

# Eliza Ladd Schwarz

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## Summary

- Interdisciplinary Theater Maker, Performer, Director, Stage Writer, Composer, and Choreographer
  - Extensive experience as teacher and director in Movement for the Actor, Improvisation, Physical Acting, Clown, Scene Study, Creative Movement, Percussion, Song, Live Sound Action, Ensemble Development, Shakespeare, Composition, and Devised Theater
  - Facilitator in diverse fields of Arts and Education, Experiential Learning, Curriculum Development, Contemplative Practice, Creative Process, and Professional Development for Teachers, Engineers, and Other Professionals
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## Professional Experience

### Teaching: Acting / Movement for the Actor / Devising Work / Freeing the Instrument

#### **Case Western Reserve Univ/Cleveland Playhouse, OH Assoc. Prof. Theater and Movt. 2023 - Current**

Design and teach MFA Movement Training, Design and Teach Theater, Acting, Devised Theater, Movement and Voice at the undergraduate level, direct and devise performance at BA and MFA level, assist as Movement Designer, Coach, Intimacy Facilitator on production work.

#### **FSU Asolo Rep Conservatory for Actor Training MFA, FLA Assoc. Prof Movement 2018 - 2023**

Design curriculum and teach *Movement for the Actor, Physical Theater and Dance* for MFA Conservatory including Improvisation, Composition and Choreography, Devising work, Viewpoints, Capoeira, Body Dynamics, Developmental Movement, Grotowski, Le Coq, Strength and Alignment, Contemplative Practice, Clown, Ashaya Yoga, Ensemble Practice, and study of various dance styles; Movement Coach / Choreographer / Movement Designer for student productions including *Reckless, As You Like It, Antigone, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Julius Caesar, Everybody, Learned Ladies, Stick Fly*; service on Promotion and Tenure Committee, MFA Qualifying Committee, MFA Recruitment Committee, and participation in Conservatory curriculum development discussions including curating guest artists into the program; and, advise and mentor students during their tenure in the program and beyond.

#### **FSU Asolo Rep Conservatory for Actor Training MFA, FLA Asst. Prof Movement 2013 - 2017**

Designed curriculum and taught *Movement for the Actor and Dance* including Improvisation, Composition and Choreography, Devising work, Viewpoints, Capoeira, Body Dynamics, Developmental Movement, Grotowski, Le Coq, Strength and Alignment, Contemplative Practice, Clown, Ensemble Practice and study of various dance styles; Movement Coach / Choreographer for student productions including *The Liar, How I Learned to Drive, The Cherry Orchard, Three Sisters, Nora, As You Like It, Drunken City, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, and Oedipus*; collaborated on overall curriculum with Conservatory faculty.

#### **New College, FLA - Adjunct Professor Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2020 and 21, Spring 2023**

Teach *Devised Theatre and Collaboration as Community Engagement*, a collaborative class and creative production with New College Students and Actors from CreArte Latino Cultural Center; Taught *Devising Theater: The Art and Craft of Making Original Work* and *The Viewpoints* in Humanities Department. The courses included ensemble practice, research, and aspects of the Viewpoints, Physical Theater, Contemplative Practice, Live Sound Action, and Moment Work. Students initiated original work and the group created a final performance.

#### **Marymount Manhattan College, NYC - Adjunct Acting Faculty, 2010 - 2013**

Taught full year course in *Basic Acting, Performance, and Movement for the Actor*, introducing physical theater and acting approaches including Grotowski, Stanislavski, Le Coq, the Viewpoints, Michael Chekhov, and offering a progression for warm-up, scene study, rehearsal, and performance.

**Whitman College, WA - Guest Artist, BFA Theater, Spring 2013**

Facilitated Ensemble Process and Development of Theatrical Language / Choreography for student production of *My Chernobyl*; guest taught Acting and Movement; held community workshop titled *Nomadic Citizenry*.

