



JOANN YARROW



Director and Producer

 714-235-1132

 joannarrow@yahoo.com

 joannarrow.co

OBJECTIVE

To engage and empower arts organizations and artists to transform their communities through innovative professional productions, interactive arts events and educational experiences that can inspire creative participation and cultural growth.

TRAINING

University of California, Irvine
MFA Directing Program

Boston University
School of Fine Arts, BFA Theatre Studies

Odin Teatret
Holstebro, Denmark

Double Edge Theatre
Boston, MA

Coconut Grove Playhouse
Coconut Grove, FL

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2018 - Current
Director of Community Engagement & Education

Syracuse Stage | Syracuse, NY
syracusestage.org

2017 - Current
Executive Director

Live Animation Studios
liveanimationstudios.com

2017 - Current
Executive Director

Distinctive Voices, LLC
distinctivevoicesllc.com

EXPERIENCE

SYRACUSE STAGE | *Director of Community Engagement and Education*

Director the Backstory project at Syracuse Stage. These are commissioned plays such as *Commanding Space* by Stephanie Leary about the first black female mathematician to work for NASA on the Centaur Rocket (national tour); *So Journey to the Truth* by Nambi Kelley and Daniel Carlton inspired by Robert Shetterly's *Americans Who Tell the Truth* portraits of Muhammed Ali, Lily Yeh, Tarana Burke, Samantha Smith and Sojourner Truth; *Citizen James* by Kyle Bass, introducing the young James Baldwin as he leaves America for Paris; and *Our Words Are Seeds* by Ty Defoe, that introduces a Haudenosaunee two-spirit teenager figuring out their future through the lives of their activist Oneida and Onondaga matriarchal ancestors.

During the Covid-19 shutdown, Stage filmed the production of *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*. I organized through zoom, people who were in Los Angeles for the Rodney King riots with the police community in Syracuse to discuss what this play could mean in the wake of George Floyd's murder. Syracuse Stage was an integral part of developing *The Most Beautiful Home.. Maybe*, with director Mark Valdez, that dealt with the chronic issue of homelessness in the United States. My role was to bring together public housing advocates, university students and local historians to discuss redlining, and the effects of building and tearing down Interstate 81 on local residents.

Support community engagement events, educational programs, local and national tours produced developed at Syracuse Stage. Develop panels, community conversations and lead local workshops via themes and topics surrounding each production of the season. Partners have included Interfaith Works, the 100 Black Men of Syracuse, Syracuse University, La Joven Guardia, Black Artists Collective, New American Forum, and indigenous leaders of the Onondaga and Oneida communities, among others. In collaboration with Interfaith works, we train facilitators to engage in a community conversations, to provide a way for the audience to work through their thoughts of the production and then meet and converse with director and creative team.

ADA ANIMATION | *Consultant and Program Mentor*

Part of the team that initiated the ADA Animation Bootcamp in Kenya during the pandemic. Working first with animation students in Nairobi; the program expanded to include students from South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. Assisted with the development of the curriculum. Taught Acting for Animators and later mentored the animation projects that were screened for the Bootcamp.

LIVE ANIMATION STUDIOS | *Executive Director*

Live Animation Studios is a media firm run by creative artists to develop entertainment programming for mobile, web and broadcast. The company consists of a collective of visual content creators - combining puppetry with state of the art visual effects and computer animation. Focused on international multilingual audience, embracing entertainment through work that has garnered national and international recognition and can be seen on the stages of Broadway, in some of the most popular movies, high profile arenas of politics, government, commerce, and education as well as major public outdoor events, and international exchanges. Currently working with Five Peaks Animation on an animated series and introducing youth in under-resourced communities to animation through the Animate Bootcamp offered in partnership with local PBS station, WCNY.

DISTINCTIVE VOICES, LLC | *Executive Director*

Distinctive Voices is a narrative consulting company that works with writers to develop scripts for theatre, film or episodic projects. In addition, it offers voice over talent, direction and casting for commercial projects.

ARTREPRENEURS | *Co-Creative Director*

In partnership with Jim Hammond and ArtServe, the ARTrepreneur program gives young artists the entrepreneurial skills to build their own arts initiatives. My work centers on curriculum development and being the associate producer and mentor for all projects. Funded by Broward Education Foundation, Funding Arts Broward and Broward Cultural Foundation, the mission is to create opportunities for up-and-coming artists to explore their talents and passions in order to make money through the arts and further promote future careers in the arts.

