

RÉSUMÉ

PROFILE

After ten years as a Sydney-based stage director, I am currently undertaking an MPhil at Goldsmiths, University of London with a practice research focus on acting techniques for Shakespeare.

Prior to this, my professional creative work was marked by collaborations with both leading and emerging Australian playwrights as director, dramaturg and in my former role as Literary Manager of Griffin Theatre company, on the development and production on numerous new Australian plays.

Education and training contexts have also been an important part of my professional practice, working with institutions such as the National Institute of Dramatic Art, Rose Bruford College (UK), LaSalle College of the Arts (Singapore) Flinders University Drama Centre and James Cook University as well as the Bell Shakespeare Company.

Strengths in leadership, management and administration, while necessary to my success in these roles, have also occasioned an independent and complimentary strand of my professional life in the arts and entertainment industries and I have worked in a diverse range of environments including the subsidized and commercial theatres, television production and education on dozens of projects with staff sizes ranging from two to almost a hundred and budgets ranging from \$5000 to \$4 000 000 dollars in roles ranging from acting tutor to artistic director.

The current research at Goldsmiths has twice been awarded the Travelling Scholarship by the Ian Potter Cultural Trust.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Drama Centre – Directing and Acting
Flinders University of South Australia
1996 – 2000

South Australian Certificate of Education

Henley High School
1994 - *Dux Litterarum*

CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITY

MPhil Candidate

Shakespeare in Performance
Goldsmiths, University of London
2013 – 2016

This practice-based-research topic relates to the development of techniques for interpretation and live performance of Shakespeare. The focus is on imaginative engagement with the sonic patterns and aesthetics of the language and rhetorical devices in the verse of the Late Romances.

TEACHING AND ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

From 2002 to the present, taught acting classes, acting for Music Theatre, Shakespeare masterclasses, audition masterclasses and playwriting workshops at drama colleges and theatre companies in Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom, including Rose Bruford College, NIDA, The Actors Centre of Australia, Australian Theatre for Young People, and La Salle College of the Arts (Singapore). In addition, a number of productions for student actors are included in the credits below.

Notable achievements in professional practice include the world premiere productions of *Whore* by Rick Viède (Belvoir Street BSharp), *Men, Love and the Monkeyboy* by Caleb Lewis at the Darlinghurst Theatre and Riverside Theatres in Parramatta, *The Department Store* by Justin Fleming (based on the novel *Au Bonheur des Dames* by Emile Zola) for Parnassus Den at the Old Fitzroy Theatre, *Navigating Flinders* by Don Reid at the Ensemble Theatre and *Mr Bailey's Minder* by Debra Oswald for Griffin Theatre; a production which broke the box office record for Griffin and later toured throughout Australia. All of these plays have gone on to win national awards and several have received international productions. In addition to the credits below, I've directed numerous play-readings, and development workshops of new Australian scripts in a variety of professional and educational contexts.

Literary Manager of Griffin Theatre Company from 2003 to 2008.

- Assisted the Artistic Director with programming an annual season of four to six productions of new Australian plays and curating the work of Independent theatre companies in the SBW Stables Theatre in Kings Cross.
- Worked as resident script editor on script development prior to production with Australian writers both industry-leading and emerging. Scripts were typically taken through around five drafts from the time of programming to the time of production. Through written advice, one on one script conferencing, readings and workshops with actors.
- Co-ordinated a young resident writers program from conception, through selection of writers to supervising their script development and programming and conducted professional development activities such as professional forums, masterclasses, tutorials and workshops.
- Actively sought, fostered and encouraged new work for development and production; and responded to hundreds of unsolicited scripts.
- Personally assessed plays, and wrote reports, as well as engaging and supervising the work of a team of freelance assessors.
- Coordinated and curated an annual national playwriting award which receives over 100 entries each year – also marketing and publicizing the award to relevant outreach and professional organizations nationwide – building and maintaining database and network. Secured and coordinated the contributions of Industry leaders as Judging Panel members; tabulating their work and facilitating negotiation to arrive at a final result.
- Conducted correspondence with hundreds of writers around Australia submitting plays to the company both for the Award and for programming.
- Drafted and edited copy for program notes, interviews and articles, as well as marketing collaterals of all kinds – posters, flyers, website and detailed programme notes.
- Responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with writers and literary agents.