**Earlham College, IND - Guest Artist, BFA Theater, Spring 2012**

Performed *Big Exit* - in collaboration with and directed by Sara Zimmerman - and held community discussion on performance practice and social discourse in theater.

**T. Schreiber Studio, NYC - Teacher of Ensemble Body Practice, Conservatory Actor Training, 2011**

Designed Curriculum and taught *Professional Ensemble Inquiry: Movement Practice for Actors*, an ensemble training in Developmental Movement, Elegant Pedestrian, Improvisation and Composition Structures, and the Dynamics of Support, Chorus, and Counterpoint, in body and in voice.

**Shakespeare & Company, MA -Teacher of Movement for the Actor, 2002 - 2011**

Taught *Movement for the Actor* integrated into larger curriculum of Linklater Voice, Ensemble Development, and Shakespeare Text Work as a part of Month Long Intensives (professional) and Summer Training Institutes (college).

**Henry Street Settlement, NYC - Live Sound Action Community Project 2010-11**

Developed *Live Sound Action* pedagogy and performance in community workshops on Lower East Side of Manhattan with First Graders and Teachers, funded by Puffin Foundation grant.

**Kingsborough Community College, NYC - Adjunct Theater Faculty, 2009 - 2010**

Taught *Introduction to Theater / The Function of Theater*, an introduction to the art and craft of theater including history, function, design, and highlighting modern devised theater techniques.

**Naropa University, CO - Adjunct Theater Faculty BFA Performance, 2008**

Designed curriculum and taught *Freeing The Instrument: Voice, Vibration, and Touch*, a course in improvisation and composition for voice, body and sound, integrating Developmental Movement, Primitive Voice, Body Dynamics™, and Text.

**Independent Workshop Training, NYC, 2006 - Current**

Create curriculum and teach *Dynamics of the Body: Freeing the Instrument for the Actor*, an integration of Body Dynamics™, Developmental Movement, Live Sound Action, Capoeira, Stage Writing, and Group Process.

**Naropa University, CO - Guest Artist, BFA Theater, 2007**

Designed and taught *Freeing the Instrument: Voice, Vibration, and Touch*, a two day intensive emphasizing a physical, percussive, and experiential approach to vocal expression.

**Light Theater Company, NYC - Guest Artist, Ensemble Development Intensive, 2004**

Taught weeklong workshop to company of actors in preparation for devised theater process.

**California State University, Fresno, CA. - Summer Arts Intensive, 2003**

Taught Movement for the Actor and Text at Summer Arts Intensive with Shakespeare & Company.

**Performance of a Lifetime, NYC - Guest Teacher, 1998 and 1999**

Taught Body Dynamics™ to actors and other adults at innovative company integrating improvisation and physical training with coaching, and organizational change practices.

## **Teaching: Professional and Curriculum Development / Arts in Education**

### **Best Effect - Professional Trainer of Think Build Live Success, 2009 - 2014**

Designed and facilitated trainings for teachers, nurses, marketing representatives, technology experts, and non-profit organizations in the TBLS life, career, and communication skills curriculum and taught Presentation Skills.

### **Cooper Union College of Arts and Sciences, NYC - Professional Development, 2000 - 2014**

Designed and facilitated workshops for engineering students on communication, body language, group dynamics, and team building.

### **Young Audiences NY - Curriculum Development, Teacher Coach, Guest Artist, 2002 - 2013**

Coached teachers at Emma Lazarus International HS in creativity and engagement in the classroom; designed and taught workshops for teachers in NYC Public School System on the integration of performing arts and academics; designed and taught intergenerational family workshops; designed and taught residencies in Musical Theater, Devised Performance, Classical Text Adaptation, Movement, and Percussion, ranging from 4 -12 weeks long for grades K-12.

### **The Whitby School, Greenwich, CT - Teaching Artist, 2011 - 2012**

Designed and taught full-year theater curriculum to grades 1-4, including performances and academic integration as well as adaptation of Greek Myths and Devised Work.

