

**Lisa D'Amour**  
Playwright, Performer, Teacher  
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## **PLAYWRITING AND PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

- 2009 Creative Capital Grantee (with Katie Pearl)
- 2008 Alpert Award for the Arts (Theater)
- 2008 MAP Grant for *Terrible Things*
- 2006 NYSCA Commission for *STANLEY (2006)*
- 2005/6 TCG Playwright's Residency for work with Infernal Bridegroom Productions.
- 2004/5 MAP grant for *LandMARK*
- 2003 Village Voice OBIE Award for *Nita and Zita*, written and directed by Lisa D'Amour
- Playlabs participant (Playwrights' Center), Summer 2003 and 1999
- McKnight Advancement Grant from the Playwrights' Center, 2002-03, 1998-99
- MacDowell Colony Fellow, Peterborough, NH, September, 1999
- Member, New Dramatists, New York, NY, 1999-2006
- Career Opportunity Grant, Video Documentation Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, 1999.
- Jerome/Intermedia Performance Art Commission, Minneapolis, MN 1998-99.
- Jerome Fellowship for Emerging Playwrights, The Playwrights' Center, 1997-98.
- James Michener Playwriting Fellow, The University of Texas at Austin, '94-95, '95-96, '96-97.

## **SELECT PLAYS AND PERFORMANCES**

**How to Build a Forest.** (In Development) Katie Pearl and Lisa D'Amour assemble and disassemble a simulated forest on stage over the course of 8 hours. Premiere: June 2011. Work-in-Progress showing at the Systems of Sustainability Conference, Mitchell Center for the Arts, Houston. A project of Creative Capital.

**Terrible Things.** (Director and Co-Creator) A dance theater piece performed by Katie Pearl, 3 female dancers and 2 Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu wrestlers. PPS122, Dec. 2009.

**Serenades for Switchback Sisters.** (Writer and Director) A performance created for six boats crafted out of salvaged materials by the artist Swoon. Performed on the boats in riverfront parks on the Hudson River from Troy, NY to the Deitch Projects Gallery in New York City. August, 2009.

**The Night Sky.** (Writer) A play in development. Readings at New Dramatists (2006), Playwrights' Horizons (2006) The Lark (2007) and Playwrights' Center (2008). Directed by Kip Fagan.

**Bird Eye Blue Print.** (Writer and Performer) Site-Specific Performance created with Katie Pearl for a vacant office space in the World Financial Center., NYC. Word of Mouth Festival, 2007.

**Tale of a West Texas Marsupial Girl.** (Writer) A children's musical with music by Sxip Shirey. Children's Theater Company main stage production, Minneapolis, 2007, directed by Whit McLaughlin.

**Hide Town.** (Writer) Infernal Bridegroom Productions, Houston, TX, 2006, directed by Anthony Barilla.

**Stanley (2006).** (Writer and Director) Solo performance created for Lisa's brother Todd. HERE Arts Center, November, 2006, NYC. ArtSpot Productions Festival of Artistic Ancestry, New Orleans. December, 2006.

**The Cataract.** (Writer) Women's Project, New York City, April 2006, directed by Katie Pearl. Perishable Theater, Providence, Rhode Island, May, 2004, directed by Brooke O'Hara. Finalist for the Weissberger Award and Alternate for the Princess Grace Award, 2003.

**LandMARK: 24 Hours @ the Stone Arch Bridge.** (Producer and Collaborating Artist) A 24-hour multidisciplinary performance designed for and performed on the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis.

**Nita and Zita.** (Writer and Director) Created with performers Kathy Randels, Katie Pearl and jazz composer Tom Mc Dermott. Produced by ArtSpot Productions. 2005 Tour: Contemporary Arts Center (New Orleans); Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), HERE Arts Center (NYC). 2003 Tour: HERE Arts Center, NYC; Southern Repertory Theater (New Orleans) ALLGO, Austin, TX.

**Anna Bella Eema.** (Writer). Catastrophic Theater, directed by Jason Nodler, Houston, TX, 2009. Crowded Fire Theater, directed by Rebecca Novick, San Francisco, 2007. Gas and Electric Arts, directed by L.J. Epstein, Philadelphia, 2005. Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis, July 2002, directed by Michelle Hensley. New Georges, directed by Katie Pearl, New York, 2003. An early version of this play was produced by Physical Plant/Refraction Arts, Austin, TX, in 2001.