From 2008-2011 I served on the Artistic Directorate of the Darlinghurst Theatre Company.

Advising and curating season programming, provide artistic leadership and advice to the company and its visiting artists. Darlinghurst Theatre Company relies on its Artistic Directorate to set high standards in artistic practice. Importantly the Artistic Directorate sets high standards of artistic excellence by contributing their work to the Company's season of production.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Co-Creator/Director *GO! The Musical*

Music and Lyrics by Nikki Aitken
Score showcased at Phoenix Artists/Camden Fringe – August 2014
Currently in script development.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

- Associate Director** *The One Day of the Year*
By Alan Seymour
Defibrillator Theatre
Finborough Theatre – May 2015
- Co-Creator/Director** *GO! The Musical*
By Nikki Aitken
Phoenix Artists/Camden Fringe – August 2014
- Director** *Variations*
Book by Nick Enright, Music by Terence Clarke
Neglected Musicals/Darlinghurst Theatre – May 2013
- Dramaturg** *Unsex Me*
Created by Michal Imielski and Nick Atkins
Shh Centre for Hybrid Arts
Lennox Theatre – Riverside Theatres Parramatta – August 2011
- Director** *Showtrain*
By Andrew Worboys and Zvonko Jovicic
New Musicals Australia/Sidetrack Theatre – April 2011
- Director** *Macbeth*
By William Shakespeare
Darlinghurst Theatre Company - April 2010
- Director** *The Hypochondriac*
By Moliere Adapted by Richard Bean
National Institute of Dramatic Art
Parade Studio – June 2010
- Writer/Director** *Shakespeare in Performance*
Riverside Theatres 2009 – 2010
- An education workshop and performance seminar which introduces the concepts and qualities of Shakespearean verse drama and demonstrates how actors use poetry and language to build and shape their performances.
 - This seminar presented with two actors was performed to hundreds of secondary school students throughout New South Wales in 2009 and 2010.
- Director** *Last Night's Beauty Queen*
By Rick Viede
Arts Radar/Darlinghurst Theatre Company
Darlinghurst Theatre February 2010
- Director** *Whore*
By Rick Viede
Arts Radar/B Sharp
Belvoir Street Theatre – June 2009

- Director** *Rhinoceros*
By Eugene Ionesco
Ashfield Youth Theatre Company – June 2009
- Director** *Las Vegas (Confidential) The Musical*
By James Karp
Vanish Entertainment
State Theatre – November 2008
- Director** *Homebody/Kabul*
By Tony Kushner
Tangent Productions and BSharp
Belvoir Street Theatre – Sept 2008
- Associate Director** *Codgers*
By Don Reid Directed by Wayne Harrison
Parramatta Riverside Theatres and tour - July 2008
- Director** *Men, Love and the Monkeyboy*
By Caleb Lewis
Shaman Productions
Darlinghurst Theatre and Parramatta Riverside Theatres - April 2008
- Director** *The Good Person of Sichuan*
By Bertolt Brecht
La Salle College of the Arts
National Drama Centre – Singapore – November 2007
- Director** *Actors at Work*
By William Shakespeare and Ned Manning
Bell Shakespeare Company
National Tour March – September 2007
- Created and directed three separate educational theatre performances introducing secondary school students to Shakespearean plays including *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth*.
 - These performances were performed simultaneously by two separate ensembles each touring nationally for six months - performing to a total of approximately 40,000 secondary school students.
- Assistant Director** *The Tempest*
Director: Peter Evans
Bell Shakespeare Company
Victorian Arts Centre
Canberra Playhouse
Sydney Opera House - Aug – Oct 2006
- Assistant Director** *Romeo and Juliet*
Director: John Bell
Bell Shakespeare Company - National Tour May – Aug 2006
- Rehearsed, maintained and restaged national tours of these plays by Australia's leading Shakespeare performance company in major Australian venues including the Sydney Opera House and the Victorian Arts Centre.
- Director** *Mr Bailey's Minder*
By Debra Oswald

Griffin Theatre Company - National Tour March – June 2006

Director *The Department Store*
By Justin Fleming
Parnassus Den Productions - Old Fitzroy Theatre – Nov 2005