### **Bank Street College, NYC - Curriculum Development and Trainer, 2003 - 2011**

Designed and taught professional development workshops for teachers and after school leaders in Improvisational Theater and Movement, Literacy, Group Dynamics, Safety and Student Engagement for Bank Street College Arts Institutes.

### **Readers Theater Workshop, NYC - Professional Development, 2002 - 2007**

Designed and Taught *The Art Of the Song*, *Freeing the Instrument* and other arts integration and community building workshops for public school teachers.

## **Select Performance Projects / Research:**

### ***Devised Theatre and Collaboration as Community Engagement - Director, Sarasota FL, 2023***

-Original Ensemble Performance (in development now) created out of master classes and collaborative process with New College students and CreArte Latino Cultural Center artists to be performed at Sarasota Art Museum, New College, CreArte Cultural Center, and in rural theater in Arcadia.

### ***Gravity and Levity - Writer, Creator, and Performer, Sarasota Contemporary Dance - FL, 2021 and Franklin Furnace - NY, 2021***

- Solo performance designed for the zoom box, live streamed February 2021 and August 2021. *"It took 400 million years to go from quadruped to biped, and now this? — join a very particular creature on a shape shifting journey to die for."*

### ***Work/Play/Work - Independent Ensemble Practice, Director, on ZOOM - Fall / Winter 2020***

-*Creating Room for the Nervous System on Zoom*, responding to the Pandemic, Uprising for Social Justice, and Call to Action at FSU Conservatory; developing community based somatic performance online.

### ***Autobiography of the Human Species -Writer, Performer -Sarasota Contemporary Dance- FL, 2019***

- Solo performance work.

***Tigers Above, Tigers Below* - New Music New College - Composer, Director - New College, FL, 2019**

-A devised piece made with New College Students and created as an Independent Study Project: Physical, musical, visual and experimental composition with non-traditional instruments, voice, movement and ensemble; scores reflect the edge of fear, the moment of decision, and the purpose and value of ensemble creation.

***Selfie of the Ancients* - New Music New College - Composer and Director - New College, FL, 2016**

- A devised piece made with New College Students and created as an Independent Study Project: Physical, musical, visual and experimental composition with non-traditional instruments, voice, movement and ensemble; scores that reflect the original function of music, both sacred and social.

***Dali and Picasso Project* - Collaborating Director, Stage Writer, Performer, Dali Museum, FL, 2015** - Original dance, sound, and voice performance created in collaboration with Sarasota Contemporary Dance Artists.

***O let me just be the Greek Whore That I am* - Writer and Performer, Sarasolo Festival, FL, 2015** - Solo performance of text, song, movement, and object redeveloped for Sarasolo.

***On est déshabillé, a comedy about death* -Writer, Creator, Director, Performer, NY + MA, 2011 - 2014**

- “Join a woman and her stick, part warrior part creature part housewife, on an absurd adventure born out of Rock and Roll and teetering toward Clown.” Solo work expanded to include ensemble, at Field Residency, United Solo Festival (NYC), Performance Mix at Joyce (NYC), Dixon Place (NYC), Spoke the Hub (NYC), and Berkshire Fringe (MA).

***Elephants and Gold* - Writer, Director, Composer, Performer, CO, NY, + MA, 2007 - 2009**

-Inspired by the contemporary conflict between elephants and humans, this ensemble musical explores evolution and violence, as it invites a deep curiosity about our place in the natural order of things. An Ensemble work developed at Boulder Fringe, as my MFA Thesis, and at Berkshire Fringe Festival 2009. I am currently seeking funding and research opportunities to further develop this work.

***Stop the Virgens* - Collaborating Performer, St Ann’s Warehouse, NYC, 2011**

-Premier run of a contemporary opera written by Karen O of the *Yeah Yeah Yeahs* and directed by Adam Rapp. I created and performed featured role of Sentinel.