TEATRO PROMETEO | *Executive Artistic Director*

Executive Artistic Director of Teatro Prometeo at Miami Dade College and the only Spanish-language Theatre Conservatory under an academic institution in the United States with a repertory season, and three programs of dramatic study:

- Directed an average of two full-length productions per year, administrated all programs of study and produced over 80 theatrical projects. Organized tours to the Dominican Republic, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Boston, New York and Los Angeles with performances that have appeared in theatrical journals in Mexico, Spain, Ecuador, Colombia, New York and Los Angeles.
- Coordinated ten part-time instructors, with over 20 different classes, workshops, productions and staged readings throughout the year. In addition, offered a Spanishlanguage Summer Theatre Camp and after-school program. Teatro Prometeo also participated with productions, street performances and staged readings during the Miami Book Fair International and is co-presenter and academic partner for the International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami and its Educational Component.
- Recipient of two Knight Foundation Challenge Grants to develop Play Time! An International Theatre Festival for Children to present international and national theatre companies as well as an artist with playwrights of the exchange the Latinx Theatre Commons. Funded by the State of Florida Department of Cultural Affairs, the Miami Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

HAROLD PRINCE | *Executive Assistant*

Working with the New York Broadway director Harold Prince supporting his creative team. Work included reading and reviewing scripts and music, reviewing productions, organizing press releases, personal and general management. Involved in the productions of *Parade*, *Whistle down the Wind*, *Candide*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Show Boat*, and *Phantom of the Opera*

A LABORATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING (ALAT) | *Co-Founder / Executive Director*

A Laboratory for Actor Training works toward the production and touring of original movement theatre performances and training workshops. Continuous study in specific physical and vocal disciplines and the traditions of movement theatre are explored on an on-going basis. Company-engendered performances with Roberta Carreri of Odin Teatret are in development with Red Tent Project at LaMama ETC as well as with Seth Baumrin's Sub-Poetics International, addressing modern war trauma through performance.

UNION COLLEGE | *Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre/Artist in Residence*

Taught and directed for six years in the Acting program, all levels, including Theatre History, Directing, Playwriting, Guerrilla Film making and a mini-term in London. Produced the documentary, *Beyond Offence* to engage discussions of race and diversity on campus

STANDING STONE PRODUCTIONS | *Co-Director/Co-Producer*

An independent film company created with filmmaker Stephan Jonas of Radiant-Cage Pictures in California. Directed and co-wrote *Unspoken* achieving Honorable Mention at the 2001 Columbus International Film and Video Festival and winning the 2002 Television and Film Award for best low budget short, and musical score.

SOPA AMERICANA FESTIVAL | *Co-Producer/Artistic Director*

Collaborated and assisted with LanArts Productions' tour of an American festival of solo performances as well as direct the premier of Paulo Coelho's *Veronica Decides To Die* at the Teatro Fernanda Monte Negro in Brazil.

METROPOLE THEATRE | *Producing Coordinator*

Working in collaboration with Scena Theatre, and Metropole Theatre to bring over the premiere of *Visions of Antigone* from Denmark to the Clark Theatre in Washington, D.C. Work entailed recruiting technical staff, drafting and negotiating contracts for cast and crew, drafting and managing proposals to embassies for financial and public support, arranging travel, acquiring materials, and negotiating the budget.

CINECOMMUNICATIONS | *Production Coordinator*

Working with producer John Flaxman of CineCommunications, to arrange annual benefits for The Partnership for the Homeless. Coordinated Broadway talents, technical crew, and collaborated with the creative team. Acted as personal assistant to Opera Diva Jessye Norman.

EAST COAST ARTISTS | *Production Manager*

Stage managed Richard Schechner's Three Sisters at La Mama E.T.C. and promoted the company's productions of Three Sisters, Faust Gastronomer, and Amerika.

DOUBLE EDGE THEATRE | *Director Assistant*

Assisted director Stacy Klein with dramaturgical investigations and participated in the developmental stages of the company's production of Song of Songs. Operated technical needs for productions. Worked for several of the company's workshops and performances.

COCONUT GROVE PLAYHOUSE | *Production Assistant*

Worked on the productions of Fame (Natl. Touring Co.), Frankie and Johnny, and Tartuffe. Handled production materials for South Florida Shakespeare tour and worked as liaison with schools and theatres as promotional and managing coordinator.