Director *Navigating Flinders*
By Don Reid
Ensemble Theatre – July 2005

Director *Don's Party*
By David Williamson
James Cook University
Cowshed Theatre – June 2005

Director *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America – Return Season*
By Stephen Sewell
Tangent Productions - SBW Stables Theatre – Jan 2005

Assistant Director *Eureka*
Dir: Gale Edwards
Essgee Entertainment/Melbourne International Arts Festival
Her Majesty's Theatre Melbourne - October 2004

Director *Mr Bailey's Minder*
By Debra Oswald
Griffin Theatre Company
SBW Stables Theatre – July 2004

Assistant Director *What the Butler Saw*
By Joe Orton
Director: Jim Sharman
Company B Belvoir - Belvoir St Theatre February 2004

Director *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America*
By Stephen Sewell
Tangent Productions/Griffin Stablemates
SBW Stables Theatre – October 2003

Director *What the Umbrella Did Next*
By Nic Velisaris
Australian Theatre for Young People
Wharf Studio – July 2003

Director *The Nightmare*
Adapted from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*
Tangent Productions - Darlinghurst Theatre – Dec 2002

Directing Mentorship *Sweeney Todd*
By Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler
Director: Neil Armfield
Lyric Opera of Chicago - Chicago Civic Opera House – Nov 2002

- Assistant Director** *Buried Child*
By Sam Shepard
Director: Gale Edwards
Company B Belvoir - Belvoir St Theatre – Sept 2002
- Assistant Director** *Presence*
By Patrick Van Der Werf
Director: Ros Horin
Griffin Theatre Company - Stables Theatre – July 2002
- Director's Assistant** *My Zinc Bed*
By David Hare
Director: Neil Armfield
Company B Belvoir - Belvoir St Theatre – May 2002
- Director/Designer** *Edward II*
By Christopher Marlowe
Adapted with Craig Behenna
Tangent Productions/Adelaide Fringe 2002
Queens Theatre – February 2002
- Directing Mentorship** *The Tales of Hoffmann*
Directed by Ian Judge
By Jacques Offenbach
Opera Australia – Sydney Opera House – September 2001
- Assistant Director** *Art*
By Yasmina Reza
Directed by Chris Drummond
State Theatre Company of South Australia
The Space – Adelaide Festival Centre - June 2001
- Director/Designer** *Angels In America Part II (Perestroika)*
By Tony Kushner
Flinders University Drama Centre
Matthew Flinders Theatre – July 2000
- Co-Director/Designer** *The Game of Dice*
From *The Mahabharata*
Flinders University Drama Centre
Matthew Flinders Theatre - December 1999
- Director/Designer** *Dreams of Clytemnestra*
By Dacia Maraini
Flinders University Drama Centre - Sturt Theatre - July 1999
- Director/Designer** *Death and the Maiden*
By Ariel Dorfman
Flinders University Drama Centre - Sturt Studio - February 1999
- Director** *Hate*
By Stephen Sewell
Flinders University Drama Centre - Sturt Theatre - December 1998
- Director** *M. Butterfly*
By David Henry Hwang

Flinders University Drama Centre - Sturt Theatre – July 1998

MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Aside from the wealth of management and administration experienced gained from the following roles in the arts, educational and entertainment sectors, this body of work facilitated the development of a massive network of connections and collaborations with the professional arts communities in Australian and internationally.

Research Assistant

Rose Bruford College

2012-2014

My recent work at **Rose Bruford College** with Director of Research Professor Nesta Jones (Research Assistant 2012-14 and which continues as a visiting consultant) included intense work on programming and delivering the college's Annual International Symposium, a unique week-long event which is a platform for practice-research and learning events, for the undergraduate student body. The symposium is run in the format of a performance research festival in which the entire student body participates, with self-devised performances, as well as participation in workshops, lectures and exhibitions: in 2014, over one hundred events with artists from arts organizations including Ashtar Theatre of Palestine, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Pan Intercultural Arts, Complicite, Punchdrunk, Teatr Piesn Kozla, (Song of the Goat) Howard Barker's The Wrestling School, and Border Crossings as well as academics from a range of UK, European and US tertiary institutions.