***Bucket and Stick* - Director, Choreographer, Performer, NYC, 2011 - 2013**

-An ensemble investigation of Live Sound Action as a performance making practice; a tribal group making language and story out of objects and movement. Produced at Gowanus Arts, NYC, workshopped around NYC

***Big Exit* - Collaborating Performer and Stage Writer, NY + IN, 2011-12**

-“Two women explore the challenges and absurdities of work, containment, sexism, and freedom through clown and dance.” Directed by Sara Zimmerman, produced at the Field, the Chocolate Factory, the Kitchen, Governors Island, Dixon Place (NYC) and Earlham College (IND).

***Casa Cushman* - Collaborating Writer, Ensemble Development, Performer, NY, 2007-2011**

- Written and directed by Leigh Fondakowski of Tectonic Theater Project in development at The Orchard Project, New York Theater Workshop, and New Georges.

***23 Seconds About John Cage* - Performer, Live Sound Action Collaborator, CO, 2008**

- A devised piece investigating the life and art of John Cage, directed by Barney O’Hanlon and Leon Ingulsrud of SITI Company. Produced at Atlas Theater, University of Colorado.

***Desolate Delight* - Ensemble Collaborator and Performer, CO, 2007-2008**

- An ongoing contemplative and improvisational performance practice and investigation guided by Barbara Dilley and resulting in numerous public performances in Boulder, CO.

**Monster: Who Does Dirty Work? - Director, Writer, Collaborator, Performer, CO, 2007**

- A devised piece created by an ensemble of six investigating *Frankenstein*, human fascination with all things monstrous, and the underbelly of who commits monstrous behavior. Produced in Boulder, CO.

**This Thing of Darkness - Live Sound Action Collaborator and Performer, CO, 2007**

- An adaptation of *The Tempest* directed By Randy Rand and produced at Nalanda Theater, CO.

**The Accidental Activist - Live Sound Action Collaborator and Performer, NY + CA, 2003-2005**

- A performance about political activism and the *The Lysistrata Project* written by Kathryn Blume and produced at Connelly Theater in NYC, Berkeley Rep in CA, and New England Tour.

**Captains and Courage - Live Sound Action Collaborator and Performer, NYC, 2002**

- In this world premier of Israel Horowitz's play, I directed ensemble sound and movement and performed as a percussionist and singer. Produced at T. Schreiber Studio in NYC.

**Fruit Bearing Branch, Boulders In My Belly, Pass me Through the Holed Stone, and Patience My Blood - Director, Creator and Performer, NYC 1996 - 1998**

- Performance works integrating sculpture, video, movement and song, Funded by Franklin Furnace and Produced at Movement Research, Ubu Rep, Dia Downtown, Dixon Place, P.S.122 (NYC).

## Education and Training

**MFA Naropa University**, Theater: Contemporary Performance, 2008

**BA Harvard University**, Cum Laude in Comparative Religion, 1989

**Licensed Ashaya Yoga Teacher**, 2020

**Certified Teacher of Trish Arnold Movement Work**, Shakespeare & Company, 2002

**Certified Body Dynamics™ Educator**, Movement for Actors based in Bioenergetics Movement Analysis, 1997

<b>Acting</b>	Grotowski: Steve Wangh, Andre Gregory, Erica Fae; Suzuki and Viewpoints (SITI) T. Schreiber Studio: Terry Schreiber, Mary Boyer, Sally Dunn, Shakespeare & Co
<b>Singing Performance</b>	Susan Slavin Actors and Singers Academy, Ethic Friend
<b>Shakespeare</b>	Shakespeare & Co. Performance Institute and Month Intensive, Teacher Training
<b>Voice</b>	Linklater: Kristin Linklater, Christine Adaire, Margaret Jansen; Roy Hart Extended Voice; Primitive Voice: Jean-Rene Toussaint
<b>Improvisation</b>	Ruth Zaporah, Viewpoints (SITI), Barbara Dilley, Meredith Monk, Wendell Beavers, Contemplative Dance Practice, Zen Arts Practice, Moment Work (Tectonic Thtr Project)
<b>Clown / Le Coq</b>	Giovanni Fusetti, Kevin Coleman, John Beale, Susan Dibble, Karen Beaumont, Dody Disanto, Christopher Bayes
<b>Movement</b>	Developmental Movement, Body Mind Centering, Body Dynamics™, Ashaya Yoga Capoeira, Butoh, Contact, African, Klien/Mahler, Fight, 5 Rhythms, Creative
<b>Instruments</b>	Djembe, Sourdo, Percussion, Guitar, Piano, Objects

