

CECILIA COPELAND

PLAYWRIGHT and SCREENWRITER

FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR New York Madness

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NEW YORK MADNESS (NYM)

Founding Artistic Director

- Each night has a theme announced one week ahead of the “madness” and all the short plays are written on that theme chosen by the Featured Guest. The work is presented fully staged, script-in-hand with minimal tech, for a live audience. The works are curated thematically with an arc for the overall night. Each Madness is an artistic time capsule. The idea began at Ohio University in the MFA Playwrighting Program. Copeland brought “Madness” to New York.
- Since inception in 2010 NYM has maintained a 50/50 gender parity of playwrights and directors.
- As Founding Artistic Director Copeland curated not only the lineup of emerging writers and the order of the plays, but also all the Featured Guests in each season and all the theaters where she produced.
- Under Copeland’s Artistic Directorship there have been over 250 new short plays created and staged in over thirty “madness” short play festivals.
- The move to Company-In-Residence was executed by Copeland to support new leadership and ensure NYM can continue after she moves into an Artistic Advisory Board Member role and is no longer the active Artistic Director.

- Seventh Season Launched as a Company-In-Residence at The Kraine Theatre. Partnering with Obie Winning Mentor Project, Obie Winning Fire This Time Festival, and Café Chino Award Winning Theatre 167. Featured Guests include Steven Fechter, Mac Rogers, and Adam Szymkowicz. 2016-2017

- Sixth Season Featured Guest Artists Neil LaBute at The Atlantic, Migdalia Cruz at Cherry Lane, All Women Writers at The Women’s Project, Mariah MacCarthy at The Brick. 2015-2016

- Fifth Season Featured Guest Artists Chisa Hutchinson at The COW (Former space of The Living Theatre), Vanessa Hidary at The Wild Project, Nat Cassidy at Ensemble Studios Theatre, Winter Miller at Cherry Lane, and Tony Glazer at Producer’s Club. 2014-2015

- Fourth Season Featured Guests Erik Ehn at T. Schriber Studios, David Bar Katz at Playwrights Horizons, Caridad Svich at IATI Theatre, Mia Chung at Theaterlab, August Schulenberg at Ensemble Studios Theatre, and Jenny Lyn Bader at Cherry Lane. 2013-2014

- Third Season Featured Guests Robert Askins at Ensemble Studios Theatre, David Anzuelo at Joria Productions, Stacy Davidowitz at Shetler Studios, Andrea Thome at Cherry Lane, and Saviana Stanescu at Urban Stages. 2012-2013

- Season One and Two Featured Guest Artists Daniel Talbott at Joria Productions, Crystal Skillman at ESPA Primary Stages, Cheryl Davis at INTAR, Jeni Mahoney at 13th Street Rep, Padraic Lillis at Theatrelab, John Walch at ESPA Primary Stages, Maggie Bofill at Cherry Lane, and Jackie Reingold at Ensemble Studios Theatre. 2010-2012

TEACHING

- Ohio University: Undergraduate Playwriting I & II, Instructor of Record 2010-2011

The first course in the series beginning with reading plays, learning to track ideas dramaturgically, discovering classic dramatic structure, transitioning into writing exercises, and finally culminating into the creation of a one act play with three to five pages due each week.

The second course in the series begins with dialog, character, and grows into a full-length play with ten pages due each week.

Texts: Plays are assigned individually to each student based on a writing sample from the student and *The Art and Craft of Playwriting* by Jeffrey Hatcher

- Performing Arts High School New Jersey: Playwriting Workshop 2011

Working with Three other Professional Playwrights in rotation for weekly playwriting instruction for students culminating in the final production of several chosen plays, which are acted by the students.

Texts: Original rhyming couplet script on *Play Structure* ©Cecilia Copeland 2008

- Ohio University: Viewing Performance Lecture, Instructor of Record 2008-2009

Designed and Presented Lectures on the Basic Structure on the Theatre, Dance, and Music Arts in performance. Interviewed and presented work from Specialist Faculty in that department. Graded papers on live performance and created short journal writing assignments based on the lectures.

Texts: Lecture notes. Attendance required at live arts events in each category.

Seminar Course: Lecture Class size 175.

