

Benedict Power

Director, Theatre Maker and Producer

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Overview

I am passionate about making theatre, and I am experienced in directing and developing plays that explore unconventional and sometimes challenging subjects. These have included the conflict in Syria with *Spring Reign* (National tour), the long term effects of childhood bullying in *The Wasp*, the centenary of the First World War with *War Stories* (International co-commission), responses to the 2011 UK riots in *The Bubbler*, and a satirical take on how to live a *Real Life* (made in association with The Royal Exchange). My approach to directing is rooted in my training and experience as a professional actor, so I have a strong understanding of the performer's process. I often work with new-writing, and sometimes with devising processes, creating collaboratively with a wide range of artists to produce unique, compelling and highly acclaimed original theatre. I am a regular recipient of project funding from *Arts Council England*, which I use to develop and tour work regionally and nationally. I am the North West Deputy for *Stage Directors UK*, recently being mentored by Artistic Director, Matthew Xia, through their training and development scheme. I teach and direct acting at Universities and colleges and have been a reader for the *Bruntwood Prize* at The Royal Exchange.

Current/Future

Early 2021	The Wasp by Morgan Lloyd Malcom	National tour Spring 2021 Director
Autumn 2020	Festen by David Eldridge	University of Salford - Adelphi Theatre Director - 2 nd Year BA Performance Project
March 2020	Lancaster University BA Creative Writers	The Dukes, Lancaster Director - Creative Writing Showcase

Past Productions

2018-19	Same Same Different by Naomi Sumner Chan	Regional Tour commissioned by Eclipse Theatre with York Theatre Royal and Pilot Theatre - Producer
2018	The Wasp by Morgan Lloyd Malcom	Hope Mill Theatre Director - Regional Premiere
2018	Becoming with Liz Richardson	HOME Director, Producer and Co-writer - R+D project
2017	Memories of Partition Asif Majid and Tuheen Huda	The Royal Exchange and Manchester Museum Director and Dramaturg
2014-17	Spring Reign by Rob Johnston	National Tour Incl. The Lowry, The Albany, Nottingham Playhouse Director, Originator, Dramaturg and Producer
2016	The Last Resort by 2 Magpies	The Lowry - Week 53 Festival and National Tour Directing and Research Consultant - New devised work
2014-16	War Stories by Rob Johnston/Emma Gibson	HOME, 24:7 and 'You Are Here' Festival - Canberra, Australia Director, Dramaturg and Co-Producer - International co-commission
2014-15	Real Life with Ben Kewin	The Royal Exchange and Camden People's Theatre Director, Co-Writer and Producer - In association with Royal Exchange
2015	The Bird of Paradise by Garth Williams	The Lowry Director and Co-Producer - R+D supported by Lowry/Royal Exchange
2014	#Handles by Tom Mason	University of Salford - Media City Director and Dramaturg - Original play with 2 nd Year BA Students
2014	Unhinged by Martin Malcolm	Jackson's Lane Director - R+D project
2013-14	The Bubbler by Cathy Crabb	The Lowry - Re:Play Festival and Regional Tour Director and Co-Producer
2010-12	Verbally Challenged Various Writers	Contact Regular Director - 'Script in Hand' new writing performances
2010-11	Temp/Casual by Steve Timms	Contact and 24:7 Festival Director and Co-Producer

Teaching and Workshops

An important part of my creative practice involves teaching and directing theatre, performance and acting at colleges and Universities, and through workshops for school and community groups. Informed by my professional work as director, my training and experience as an actor, and my continued training and development with artists and companies from the UK and beyond, my teaching practice combines naturalistic acting processes, movement based techniques, and clowning.

2010 - Present	University of Salford	BA Performance, BA Physical Theatre, HND Performance Freelance lecturer in naturalistic and non-naturalistic acting methods and physical theatre, including: Directing Second Year BA Performance production, <i>Handles</i> , at the 'Media City Digital Performance Lab' and First Year BA Performance introductory project <i>Love of a Nightingale</i> by Timberlake Wertenbaker.
2017	Royal Shakespeare Company	Open Stages At Contact Theatre.
2011 - 14	University of Central Lancashire	BA Acting - Vocational Degree Part-time lecturer in acting, specializing in Stanislavski technique, devising, movement practice for actors and clowning, including developing and directing the final year production of the students original adaptation of <i>The Light Princess</i> .
2003 - 08	Calderdale College	BTEC, HND and Foundation Degree in Performing Arts Part-time lecturer teaching acting methods, voice and movement. Director of many public performance projects including: <i>A Servant to Two Masters</i> , <i>Animal Farm</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> (Co-Director/Movement Director) <i>Road</i> (Assistant Director), <i>Ubu Roi</i> (Assistant Director) and four original physical theatre projects.

Other Relevant Experience

- **SPEAKER** on making theatre in response to conflict at international theatre conference, 'Rediscovering the Radical', at LIPA in Sept 2016, with Professor Jan Cohen Cruz, John Holloway, Lizzie Nunnery and Clive Parkinson.
- **TV ACTING ROLES** in *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale*, *Blue Murder*, *Paradox*, *Spooks*, *The Cops*, *Always and Everyone*. Commercials for *Iceland*, *Mini Cooper* and *Morrison's* and training films for *Britannia Building Society*.
- **CORPORATE ACTING** scripting and performing training programs for *G4S*, *BPP Law School*, *Manchester City Council*, *Nottingham Police*, *West Midlands Fire Service* and *The BBC*.
- **STAND UP COMEDY** finalist in *Mirth on Monday*, open-mic competition.

Education and Training

Royal Exchange Observing Director for Bruntwood Prize winning play *Wish List* by Katherine Soper. Directed by Matthew Xia in a co-production with The Royal Court.

Further Training with workshops in Directing, Devising, Physical Theatre, Clown and Forum Theatre with Lyndsey Turner, Jude Christian, Augusto Boal, Philippe Gaulier, Gennadi Bogdanov, Caroline Steinbeis, *Song of the Goat*, *DV8*, *Gecko*, *Imogen Knight*, *Rachel Mars* and many more national/international practitioners.

Drama School Trained Actor - MMU School Of Theatre BA (Hons) Acting 1996-99

Over 15 Years professional experience touring regional and national theatre productions, script readings and work in development, for companies including: *West Yorkshire Playhouse*, *Contact*, *Chol*, *Talia*, *Yorkshire Women*, *Proper Job* and *Made Up Theatre* and my own company *Something Wicked*.

References

Matthew Xia
Artistic Director - Actors Touring Company
Available on request

Matthew Eames
Producer - The Lowry
Available on request