The Symposium regularly becomes a point of entry for such artists to undertake more extensive engagement with the college in ways that enable them to simultaneously undertake their own research and development while providing learning opportunities for the students. One example which I personally initiated is that of playwright Howard Barker's company The Wrestling School. First through the college Symposium, we were able to expose students to the unique approach to the acting of text-based drama pioneered by this company, then building on the success of this experiment, I devised a stand-alone event for Barker and his actors to work with the students through workshops, lectures and performances, whilst simultaneously creating an opportunity for external professional researchers to gain access to Barker and his latest theoretical thinking on writing and performance. The devising and co-ordination of research and learning events such as this one was a major component of my work during my time at Rose Bruford College.

During my time at Rose Bruford College, I was also heavily involved in matters of governance and quality assurance, through my service on the Research Committee and Periodic Review Panel, but most significantly through my extensive work on the institution's submission to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. I was central to the delivery of this submission, and worked on the process for nearly a year prior to final submission. It is perhaps in this area that I was able to bring my unique array of technical and analytical skills on the one hand and interpersonal and artistic leadership skills on the other, to their most potent impact to the benefit of the institution. For a small institution, the onerous and narrow demands of the REF presented a unique challenge. I was mindful as I worked on preparation of the institution's submission, that our staff had undertaken outstanding practice-oriented-research, but that the strictures of the REF submission process were a potential obstacle to revealing the true value of this research. Accordingly, across all theatre arts disciplines: acting, lighting design, sound technologies as well as traditional performance-studies scholarly research, I worked with the institution's leading research staff to devise appropriate dissemination and presentation formats to best showcase their work. In an outstanding outcome, the college earned a rating of 49% world-leading or international standard research, and an improvement in government funding ring-fenced for research which placed it in the top 11% nation-wide.

July 2011 – 2013

Rose Bruford College
London, UK

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

- Researched, conceived and designed a comprehensive strategy proposal for student recruitment activities in Australia
- Conducted targeted market research through survey and interviews.
- Advertising copy and placement
- Identified key networks for promotion and developed and maintained relationships with key personnel in those networks.
- Organised auditions in two states including venue bookings, contracts, sourcing and engaging contractors.
- Promoted those auditions extensively through online and social media networks.
- Achieved a dramatic increase in Australian student applications to the college
- Conducted the entire application and scheduling process from first enquiry through to audition appointments.
- Maintained individual relationships with all applicants to ensure maximum take up.
- Collaborated on the design of targeted collaterals and marketing copy.
- Developed and maintain mailing lists for recruitment promotion.

January – November 2009

Location Professionals
Sydney, Australia

OFFICE MANAGER/LOCATION MANAGER

As Office Manager:

- Manage office operations to ensure efficiency and productivity
- Manage accounts receivable/payable.
- Manage petty cash
- Prepare quarterly Business Activity Statements
- Process weekly payroll.
- Manage staff superannuation, workers comp, insurance and legals
- Manage relations with clients, suppliers and contractors
- Manage the induction of new employees
- Design company forms including payroll advice and personal leave forms
- Assist with the design and production of marketing collateral
- Manage recruitment: write job ads, shortlist applicants, interview candidates
- Maintain and develop detailed client, and stakeholder databases running to many thousands of entries.

As Location Manager:

- Responsible for finding and securing locations to be used in film and television production and coordinating the logistics involved.
- Responsible for the initial scouting of all the locations needed, bringing to reality the writer's and producer's vision for a certain look and taking into consideration all the details necessary for the production to work satisfactorily, including budget, lighting, convenience to other locations, crew, production services, parking, weather patterns, roads, etc.
- Negotiating with private, corporate and governmental stakeholders for permissions needed to use a variety of locations.
- Necessary at times to work with city officials to block off certain streets, routes, etc.
- Photograph locations in detail for digital presentation to clients.

2005 – 2010

Parnassus Den Theatre Co
Sydney, Australia

TREASURER/BOARD MEMBER

August 2002 – 2007

Flinders University
Drama Centre

INDUSTRY LIAISON

- Built and developed relationships with all the major actor agencies in Sydney and Melbourne to promote the graduating actors of Flinders University Drama Centre.
- Organised and staged the annual Sydney graduate showcase, after a period in which the Drama Centre had not staged a Sydney showcase due to lack of industry interest.
- Advised teaching staff on best practice for showcase and filmed showreel material selection, performance style and presentation approaches.
- Promoted and developed industry enthusiasm for the work of the graduating actors by developing relationships between the Centre and key directors and casting directors.
- Placed graduates with specific suitable representation.