- Ohio University: History of Theatre I, II, and III, Teachers Assistant and Instructor of Record 2009-2010

Beginning with Greek Theatre into Roman, then to Medieval and Renaissance periods, and finally into modern day. This course explores the evolution of theatre with respect to the development of governing systems, economics, scientific discoveries, and social movements. The course was focused on Western Theatre, but did touch on Chinese Opera and Japan's Noh, Kabuki, and Bunraku.

As a T.A. for Dr. Jordan Schildcrout Responsibilities Included: Leading Discussion Sections. Grading Quizzes, Midterms, and Finals. As Teacher: Giving Lectures and Leading Discussion Sections, selecting assignments, creating tests and grading.

Texts: Wadsworth Anthology of Drama and selected online journals.

Seminar Course. 100 students per Lecture and 25 in each Discussion.

- Ohio University: Theater Experience, Instructor of Record 2008

The course explores the nature and function of theatre as an art form through various interactive mediums. The students observe rehearsals, attend performances, and receive lectures as well as participate in discussion about the dramatic theory in practice.

Seminar course. 50 Students per Class.

Texts: Syllabus and tests provided by University. Original lectures and PDF presentations.

Continued...

(Teaching continued)

- Stella Adler Studio New York: Playscript Analysis for Actors, Instructor of Record 2008-2009
Flagship Course Combining Adler Acting Technique with Classical Text Analysis ranging from Aristotelian Plot Structure through to Image Tracking in Absurdist Works.
Texts: Original script on play structure, Sheila Callaghan's Dead City and Jean Janet's The Balcony.
- The Actor's Center Sydney Australia: Acting Technique Workshop, Instructor of Record 2006
A concentrated workshop for pre-teens in Middle School or Jr. High. Materials included assigned scenes and monologues. Theatre Games, improve, monologue craft and theatre professionalism.

AWARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- NYWIFT New York Women in Film and Television Member as of 2016
- Kilroy's List, Nominee & Honorable Mention 2015
- Kilroy's List, Nominee 2014
- Inductee Indie Theatre Hall of Fame 2014
- Write Out Loud Playwright Theaterspeak 2014
- Indie Theatre Person of the Year 2013
- HowlRound 101 Plays by The New Americans, or on Latinidad, Light of Night 2013
- New Perspectives Women's LAB Member Playwright 2013
- Finalist Mabou Mines Residency 2013
- Semifinalist The O'Neill Playwrights Conference 2013
- Write Out Loud Playwright Theaterspeak 2012
- Semifinalist The O'Neill Playwrights Conference 2012
- League of Professional Theatre Women, Served as Co-Chair of the Julia Miles Reading Room Developmental Committee for Playwrights, Member as of 2012
- New York Madness Founding Member Playwright and Founding Artistic Director, 2010
- Seven Devils Semifinalist 2010
- Dramatists Guild Member as of 2009
- Lennis J. Holm Scholarship for Playwriting University of Iowa 2008
- Special Effects Grant MetroScreen Australia 2001

EDUCATION

- MFA Playwriting, **Ohio University**, 2011
- BA With Honors in Theatre, Emphasis in Playwriting, Minor in Dance, **University of Iowa**, 2008
- Graduate, **Stella Adler Acting Studio (Conservatory Class)** New York, 1998
- Internships: New Dramatists, id Theatre, 13th Street Repertory, and Women's Project.

