

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### RICHARD TOTH

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*A combination of slapstick merriment, blank verse, puppetry, high drama, improvisation, fairy tale, magic and romance"*

*-The Juneau Empire reviewing King Stag adapted and directed by Richard Toth*

#### ❖ SUMMARY

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Accomplished director, writer, performer, educator and administrator with many years experience as a professional theater practitioner including 5 years as Artistic Director of an international performance company. Extensive experience teaching a variety of courses and methods in Directing, Acting, Playwriting, Movement, Script Analysis and Improvisation. Comprehensive knowledge of university and non-profit administration. Well prepared for any position requiring excellent managerial abilities, strong interpersonal and communication skills, and practice with institutional problem-solving and development. Very comfortable working with diverse populations of all ages in fast-paced environments. Strong and proven commitment to student success. Significant relationships with many theater professionals.

#### ❖ CONCISE BIOGRAPHY

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Richard was Artistic Director of Misery Loves Company, an international theater company he co-founded in Prague, Czech Republic. While there, he directed and/or produced over 25 productions including the Eastern European premiere of **Angels in America**. Other notable productions include **The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine**, **Nightingale for Dinner**, **The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui**, **The Age of Reason** and many locally developed world premieres including his own play **Dumb** (co-written with visual artist William Hollister). Recent directing credits include his own adaptation of Carlo Gozzi's **King Stag** at the Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska; **That and the Cup of Tea**, an evening of stories and song with the singer Carmel Quinn (Irish Repertory Theater and subsequent U.S. tour); **Foodstable**, his own multimedia deconstruction of the cult film classic **Blood Feast** (HERE Arts Center); and fully staged productions and readings at the **Hunter College MFA Playwriting Festival**.

As a performer, Richard has worked as a featured circus clown for **Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey** in the U.S, and **Circo Americano** in Europe. He was a member of the touring puppet theater troupe, **Hudson Vagabond Puppets**, collaborating with groups such as the Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center and the Detroit Symphony. His acting credits include numerous appearances on regional and downtown NYC stages and in films such as **Les Miserables**, **Dead Fire**, **Hostage Train** and **The Buttoners**. TV credits include **Sex and the City**, **Law and Order** and **Curb Your Enthusiasm**.

He has taught theater and writing at The Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Brooklyn College, The American University of Prague, The New York Film Academy and The School for Film and Television. He holds a B.A. from Fordham University at Lincoln Center and an M.F.A. from Brooklyn College.

## ❖ AS AN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**Misery Loves Company**, (also co-founder), Prague, Czech Republic 1993 - 1997

- Supervised and co-produced all productions of international performance company in rotating repertory
- Selected repertoire, staff, directors, designers, performers and writers for 4-5 fully realized productions per season
- Created and developed Big Knees original play series – commissioning 4 workshop productions per season of original English language theater written in Eastern Europe
- Developed the Class Acts school program – workshops and performances using drama as a resource for language learning
- Co-managed all fundraising and publicity efforts for the company; created programs to develop subscribers, sponsors and advertisers
- Arranged co-productions and touring agreements with other Eastern European theater companies

**FAR** (Fordham Alumni Rep) NYC, 1984 – 1986

- Supervised and co-produced all productions of Summer performance series involving alumni of Fordham University at Lincoln Center

## ❖ AS A STAGE DIRECTOR (selected credits)

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\* = world premiere

**Foodstable** (also writer)\*

-HERE Arts Center, NYC, in development

**Dreams of the Penny Gods** (C. Kimball)\*

- Hunter College MFA Playwright's Festival, 2012

**Paradise Bar and Grill** (L. Ferrentino)

-Hunter College MFA Playwright's Festival, 2012 (staged reading)

**The Good Doctor** (N. Simon)

-Polytechnic Institute of NYU, 2009

**Abducting Diana** (D. Fo)

-Polytechnic Institute of NYU, 2006

**Lapse** (by C. Marcous)\*

-Walker Space, NYC, 2004

**King Stag** (original adaptation after C. Gozzi)\*

-Perseverance Theater, Juneau AK, 2003

-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1995

**That and the Cup of Tea (an evening with Carmel Quinn)\***

-Irish Repertory Theater, NYC, 2003

**The Bear** (by A. Chekhov)

-Show World, NYC, 2002

**The Song of Seven Cities** (by D. Davis, after B. Brecht and K. Weill)\*

*Clown Director*- (P. Dubois, dir.)

-Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center, NYC, 2000

**The Happy Happy Pork Show** (by J. Scurti and company)\*  
-Synchronicity Space, NYC, 1999

**The Age of Reason** (by S. Fuller, after J. P. Sartre)\*  
-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1997

**Dumb** (also writer with W. Hollister)\*  
-The New York International Fringe Festival, NYC, 1997  
-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1996

**Angels in America** (by T. Kushner)  
\*Eastern European Premiere  
-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1995

**Self/Help** (by S. Fuller)\*  
-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1994

**The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine** (by Cherniak, Morgan, and Ross)  
-GAG Studio, Prague, Czech Republic, 1993  
-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1994

**The Children's Crusade** (also writer, after B. Brecht)\*  
-California Theater Center, Sunnyvale CA, 1991

**Endgame** (by S. Beckett)  
-Polk St. Theater, San Francisco CA, 1991

**Killing Game** (by E. Ionesco)  
- FAR, NYC, 1986

**Comedians** (by T. Griffiths)  
- FAR, NYC, 1985

#### ❖ AS A FILM DIRECTOR

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**John Ashbery Meets the Incredible Circus Fruits** (also writer)  
Independent short – currently in post-production