**Limo.** (Writer and Director) Site-Specific in the Altria Lobby. New York, May, 2004. Created with and performed by Katie Pearl, objects by Krista Kelley Walsh.

**SLABBER.** Solo performance installation, directed by Katie Pearl. Brown University, April, 2004; Women in Professional Theater Conference (Chicago) July, 2001, Frontera@Hyde Park Theater (Austin) February 2000; Intermedia Arts (Minneapolis) May, 1999; Red Eye Isolated Acts Festival (Minneapolis) *Austin Critics Table Award: Best Touring Show.*

**16 Spells to Charm the Beast.** Salvage Vanguard Theater, Austin, February 2003, directed by Deanna Shoemaker; Mary Worth Company, Minneapolis, November 2002, directed by Joel Sass; Clubbed Thumb @ HERE, NYC, June 2001 (workshop), directed by Anne Kauffman.

**Red Death.** Clubbed Thumb, NYC, Ohio Theater, May 2002, directed by Anne Kauffman; Red Eye Collaboration, Minneapolis, September 2001, directed by Steve Busa.

**3 Mutants: Plays about Girls.** Produced as part of a residency at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, April 2002, directed by Katie Pearl; Other Side Theater, Portland, OR, February 2001, dir. Charmian Kreggle; Bedlam Theater, Minneapolis, August 2002, dir. Sarah Garner.

**The Furies.** Adapted in collaboration with Michelle Hensley for Ten Thousand Things, Minneapolis. Produced November 2001, directed by Michelle Hensley.

**Cut Piece.** Performed Yoko Ono's CUT PIECE as part of the Y E S YOKO ONO exhibit. Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, April 2000. Internationale Sommerakademie, Kunsterhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany, August, 2004.

**The Parking Project.** Austin Scriptworks, Austin, June 2000. A site-specific work-in progress staged in a three-level parking garage, created with Katie Pearl and John Walch.

**Dress Me Blue/Window Me Sky.** Solo performance installation commissioned and produced by Frontera@Hyde Park Theater, Austin, January 1998, directed by Katie Pearl.

**St. Johns and the Suspended Vaudeville Apocalypse.** Site-specific play written for the St. John's suspension bridge in Portland, OR; Co-produced by Raindog Playwrights' Project and the Other Side Theater, June 1997. Directed by Lisa D'Amour.

**Into the O.** Solo Performance. Performances: Frontera@Hyde Park Theater, Austin, October 1996; Annex Theater, Seattle, December 1997; Zeitgeist Theater, N.O., March 1998.

## **COMISSIONS**

- Steppenwolf Theater, for two new untitled plays, 2009.
- Brookfield Properties/World Financial Center for *BIRD EYE BLUE PRINT, 2006-07.*
- Whitney Museum of Art, NY, for LIMO, 2004
- The Talking Band, New York, NY, for a serial play written with four other writers, 2003.
- Playwrights' Horizons, New York, NY, for an untitled play, 2003.
- The Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, for *Frostbite*, 2002.
- Children's Theater Company, Minneapolis, for *Ten Thousand Things*, Minneapolis, July 2002.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“Scavenging for Home.” **Theater in Crisis: Performance Manifestos for a New Century.** Maria Delgado and Caridad Svich, Editors. Manchester University Press, November 2002.

Interview with Djiana Milosevic and Kathy Randels. **Trans-global Readings: Crossing Theatrical Boundaries.** Caridad Svich, Editor. Manchester University Press, 2003

Agitating the Theater of the Perfectly Harmless. Text of lecture given at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 1999, published in Yale's *Theater Magazine*, vol. 31, no. 2.

Anna Bella Eema (2007), My California (2001), Frostbite (2002) and Red Death (2003) published by Playscripts, Inc.

Excerpts from SLABBER, LIMO and Dress Me Blue / Window Me Sky published in issue 3 of *Play: A Journal of Plays*. Sally Oswald and Jordan Harrison, eds.

My California also published in *Talk to Me: Monologue Plays*. Vintage Books, November, 2004.

