. www.artistsoapbox.org

Workshop Leader and Script Mentor, NC State, University Theatre, Raleigh, NC. Spring 2018-present.

Mentoring student playwright through the revision process and preparation of her script for a full production at NC State in spring 2019 as a part of the Open Door Series. Conducting workshops on playwriting for students submitting work to the Creative Artist Award competition (spring 2018, winter 2019, spring 2019).

Founding Member, Curious Theatre Collective, Chapel Hill, NC. 2016-present.

Theatre ensemble dedicated to telling the stories of remarkable women. Co-wrote and acted in *Sally's Ride: To space and beyond!*, a play for children performed in elementary schools throughout the Triangle. Co-wrote *Creekside: The Journey of a Young Activist*. Members of CAPS and United Arts Council. Recipient of Orange County Arts Council grant to create a new play about women in environmental conservation for Spring 2019.

www.curioustheatrecollective.com

Script Curator and Facilitator, Public Works co-produced by Artist Soapbox and Mettlesome, Durham, NC. Fall 2019.

Curated and organized a group of local writers performing their short works in progress (5 mins or less) based on writing prompts. Performances were followed by a conversation with the writers about their creative process and writing for audio.

Actor, Durham, NC. 2006-present.

Local credits with Manbites Dog Theater, both hands theatre company, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, Archipelago, Transactors Improv, and innovation in Research & Training. Improvised role-playing for training sessions for Duke University Safety and Security, Duke

Hospital, and Duke Hospice. Trained in scene study and acting techniques, character development, voice, movement, improvisation/theatre games.

Director, Durham and Carrboro, NC. 2006-present.

Master Builder Audio Drama and New Colossus Audio Drama with Artist Soapbox (2019); 10 by 10 Play Festival at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro (2014, 2015, 2016); Duke Theatre Studies (2015); Redbird New Plays Festival at The ArtsCenter in Carrboro (2015). Additional credits with Summer Sisters, both hands theatre company, and Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern.

Co-leader and co-director, Summer Sisters, Durham, NC. Summers 2013-2016.

Co-led a group of female theatre artists through the collaborative process of developing and performing an original piece of theatre in a shortened rehearsal time.

Co-artistic director, playwright, ensemble member, both hands theatre company, Durham, NC. 1997-2009.

Co-wrote and produced 10 full-length plays, including one of *the Indy's* Best Original Scripts of 2004, 2005, and 2007. Co-led theatre creation workshops, resulting in 2 new full-length plays. Assistant director for 10 original plays and 6 readings. Emphasized community involvement in theatre creation and evaluation, including up to 100 contributing artists in play-development. Focused on ensemble training for company of actors. Press included: 31 articles in 6 papers, including 1 *Independent* cover, 2 front page above-the-fold *Herald Sun* stories, 4 front page spots in the *News and Observer's* Arts or Work & Money sections, and 2 interviews on Frank Stasio's *The State of Things*. Received multiple grants from the North Carolina Arts Council and the Durham Arts Council.

Literary Arts Coordinator, Arts & Health at Duke (Duke Medical Center), Durham, NC. 2013-2014.

Designed and facilitated journaling sessions for patients, caregivers and staff at Duke University Hospital. Journaling topics ranged from the practical goal-setting and organization to the expressive exploration of concepts such as freedom, vulnerability, peace, comfort, friendship, courage, etc. Conducted monthly journaling session at the Cancer Center; weekly group journaling session at Williams Unit (in-patient psychiatric unit) and weekly bedside sessions with patients on the oncology unit. Designed and facilitated workshops for staff tailored to the specific needs of the group and designed to encourage self-care and self-awareness, creativity, teamwork, inspiration and reinvigoration.

Co-founder, Creativity School, Durham, NC. 2011-2013.

Designed and taught creativity courses for adults including *The Return: Bringing Creativity Back into your Life* (Durham, NC), *A Spark: Finding Inspiration in New Places* (Durham, NC), *Finding your Voice* (Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center, Philadelphia, PA). Distributed weekly Creativity Prompts. Provided creative coaching for adults who need assistance with inspiration, organization, and execution of creative projects.

EDUCATION

Bowling Green State University, M.A. in College Student Personnel **GPA: 4.00**

Duke University, A.B. in Drama and Cultural Anthropology, Magna Cum Laude **GPA: 3.75**
University College of London, London, England. Summer Courses
Honors: Dean's List with Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa, Golden Key National Honor Society

Tamara Kissane's Artist Statement

For nearly twenty years, I have created theatre in the Triangle-area of North Carolina as a playwright, actor, director, and producer. I focus on developing new work collaboratively and premiering original theatre in unusual spaces.

I wear my heart on my sleeve and my beliefs on my t-shirts:

Boys will be good humans.

Nevertheless she persisted.

Create consent culture.

Armed with love.

These same beliefs are threaded through my plays as I question gender norms, interrogate the way we care for each other, and shine a light on contemporary America. My plays question assumptions about deeply imprinted roles and societal relationships.

I keep writing about:

- The tension between putting down roots and soaring free
- Strong women sucking the marrow from life
- Home

I am committed to:

- Gender parity
- Including diverse voices
- Updating traditional plays of the (White, male) canon
- Seeking new ways to connect audiences and artists
- Disrupting classic modes of making theatre
- Incorporating multi-disciplinary elements

I lead with the questions 'why' and 'what if'.

I intend my audience to leave with 'how' and 'what's next'.

I believe in the power of generous, collaborative making.

My children have me running full tilt, so I focus on creating efficiently and effectively with ego firmly in check. I'm a mama, playwright, actor, podcaster, teacher who aims to create the world I'd like to see, and speak what needs to be heard.