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

REGIONAL / OFF-BROADWAY

Syracuse Stage (In development with Ty Defoe)

Syracuse Stage (NY and Natl. Tour)

Syracuse Stage (NY Tour)

Syracuse Stage (NY and Natl. Tour)

Fort Worth Fringe Festival

South Coast Repertory, CA *Asst. to David Warren*

South Coast Repertory, CA *Asst. to Lisa Portes*

Boston Playwright's Festival, Boston, MA

Director's Company, Theatre 3, New York, NY

One Dream Theater, New York, NY

Joe Papp Public Theater, New York, NY

Samuel Beckett Theater, New York NY

Double Edge Theater, Boston, MA

Coconut Grove Playhouse, FL

Our Words Are Seeds

Citizen James

So Journey to the Truth

Commanding Space

Big Bumps

Hurrah at Last

Sins of Sor Juana

Idle Worship

Esteban

Hammer

Mother Knot

Mother Knot

Blood Wedding

Very Old Man w/Enormous Wings

INTERNATIONAL / SPANISH LANGUAGE

Koubek Theatre (*Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival*)
Prometeo Theatre (*Play Time Int. Theatre Festival*)
Prometeo Theatre (*Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival*)
A Noise Within (*Director Lab West*), Pasadena, CA
Prometeo Theatre (*Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival*)
Pasadena Playhouse (*Directors Lab West*)
Prometeo Theatre (*Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival*)
Prometeo Theatre (*Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival*)
Prometeo Theatre (*Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival*)
Teatro Fernanda Montenegro, Curitiba, Brazil
Teatro Fernanda Montenegro, Curitiba, Brazil
Riverside Theatre, London
Bakery Dance Theatre, Copenhagen, Denmark
Herning Theatre Festival, Herning, Denmark

Cacería (The Crucible)
Light as water (Puppet Network world premiere)
Conducta de la vida
Papeles
Cyrano mío
Dos Corazones
Filo al fuego (World premiere)
Los Intereses Creados
La casa de todos (World premiere)
Vvooo
Idle Worship
Esteban
My Appalachia
Mother Knot

FILM / TELEVISION

ADA Animation, Nairobi, Kenya
Live Animation Studios (Writer/Director)
MDC-TV (Executive Producer/ Host)
Documentary for Union College (Producer)
Union College - Guerilla Film workshop
Columbus Int'l Film and Video Festival
Standing Stone Productions

ADA Animation Bootcamp (Aired on PBS)
Let's Go! (WPBT/PBS)
Página Abierta
Beyond Offense
Unmentionables/Midterm
Unspoken* (TELE Award Recipient)
News of the World *(OCTA Award)

UNIVERSITY

Miami Dade College
Union College, NY

University of California, Irvine

New York University, Madrid

The Vagina Monologues
Metamorphoses (Zimmerman adaptation)
Six Degrees of Separation
Dangerous Liaisons
Electrifying Acts
African company Presents Richard III
The Big Bang
Measure for Measure
The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui *
Antigone
Sound of a Voice
Entremeses de Cervantes

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Interfaith Works

Advisory Board Member 2023

100 Black Men of Syracuse

Advisory Board Member 2019–Present

East Syracuse Rotary

Board Member 2019–Present

Lau Lapidés Company

Acting & Voice Coach / Miami & NY Showcase 2009–Present

The Commonwealth Institute

Non-Profit Business Member 2015–2017

Global Alliance of Theatre Schools

U.S. Representative and Guest Director 2016

Latinx Theatre Commons / Howl Round

Seattle Convening 2016

Carnaval Chicago Convening 2015

Encuentro 2014

Lincoln Center Director's Lab West: Los Angeles, CA

Indigenous Voices in a LORT Theatre 2023

The String Theory: Science in Hispanic Theatre 2017

Translation, Adaptation and Super Titles 2016

Papeles: Immigration and Art 2014

Lost in Translation (with Ernest Figueroa) 2013

Latin American Theatre and Directors (with Gustavo Geirola) 2012

Panel Discussion on Plays in Translation (with Oliver Mayer) 2010

Roundtable Discussion on "Business and life in the arts" (with Ernest Figueroa) 2010

Moderator for Marlene Forte (Company of Angels) 2010

Panel Discussion on the Importance of Hispanic Theater on the American Stage 2009