## **CONFERENCES AND PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS**

Internationale Sommerakademie. Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany, August, 2005. Part of a U.S. team of artists at this international theater conference/academy; taught site-specific theater workshop and performed Yoko Ono's CUT PIECE.

Dah Teatar U.S. Tour. Organized lectures and performances for the Minneapolis leg of the International Tour of Dah Teatar from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, March, 2000.

International School of Theater Anthropology. Lisbon, Portugal, September 1998. Studied with teachers from Bali, Brazil, Japan, India and the United States. Director: Eugenio Barba.

Portland International Performance Festival. Portland State University, July 1996 and 1997. Performance training in Japanese Noh Drama (Akira Matsui), Kyogen and Butoh.

## **SELECT TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### ***Visiting Professor Positions***

Brown University. Visiting Professor in Theater. Collaborative Languages, Fall 2009, Special Topics in Playwriting, Spring 2010. Interim Director of MFA Playwriting, 2008-2009. Graduate Playwriting Workshop, Fall 2008, Special Topics in Theater, Spring 2008.

Iowa Playwrights' Workshop / University of Iowa. Visiting Professor of Playwriting. Taught Graduate and Undergraduate writing workshops for the Fall Semester, 2007.

University of Texas at Austin. Visiting Lecturer in Playwriting, Spring, 2003, Fall 2004. Taught a full load of Graduate and Undergraduate level playwriting courses.

### ***Guest Artist Positions***

Theatre de L'Opis. Montreal, CA. Guest Artist, with Brendan Connelly. 5 day workshop on writing, physical theater and vocal technique.

Brown University. Guest Artist. Two-day workshop on writing, objects and theater for Graduate

University of Rochester. Guest Playwriting Instructor. Seven-week playwriting course for undergraduates. Fall, 2006.

University of Northern Iowa. Guest artist. Directed a reading of one of my plays and taught a writing workshop to undergraduate students.

Smith College. Guest Artist. 3 day site-specific theater making workshop in the Theater Department, Spring, 2005.

Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design. Resident Artist, April, 2004. Performed a solo work, *SLABBER* and taught workshops to Brown Playwrights and RISDE students.

University of California at Santa Barbara. Guest Playwriting Instructor, March, 2004. Taught playwriting and solo performance to undergraduate theater majors for three weeks.

Hopkins Center @ Dartmouth College. Hanover, NH. One-week site-specific theater workshop culminating in performance with students. August, 2002. Co-taught with Katie Pearl.

### ***Other Playwriting and Performance Instruction***

Voice and Vision. Eight Week Playwriting course for women writers. Voice and Vision Theater, NYC, 2008 and 2007.

24 with Five. Playwriting Instructor. An innovative, collaboratively-led playwriting class at New Dramatists. 8 week playwriting course co-taught with Brooke Berman, Dominic Taylor, Karen Hartman and Liz Duffy Adams. Spring and Fall, 2006

Michael Howard Studios. Solo Performance for the Actor Instructor. Seven week course to teach actors how to write, shape and perform a 20 minute solo performance. Spring, 2006.

Director Mentor NYU (Playwrights' Horizons Studio). Mentored a fourth year undergraduate directing students as she rehearsed and produced her thesis project. Fall, 2005.

Director/Playwright Collaboration. Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis, MN. A one day workshop for directors. November, 2002.

Mindfulness and Writing. Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis, MN. A one day workshop focusing on integrating principles of Zen Buddhism into writing practice. November, 2002.

Walker Arts Center. Minneapolis, MN. Performance Art Workshop for high school girls. April, 2001.

Field/Play Multidisciplinary Artists' Laboratory. Program Leader, 2000-2001. Designed a 6-month performance laboratory designed to foster collaboration between seven artists of different disciplines. A program of 3 Legged Race New Theater and Performance, Minneapolis, MN.

Students at the Center. New Orleans, LA. Lead in-class writing workshops in two New Orleans public high schools. Students created monologues and plays based on the history of Congo Square (a gathering place for slaves in New Orleans) and the life of Oretha Castle Haley (a New Orleans civil rights worker)

### **EDUCATION**

M.F.A., Playwriting, University of Texas at Austin, 1996.

B.A. in Theater and English, Millersville College, York, PA, 1991