August 2001 – January 2002

Shanahan Management
Sydney, Australia

ASSISTANT TO THE CEO

- Acted as the CEO's first point of contact with people from inside and outside the organization.
- Worked with the CEO on the in depth management of the careers and public activities of over ten of Australia's most illustrious internationally acclaimed actors.
- Maintained a high level of confidentiality and discretion and relationships with the public and negotiated with a diverse range of stakeholders including Australian film and television industry producers and directors.
- Dealt with a massive daily volume of incoming correspondence for the CEO and these key clients and responded autonomously where appropriate.
- Produced documents, briefing papers, reports and presentations, carried out background research and present findings into subjects the CEO was dealing with.
- Organized and attend meetings and ensure the CEO was well prepared.
- Regularly stand in for the CEO, making decisions and delegating work to others in her absence.
- Managed the office, including delegating and supervising the work of the other administrative staff.
- Organize the details of special events, travel arrangements, corporate agendas and itineraries for the CEO and the key clients

January – May 2001

Really Useful Company Australia
Bay Street, Double Bay

PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR

- Complex multi-departmental production scheduling
- Worked on the logistical details for the massive national Big Top tours of *Cats* and *Grease*.
- Developed pitch proposals and prospective budgets for multi-million dollar stage productions in Australia and throughout Asia and South Africa.
- Assisted in the administration of production and quality control requirements for licensees of major commercial musicals – *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*.
- Coordinated large scale national auditions for a First Class professional tour of *Grease*.
- Interacted with and provided support to a diverse range of stakeholders from both here and overseas, including top-level international creatives and producers.
- Monitored media coverage of the company and its properties and recommended appropriate responses.
- Supported the in-house legal council proofing draft agreements and contracts and recommending amendments.
- Provided support and integration assistance to all departments of the organisation – Finance, Market, Publicity, legal, production, technical.
- Provided personal assistance support to the Executive Producer – Australasia.
- Coordinated casting/contracting etc. for hiring performers.

2000-2005

Tangent Productions Inc.
Adelaide/Sydney

FOUNDING CHAIRMAN AND CO-ARTISIC DIRECTOR

- 2000 – Producer - *And Baby Makes Seven* by Paula Vogel – Adelaide FEAST Festival.
- 2002 – Director – *Edward II* by Christopher Marlowe, adapted by Christopher Hurrell and Craig Behenna – Adelaide Fringe Festival.
- 2002 – Producer - *Swallowing Geography* by Deborah Levy and Lex Lindsay – Australian Gay Games Cultural Festival.
- 2003/05 – Director – *Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America* – SBW Stables Theatre
- The company was also a contributing company to the Actors For Refugees performance activism network in South Australia
- The work of the company was funded by the Australia Council and ArtsSA.

1995

Henley And Grange
Youth Theatre Co Inc.
Adelaide

FOUNDING CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR

CONFERENCES - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - FELLOWSHIPS

2011/2012 - Fellow – Ian Potter Cultural Trust Travelling Scholarships

2011 - Delegate – Conference on Classical Training
The Royal Shakespeare Company - Stratford upon Avon

2007 - Tutor – World Interplay

2006 - Guest Speaker – Flinders University 40th Anniversary Conference

2004 - Participating Artist – Melbourne International Festival of the Arts 2004

2002 - Participating Artist – Adelaide Fringe Festival

2002 - Delegate Dramaturg – Australian National Playwrights Conference

2002 - Recipient - Arts SA Invitation at Short Notice Grant

2001 - Fellow – Faulding State Theatre South Australia Assistant Directors Fellowship

2001 - Internship – Really Useful Company Australia

2001 - Recipient - South Australian Youth Arts Board Grant

2001 - Recipient - Helpmann Academy Grant

2000 - Participating Artists – Adelaide Festival of the Arts 2000

2000 - Delegate Student Director – Australian National Playwrights Conference