Workshop on A Laboratory Actor Training 2009

Moderator for Jason Robert Brown 2009

Guest participant 2003

Directing Workshop on Montage Theatre 2000

International Hispanic Theatre Festival: Miami FL

Co-presenter for the Educational Component 2008–2016

Panelist on Hispanic Artistic Directors in the United States 2007–2014

No Passport Conference: Baton Rouge

"Hispanic Theatre and the influence of American music forms" 2014

UCSUR Festival - Lima, Peru

3-day workshop on The Actor's Dramaturgy

2012

New England Russian Theatre Festival, Boston MA

Actor Training - The Culture of Actor Training

2010

V International Congress of Theatre Schools - Quito, Ecuador

Panelist in seminar approaching art and academics

2011

GRANTS & FUNDERS

Lockheed Martin Federated Fund

Backstory, Syracuse Stage

Chase Bank

Community Dialogues, Syracuse Stage

Bank of America

Children's Tour, Syracuse Stage

Allen Family Foundation

Free Family Days, Syracuse Stage

National Endowment for the Arts

Dark Matters

Knight Foundation Arts Challenge

Latino Theatre Commons Miami Residency

State of Florida Department of Cultural Affairs

Community Grant

(Teatro Prometeo: Caceria) Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

Hannibal Cox

Teatro Prometeo Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

No Passport Conference: Baton Rouge

"Hispanic Theatre and the influence of American music forms"

Knight Foundation Arts Challenge

(Play Time: International Children's Theatre Festival)

Miami Dade College Foundation

Teatro Prometeo

Scripps Howard Foundation

AWARDS

Community Excellence Award *La Joven Guardia*, 2022
Female Animation Mentor of the Year *ADA Animation*, Kenya 2021
YWCA Spirit of the American Woman Award, 2019
LeMoyne College Impact Award *Newcomer of the Year*, 2018
"20 under 40" *Miami Herald Award for top 20 artists under 40*, 2010
Prometeo Theatre: Best Ensemble Performance *New England Russian Theatre Festival*, 2009
Best Direction *The Resistible Rise Arturo Ui*, *Orange County Theatre Awards*, 1999
Best Production *The Resistible Rise Arturo Ui* - *Orange County Theatre Awards*, 1999
Honorable Mention *Unspoken* - *Chris Award*, *Chicago International Film Festival*, 2002
Best Low Budget Film *Unspoken* - *TELE Award*, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

Latinx Actor Training (Actor Training with Global Perspectives) Routledge, 2023
Behind the Scenes...Explore and Navigate a Career in Sports and Entertainment Diane McGraw, 2021
Filo al fuego (Translation of Blade to the Heat by Oliver Mayer) Tramoya, 2014
Arte y oficio del director teatral en América Latina, Estados Unidos Volumen 5 Gustavo Geirola, 2012

ARTICLES & INTERVIEWS

WCNY Community FM Syracuse (On)Stage, Ep 2: *Our Words Are Seeds*, 2023
Dramatists Guild *Dramatist to Dramatist: Dominic-D'Andrea, Ty Defoe and Joann Yarrow on Native Theatre and Community Stories*, 2022
Daily Orange *100 Black Men of Syracuse will work with city leaders on change*, 2020
WCNY, PBS *Behind the Woman: We Create Our Own Myths*, 2018
El Nuevo Herald *Prometeo inaugura una nueva sede*, July 2016
Miami Herald *Storytelling in Many Forms*, July 2015
Vanidades (Vanity Fair- Spanish) *Mujer Vanidades (Teatro)*, April 2015
PBS *Season 4, Episode 5: Cyrano Mio: Teatro Prometeo*, 2015
Miami Herald, Season of the Arts *Women Leaders in the Arts: 2014*
Latin American Theatre Review, Fall 2013 *International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami 2013*
Artez (Madrid, Spain) *International Hispanic Theatre Festival August 2012 and 2010*
Latin American Theatre Review, Fall 2011 *International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami 2011*
Latin American Theatre Review, Spring 2011 *Int. Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami 2010*
Miami Herald, Best Theatre of 2010 *Filo al Fuego: Nominated for Best Design, Music and Actor*
Paso de Gato Magazine; Theatre in the US. Cover Story - *Filo al Fuego, Mexico 2010*
IV Festival UCSUR *Publicaciones UCSUR, Lima, Perú*