

## 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* - a national tour in association with The Lowry, the long term effects of childhood bullying in *The Wasp*, the centenary of the First World War with *War Stories* - an international co-commission by You Are Here Festival, Canberra and 24/7 Manchester, 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. From 2018-20 I was the North West Deputy for *Stage Directors UK*, and was 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.

## Productions

2018-19	<b>Same Same Different</b> by Naomi Sumner Chan	<b>Regional Tour</b> commissioned by <b>Eclipse Theatre</b> with <b>York Theatre Royal</b> and <b>Pilot Theatre</b> - Producer
2018	<b>The Wasp</b> by Morgan Lloyd Malcom	<b>Hope Mill Theatre (Touring Spring 2022)</b> Director - Regional Premiere
2018	<b>Becoming</b> with Liz Richardson	<b>HOME</b> Director, Producer and Co-writer - R+D project
2017	<b>Memories of Partition</b> Asif Majid and Tuheen Huda	<b>The Royal Exchange</b> and <b>Manchester Museum</b> Director and Dramaturg
2013-17	<b>Spring Reign</b> by Rob Johnston	<b>National Tour</b> Incl. <b>The Lowry, The Albany, Nottingham Playhouse</b> Director, Originator, Dramaturg and Producer
2016	<b>The Last Resort</b> by 2 Magpies	<b>The Lowry - Week 53 Festival</b> and <b>National Tour</b> Directing and Research Consultant - New devised work
2014-16	<b>War Stories</b> by Rob Johnston & Emma Gibson	<b>HOME, 24:7</b> and <b>'You Are Here' Festival - Canberra, Australia</b> Director, Dramaturg and Co-Producer - International co-commission
2014-15	<b>Real Life</b> with Ben Kewin	<b>The Royal Exchange</b> and <b>Camden People's Theatre</b> Director, Co-Writer and Producer - In association with Royal Exchange
2015	<b>The Bird of Paradise</b> by Garth Williams	<b>The Lowry</b> Director & Co-Producer - R+D supported by The Lowry & Royal Exchange
2014	<b>#Handles</b> by Tom Mason	<b>University of Salford - Media City</b> Director and Dramaturg - Original play with 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year BA Students
2014	<b>Unhinged</b> by Martin Malcolm	<b>Jackson's Lane</b> Director - R+D project
2013-14	<b>The Bubbler</b> by Cathy Crabb	<b>The Lowry - Re:Play Festival</b> and <b>Regional Tour</b> Director and Co-Producer
2013	<b>The Light Princess</b> Devised by The Company	<b>University of Central Lancashire</b> Director and Dramaturg - Final Year BA Acting Students
2010-12	<b>Verbally Challenged</b> Various Writers	<b>Contact</b> Regular Director - 'Script in Hand' new writing performances
2010-11	<b>Temp/Casual</b> by Steve Timms	<b>Contact</b> and <b>24:7 Festival</b> 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	<b>University of Salford</b>	<b>BA Performance, BA Physical Theatre, HND Performance</b> 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	<b>Royal Shakespeare Company</b>	<b>Open Stages</b> At Contact Theatre.
2010 - 13	<b>University of Central Lancashire</b>	<b>BA Acting - Vocational Degree</b> 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	<b>Calderdale College</b>	<b>BTEC, HND and Foundation Degree in Performing Arts</b> 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