FULL LENGTH PLAYS

- **BREATHE IN SOME OF THAT (In Development)**
 Developmental reading with Lafayette Salon Series 2016
- **Dinner with Frenemies (In Development)**
 Staged Reading WIT (Women in Theatre Festival) Project Y Theater, Theater Row 2016
 Developmental reading with Brian Long (Formerly Rattlestick Theatre) 2016
- **Inside the Box (In Development)**
 Staged Reading Planet Connections Festivity starring Emmy Nominee Colleen Zenk, Directed by Giovanna Sardelli 2016
 Developmental Reading League of Professional Theatre Women Julie Miles Reading Room with Tony Winner Debra Monk, Directed by Claudia Weill 2015
- **“R Culture” (Kilroy’s List Nominee & Honorable Mention 2015)**
 Workshop Production, Produced by Lerer Productions with an Artist Residency from IRT Theater NYC 2014
 Developed at the Lark Play Development Center 2014
- **Light of Night (Kilroy’s List Nominee 2014, Best of Plays and Playwrights 2014)**
 *World Premiere Production Starring Florencia Lozano. Inaugural Production launching the new space following NYC Sponsored Renovations at IATI Theatre, Ellen Stewart Way 2013
 Regional Production, Venus Theatre Laurel, MD 2014
 Intern Alumni Reading, New Dramatists, NYC 2009
- **Biolife (Finalist Mabou Mines Residency 2013, Semifinalist O’Neill Playwrights Conference 2012, Semifinalist David Calicchio Emerging Playwrights Prize MTC 2011)**
 Workshop Production The Chain Theatre LIC, MVP Lab, Fall Harvest Fest 2014
 Staged Readings Nuyrican Poets Café 2012 & The Private Theatre 2013
 Workshop TerraNOVA Collective 2012
- **Atlantis Unearthed (Nominee Best Staged Reading Planet Connections Festivity 2015)**
 Staged Reading Planet Connections Festivity 2015
 Workshop at the Lark Play Development Center 2013
- **Courting (Semifinalist O’Neill Playwrights Conference 2013, Winner Best New Play Stage Left Productions 2009)**
 Semifinalist for The O’Neill Playwrights Conference 2013
 Reading in the Undergroundzero festival curated by Saviana Stanescu. NYC 2012
 Workshop Production, Stage Left Productions 2009
- **Tiene Duende/It Has Soul (Semifinalist MultiStages New Works Competition 2013)**
 Staged Reading at Cara Mia Theatre in Dallas, TX 2014
 Developmental Reading Stella Adler Studio Directed by Tlaloc Rivas, NYC 2012
- **“The Wicked Son” a Passover Play (Top Three Best New Jewish Plays JPP 2012)**
 Reading at The Dramatists Guild of America, Friday Night Footlights Series, NYC 2010
 Reading Seabury Quinn Jr. New Play Festival Ohio University 2009

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- **Riptide (Semifinalist Seven Devils Playwright Conference 2009)**
Staged reading Playwrights Collective, Jimmy's #43, 2016
Developmental reading Brian Long (Formerly Rattlestick Theatre) 2015
- **One Woman (Winner Lennis J. Holm Scholarship for Playwriting University of Iowa 2008)**
Production for SWAN Day, University of Iowa, IA 2008
Honors Thesis, Theatre BA with Honors Emphasis in Playwriting, University of Iowa 2008
- **Holding Forward**
Developmental Reading, Wilma Theatre, Directed by Jay Wahl, Philadelphia, PA 2006

ONE ACT PLAYS

- **SMASHING THE PATRIARCHY**
*World Premiere Production at NNPN Theatre Bishop Arts Center, Dallas 2017
Workshop Production Thalia Festival NYC 2016
Staged Reading, McGinn Cazale Theatre, NYC 2016
- **Some Dreams (Best One Act Play Nominee Planet Connections Festivity 2016)**
Production Planet Connections Festivity, NYC 2016
Staged Reading Cherry Lane Theatre, NYC 2016
- **Between Here and There**
Production at Open Hydrant Theatre, NYC 2014
Workshop Production Produced at New Perspective Women's New Play Lab, NYC 2013
- **Billboards Greatest Hits**
Production Open Hydrant Theatre, NYC 2014
Commissioned and Produced by The High School of Performing Arts 2012
- **Femin-Nazi For Hire**
Produced in the SLUT Festival, The Disreputables, WDC 2012
- **Velvet Eggs**
Staged Reading [untitled] Series at Happy Endings and with IATI Theater, NYC 2012
Commissioned and Produced by Overturn Theatre Ensemble for a Staged Reading at Culturefix Gallery, NYC 2011
- **Unpaid Debts**
Commissioned by The Drilling Co., NYC 2012
- **Words of a Revolutionary, (Monologue)**
Production, Anarchist Theatre Festival Montreal, Canada 2010
- **Props**
Commissioned and Produced by Dark Luna Productions at the Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, NYC 2010
- **Playing, (KCACTF Region 3, First Honorable Mention)**
Production, Open Hydrant Theatre Company, The Point Theater, Brons NYC 2015
Reading IATI Theater April, 2012. Directed by John Gould Rubin.
Reading, KCACTF Region 3, First Honorable Mention, Saginaw, MI, 2009
Production, UDFestival, University of Iowa, 2007

