

BRENT HAZELTON

3236 S. Herman Street, Milwaukee, WI 53207
414.581.0961 / brenttylerhazelton@outlook.com

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NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT

Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Associate Artistic Director and Director of New Play Development

Since 2011

As the Associate Artistic Director and Director of New Play Development, I am the second of Milwaukee Rep's nine-person Artistic Staff, as well as the ten-person Senior Staff which consists of administrative Department Heads and the Artistic and Managing Directors. This challenging and demanding position was designed specifically to take best advantage of my strengths in leading and shaping the administrative life and artistic product of Milwaukee Rep. I report to the Artistic Director with secondary reporting responsibility to the Managing Director, and maintain positive and effective relationships with Trustees and donors, as well as peer staff members and generative artists and their representatives.

In 2011, I was tasked with rebuilding Milwaukee Rep's dormant Literary Department, which included establishing from the ground up a New Play Development program. Central to Artistic Director Mark Clements' vision, the New Play Development program focuses on commissioning new theater pieces, as well as seeking out quality extant scripts, in order to produce not less than three top-quality world premieres per season across all of Milwaukee Rep's theaters, and subsequently launch them into the contemporary theater canon. At the conclusion of the 2018/19 season, fifteen New Play Development plays will have been produced. I continually build new relationships in order to expand our network of key literary agents, producers, playwrights, and developmental organizations, and seek out and suggest potential projects, concepts, and creative personnel for commission. I work closely with each playwright and creative team as necessary to refine script drafts, as well as coordinate developmental readings and workshops, and serve as Production Dramaturg for many developed or premiere plays. Responsibilities also include writing grants and seeking out new-play-specific funding opportunities, as well as overseeing the almost \$2 million New Play Development budget. I supervise the Literary Resident, and represent Milwaukee Rep at significant national new play festivals. Additionally, the Literary Department solicits and evaluates extant scripts for season planning consideration; I review approximately 250 theater texts each season, and maintain a strong working knowledge of contemporary writers and new play development organizations.

PROFESSIONAL: FULL-LENGTH

Director of New Play Development / Production Dramaturg

Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE by Andrew Bovell, Directed by Mark Clements

- American Premiere, Quadracci Powerhouse (LORT B), 2019

- Text-based drama with heavy movement aesthetic exploring profound changes in contemporary working class family
- Subsequent Productions: American premiere co-production with Arizona Theatre Company (Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; 2019)

ONE HOUSE OVER by Catherine Trieschmann, Directed by Mark Clements

- World Premiere, Quadracci Powerhouse (LORT B), 2018
- Text-based drama exploring concept of boundaries through lens of immigration and elder care
- *Closed as top-ten best-selling world premiere in Quadracci Powerhouse history (since 1987)*
- Edgerton Foundation New Play Award
- Subsequent Productions: world premiere co-production with Geva Theatre Center (Rochester, New York; 2018)

SIRENS OF SONG written and directed by Kevin Ramsey

- Commission; World Premiere, Stackner Cabaret (LORT D), 2016
- Musical revue celebrating the journey of American women in the 20th Century composed of choreo-poem narrative and iconic songs

AMERICAN SONG by Joanna Murray-Smith, Directed by Mark Clements

- Commission; World Premiere, Quadracci Powerhouse (LORT B), 2016
- Solo-performer, text-based narrative exploring fractures in contemporary American cultural discourse from the perspective of the parent of a high school shooting perpetrator
- *Successfully supported and launched many flagship Community Engagement programs*
- Edgerton Foundation New Play Award

BACK HOME AGAIN: ON THE ROAD WITH JOHN DENVER by Randal Myler and Dan Wheatman, Directed by Randal Myler, Musical Direction by Dan Wheatman

- World Premiere, Stackner Cabaret (LORT D), 2015
- Musical revue with textual narrative exploring the nature of life as a touring musician and the biography of John Denver.
- *Closed as top-ten best-selling production in Stackner Cabaret history (since 1987)*
- Subsequent Productions: Ivoryton Playhouse (Essex, Connecticut; 2016)

THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC ALL AROUND US by Stephen Wade / Directed by Brent Hazelton, Musical Direction by Stephen Wade