## Awards, Grants and Panel Presentations

### **Andrew G Mellon Foundation grant for ‘Devised Theatre and Collaboration as Community Engagement’ Sarasota, FL (2022-2023)**

Received grant to develop curriculum, offer master classes, teach course and create original performance centering the story of Latinx experience in Sarasota, FL. Project is a collaboration between FSU, New College, and CreArte Latino Cultural Center. The final work to be performed at New College, CreArte, Sarasota Art Museum, and in a rural theater in Arcadia.

### **Association of Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) Austin, TX 2023**

*Digging, Transforming, and Emerging: Performance Praxes as Spiritual Interventions* a collaboration with Dr. Beth Osnes of University of Colorado and Evangeline Jiminez; selected by ATHE to be a Keystone Session for the conference titled *Building from the Rubble: Centering Care*

### **Association of Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) Detroit, MI 2022**

Collaborated to present panel workshop *Rehearsing for the Impossible: Bringing Resilience and Vitality to Body and Practice* - an MFA actor training warm-up that develops heart centered presence, capacity for imagination, and incorporating fitness, agility, and a calm nervous system

### **Association of Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) VIRTUAL 2021**

Collaborated to present a panel workshop: *Re-Evaluating Teaching Theatre - What Still Holds True in a Pandemic?* My Presentation: *work/play/work: Creating Room for the Nervous System on Zoom* - exploring my ensemble project and the relevance of teaching somatic work and creative process online as a means of addressing systemic racism and white body supremacy.

### **FSU Graduate Teaching Award - 4 Consecutive Nominations based on student evals 2017- 20**

### **Association of Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) VIRTUAL 2020**

Collaborated to present: *Tools for Creating Site Specific Theater: A Dialogue with Space and Substance*; and, *Human Beings in Motion - Presence, Connection, and Communion*.

### **New Music New College (Sarasota, FL) - Curated for Performance 2019**

*Tigers Above, Tigers Below* - A devised piece of *Live Sound Action* with New College students.

### **Association of Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) Orlando, FL 2019**

Collaborated to present on panel workshop of *The Diverse Body* and *Wellness in Actor Training*.

### **Association of Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) Orlando, FL 2018**

Collaborated to present in workshop, *The Revolutionary Act of Touch*.

### **New Music New College (Sarasota, FL) - Curated for Performance 2016**

*Selfie of the Ancients* - a “Live Sound Action” collaboration with New College Students.

### **Berkshire Fringe Festival, Great Barrington MA - Curated for Performance 2013**

*on est déshabillé, a comedy about death* (expanded solo) selected and produced by Berkshire Fringe.

### **Performance Mix Festival, NYC - Curated for Performance 2012**

*on est déshabillé, a comedy about death* (solo show) selected for production in festival.

### **United Solo Theater Festival, NYC - Curated for Performance 2011**

*on est déshabillé, a comedy about death* (solo show) selected for production in festival.

### **Puffin Foundation, NYC - Independent Artist Grant 2010**

Received grant to develop “Live Sound Action” pedagogy with professional actors and in an intergenerational community setting.

### **Berkshire Fringe Festival, Great Barrington MA - Curated for Performance 2009**

*Elephants and Gold* (Original Musical) selected and produced by Berkshire Fringe Festival.

**Boulder Fringe Festival, Boulder CO - Winner of Audience Encore Award 2007**

*Elephants and Gold* (Original Musical) voted favorite performance by festival audience.

**Franklin Furnace, NYC - Fund for Performance, Emerging Artist Grant 1998**

Received Fund for Performance grant to develop performance work as emerging artist.