SHORT PLAYS

- **WHERE THE HOPE GOES (#AfterOrlandoPlays) Featured in American Theatre Magazine, Playbill, Theatremania**
Staged Readings Philadelphia Theatre Co Suzanne Robert's Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East London, Finborough Theatre London, Daryl Roth D2 Union Square, NYC 2016
- **THE LITTLE THINGS**
Commissioned and Produced by Oberon Theatre Ensemble, NYC 2016
- **I BELONG HERE**
Commissioned and Produced by Lower East Side Festival of the Arts, NYC 2016
- **The Next Time (Gun Control Plays) Featured in the Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, American Theatre Magazine, and The New York Times**
Published by NoPassport Press in The Gun Control Plays available on Amazon.com
Published by in the Verlag Textbook on American Drama in Germany
Staged in Washington DC, New York, LA, Sydney Australia, Minneapolis, and others for the Gun Control Theatre Action 2014-2016
- **Mermaid Girl**
Production, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Tacoma, WA 2012
- **Madonna, Brittany, and PUSSY RIOT**
Production, Culture Project, Impact Festival. NYC 2012
- **What We Teach Our Children**
Staged Reading, 31 Plays in 31 Days. Selection from Nationwide Competition, LA 2012
- **Inside**
Commission, Production and Short Film CAPSLOCK THEATRE, NYC 2012 and 2014
- **Unicorn and Moontanner Girls**
Published, Anthology on Diversity, The International Center for Women Playwrights 2012
- **W.orld O.f W.arcraft Hostage**
Production, Fear Festival, 13th Street Repertory Theatre, NYC 2010

FILM, TV, NEW MEDIA

- **WOMG (30 min Pilot based on web series, Semi-Finalist NY Film and TV Festival 2016)**
Creator. Currently in development with producer to make into a 30-min comedy.
- **TALATRICS (60 min drama Pilot. Current Semi-Finalist MADE IN NY FELLOWSHIP, Officially Accepted WildSound Festival)**
Creator. Upcoming reading in LA.
- **#GoingHomeless (web series)**
Writer. Currently in post-production.
- **MiniMadnessMovies (Produced by NYMadness "NYMAD Productions")**
Six short films written by Cecilia Copeland and four other screenwriters, Produced, Directed, Shot and Edited by Cecilia Copeland. Mini "Show Runner" Project. NYC
Other credited Writers include Ryan Dowler, Ed Cardona Jr, Molly Hagan, Judith Leora 2013
- **Amusement Bomber, (Special Effects Grant Award Metro Screen Australia.)**
Produced by Artemis Productions, Directed by Gregory George, Sydney, Australia 2002

ARTICLES

- Commissioned for WIT Magazine (Women In Theatre League of Professional Theatre Women) and HowlRound: RAPE CULTURE “ON STAGE” or “AS SUBJECT” published online 2014
- Commissioned for HowlRound: Contradiction and Compromise: My Uncle & The Next Time, contribution on The Gun Control Plays published online 2013

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Guest Playwright Panelist along with City Council Member Laurie Cumbo and Psychology Scholar Author Carol Gilligan following Double Falsehood Produced by Letter of Marque Theatre discussing the creation of opportunities and safe spaces for women in theatre, NYC 2016
- Guest Playwright Panelist along with Dael Orlandersmith, Jody Christopherson, Jenny Lyn Bader to discuss representation of women and women writers following a performance of EVE created by NeoPolitical Cowgirls, Gym at Judson, NYC 2016
- Guest Speaker, wrote and delivered original speech on “the Censorship of Women’s Voices” for Planet Connections Playwrights for A Cause annual fundraiser to benefit The National Coalition Against Censorship. The speech was censored by Sheen Center and a new venue had to be found, New York Theatre Workshop, NYC 2015
- Guest Producing Artist Panelist along with Producers Margot Astrachan, Kimberly Loren Eaton, Susan Bernfield, Sheilah Rae, and Joan Kane on the League of Professional Theatre Women, Network Committee Panel for Producers at Theaterlab, NYC 2014

FICTION

- EXPLOITS OF A TEENAGE LIBERTINE (In Development)