- World Premiere, Stackner Cabaret (LORT D), 2015
- Musical revue adaptation of scholarly text exploring unknown American folk music and traditions

FIVE PRESIDENTS by Rick Cleveland / Directed by Mark Clements

- Commission; World Premiere, Quadracci Powerhouse (LORT B), 2015
- Text-based dramatic comedy exploring what might have been when the five living American Presidents gathered for Richard Nixon's funeral
- *Closed as Top-Ten Best-Selling Production and Best-Selling World Premiere in Quadracci Powerhouse history (since 1987)*

- Subsequent Productions: world premiere co-production with Arizona Theater Company (Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; 2015), Bay Street Theatre (Sag Harbor, New York; 2015)

Director of New Play Development / Developmental Dramaturg

Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

GRANDMA'S EMPANADS by KJ Sanchez / Directed by KJ Sanchez

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Documentary narrative with music exploring Latin culture in Milwaukee through the lens of cultural and culinary traditions brought by immigration

HOOTENANNY by David Lutken

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Musical revue exploring four different strands of folk music narrative featuring heavy audience participation in playing of music

THE NOT-SO-ACCIDENTAL CONVICTION OF ELEVEN MILWAUKEE
“ANARCHISTS” by Martín Zimmerman

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Text-based drama using story from Milwaukee’s history to explore contemporary intersection of evangelical religion and extremist politics

UNDER THE HOAN BRIDGE by Catherine Trieschmann

- Work in Progress
- Text-based narrative exploring evolution of friendships over time via Milwaukee’s Summerfest

GEORGE AND EMILY by Jonathan Gillard Daly

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Text-based exploration of aging and second chances

BEER PROJECT TBD by Michael Kroeker

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Exploration of all things beer in a variety show format with music

Director of New Play Development

Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

AMERICAN DERVISH by Ayad Akhtar

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Text-based adaptation of novel of the same name exploring roots and impacts of religious zealotry on young people

RUN BAMBI RUN by Eric Simonson and Gordon Gano

- Commission; Work in Progress

- Full-length book musical exploring American fascination with sensationalism through story of Lawrenca Bembenek

THE NATIVITY VARIATIONS by Catherine Trieschmann

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Text-based comic drama exploring Christian nativity traditions and larger human need for ritual

NEW AGE by Dael Orlandersmith

- Commission; Work in Progress
- Text-based narrative exploring aging and its impacts

ANTONIO'S SONG by Dael Orlandersmith / Directed by Mark Clements

- Work in Progress
- Text-based narrative with heavy movement aesthetic exploring lives of those who fall between clear cultural identities and legacy of abuse

MARK TWAIN'S RIVER OF SONG by Randal Myler and Dan Wheatman / Directed by Randal Myler, Musical Direction by Dan Wheatman

- Commission; World Premiere, Stackner Cabaret (LORT D), 2019
- Musical revue highlighting American music from along Mississippi River with connective text by Mark Twain

THE CHINESE LADY by Lloyd Suh / Directed by May Adrales

- Second Production, Stiemke Studio (LORT D), 2019
- Text-based drama exploring racism and cultural tourism in America

SONGS FOR NOBODIES by Joanna Murray-Smith / Directed by Laura Braza

- American Premiere, Stackner Cabaret (LORT D), 2018
- Musical revue highlighting iconic women's songs with textual narrative of the everyday lives their artists influenced

AFTER ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS I DO by A. Rey Pamatmat / Directed by May Adrales

- World Premiere, Stiemke Studio (LORT D), 2014
- Text-based drama exploring gender identity and bullying in queer community
- *ATCA Award Nomination*
- Subsequent Productions: Huntington Theatre Company (Boston, Massachusetts; 2015), About Face Theatre (Chicago, Illinois; 2015)

Dramaturgy Consultant

Melbourne Theatre Company (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)

THREE LITTLE WORDS by Joanna Murray-Smith / Directed by Sarah Goodes

- World Premiere, The Sumner, 2017
- Text-based comedy exploring the nature of long-term relationships and the ripping repercussions when seemingly stable marriages dissolve