**Big Knees on Emily Post** (co-director and co-writer)  
Short film series broadcast on BCAT, Brooklyn, NY 2000

**Big Knees on Marco Polo** (co-director and co-writer)  
Short film series broadcast on BCAT, Brooklyn, NY 1999

#### ❖ AS AN EDUCATOR

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##### **Areas of Interest and Competence**

Beginning to Advanced Acting (Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Adler, Alternative)  
Beginning to Advanced Directing  
Creative Writing (Playwriting and Poetry)  
Movement for the Stage (including Clowning, Mask, Viewpoints and Composition)  
Theater History (especially Modern and Contemporary)  
Play Analysis  
Theories of Theater  
Acting Shakespeare  
Improvisation

○ **Theater Courses Taught:**

**Acting and Directing Advisor/Mentor  
Including Workshops and Practical Applications in Acting, Directing, Playwriting &  
Production**

Polytechnic Institute of NYU Performing Arts, Brooklyn NY, 2004 - present

**Instructor:**

**-Script Analysis (4 sections)**

**-Acting (4 sections)**

**-Movement for the Actor (2 sections)**

New York Film Academy, NYC, 1999 – 2002

**Clowning Instructor**

The School for Film and Television, NYC, 2003

**Commedia dell'Arte Workshop Leader**

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY, 2002

**Acting/Directing Visiting Instructor (3 sections)**

The American University of Prague, Czech Republic, 1996 – 1997

**Playwriting Instructor**

California Theater Center, Sunnyvale CA, 1991

**Clowning/Improv Instructor**

Kids on Camera, San Francisco CA, 1991

**Clown Workshop Leader (multiple sections)**

Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, National Tour, 1989

○ **English/Dramatic Literature Courses Taught:**

**First Year Writing Seminar – Special Topic: Dramatic Literature (2 sections)**

Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Brooklyn NY, 2010, 2011

**College Writing Workshop (2 sections)**

Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Brooklyn NY, 2010, 2011

**Technical Writing (8 sections)**

Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Brooklyn NY, 1998 – 2002

**English as a Second Language Instructor**

American Language Communication Center, NYC, 1997 – 1998

Polyglot Language School, Prague, Czech Republic, 1993 – 1996

○ **University Administration:**

**Coordinator of Academic Advisement**

Polytechnic Institute of NYU (formerly Polytechnic University), Brooklyn NY, 2006 – present

- Organize the activities, scheduling and services for first-year students in conjunction with academic departments and administrative offices
- Facilitate students' transition from HS to University academics through workshops, group and individual meetings
- Assist new college students in development of academic plans and career goals
- Counsel first-year students placed on academic probation
- Supervise all activities of the Academic Advisement Center (7 advisers/ 3 staff)
- Member of various school committees (including Middle States review)

## ❖ FORMAL EDUCATION

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### **MFA in Playwriting**

Brooklyn College

### **B. A. in Philosophy, Certificate of Merit in Theater**

Fordham University at Lincoln Center

## ❖ SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

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### **Acting/Directing**

Joseph Chaikin, David Kaplan, B. Rodney Marriott, Dave Davis, Joe Jezewski

### **Clowning**

Boleslav Polivka, Boris Hybner, Don Reider, Steve Smith, Lou Jacobs,  
Glenn "Frosty" Little, John Towsen, Barry Lubin  
*Graduate - Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown College*

### **Viewpoints/Composition**

Peter Dubois, Christopher Healy, Kristin Marting

### **Laban**

Valerie Dean

### **Improvisation**

Dick Monday

### **Mime**

Sigfrido Aguilar, Karen Sunde

### **Playwriting and Poetry**

Mac Wellman, Jeffrey M. Jones, Erin Courtney, L.S. Asekoff

## ❖ AS A PLAYWRIGHT

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(Also director, unless otherwise noted)

<b>Foodstable</b>	-HERE Arts Center, NYC (in development)
<b>Lily Harvest</b>	- Manhattan Theater Club (I-73 reading series), NYC, 2011 (directed by J. Zayas)
<b>Via Crucis</b>	- 25 Cent Opera of San Francisco, 2010 (staged reading)
<b>Richard Toth's Identity</b>	Bring a Weasel and a Pint of Your Own Blood Festival - E. 13 <sup>th</sup> St. Theater (CSC), NYC 2009 (directed by M. Finn)
<b>Dumb</b> (with W. Hollister)	-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1996 -The New York International Fringe Festival, NYC, 1997
<b>King Stag</b> (after C. Gozzi)	-Misery Loves Company, Prague, Czech Republic, 1995 -Perseverance Theater, Juneau AK, 2003
<b>The Children's Crusade</b> (after poem by B. Brecht)	-California Theater Center, Sunnyvale CA, 1991

## ❖ SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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**Dumb**

(with William Hollister)

The Prague Review, 3 (1997)

**Girls After Dark**

(from Foodstable)

The Brooklyn Review, 26 (2008)

**“Emily Roz, Artist”**

An Interview

Joy Quarterly, Summer 2009

**“Felipe Alfau Doesn’t Want You to See This”**

Interviewed by Trish Harnetiaux

The Brooklyn Rail, July/August 2009

## ❖ AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

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**P73 Playwriting Fellowship** Semi-Finalist, 2011

**Interstate 73** Writing Program Member, 2010-2011

**GIP Brooklyn College Research Grant** Recipient, 2009

**HARP (HERE Artist Residency Program)** HERE Arts Center, 2007 to present (currently on leave of absence)

**Advisor of the Year** NYU-Poly, in recognition of re-establishing and promoting the Performing Arts Club, 2005

## ❖ PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Actor's Equity Association

Screen Actors Guild (SAG/AFTRA)

National Academic Advising Association

**\*\*References available upon request**

**\*\*Acting Resume and other supplementary materials at [richardtoth.net](http://richardtoth.net)**