

ANYA MARTIN

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Theatre Producer, Director, Playwright, Teacher

Hiawatha Project is an original performance company that explores specific social questions through myth, free association, and movement.

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EXPERIENCE



Founding Artistic and Producing Director of Hiawatha Project,
Lead Playwright and Director

Hiawatha Project was founded in 2011 with a heart for social justice and a desire to create relevant original performances through an innovative development process connecting professional artists with community members through the making of professional theatre.

Hiawatha first major work "Camino" premiered in 2011, as a poetic exploration of the consequences of laws such as Arizona SB 1070, and exposed the profitable business of private immigrant detention centers in the U.S. Three years in the making, "Camino" was praised as "smart, sharp and witty, not to mention spoken in three languages" (City Paper) with "scenes of imagination and poetic insight" (Pittsburgh P.G.)

In 2017 the company premiered "JH: Mechanics of a Legend" a show that was over four years in the making with a diverse ensemble of artists and academic experts. "JH" melds the language of mechanics, century old ballads and primary historical records to explore the legend of John Henry. "JH" was awarded a prestigious August Wilson Center Programming grant for \$50,000 and was praised as, "a fever dream of history that combines folklorically large emotions with a winnowing read on a nation's past" which will "will alternately rouse you and break your heart." (City Paper.)

Developed over two years by a team of professional artists who are also the mothers to young children, "My Traveling Song" premiered in the spring of 2019. "MTS" is an interactive original play with music especially made for children ages 1-5, the young at heart, and the grown-ups who love them. Critic Wendy Arons of the Pittsburgh Tatler wrote that "...both young children and their adult minders were captivated..." All 14 performances sold out.

In the thick of the pandemic, in April of 2020, Hiawatha engineered a tactile immersive experience to coincide with a free online viewing of the original "My Traveling Song" production. Available for just 48 hours, the performance was experienced by about 300 quarantining children and parents from Pittsburgh to San Francisco, Ireland and Australia.

In September of 2021, Hiawatha will remount "My Traveling Song" in a co-production with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust as a part of the International Children's Festival.

Hiawatha Project was a recipient of the August Wilson Center Programing for \$50,000 in 2016 and is a recipient of numerous prestigious funding awards from: AER Capacity Building, The August Wilson Center Legacy Fund, Brooks Foundation, Heinz Small Arts Initiative, Opportunity Fund, Spout Fund, PA Council of the Arts, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and PNC Charities. Hiawatha Project's "JH: Mechanics of a Legend" was chosen to be presented as a part of the New Hazlett Theatre CSA Series in 2015. Hiawatha Project's "Camino" was presented as a part of "TENACITY: Sprout's 10th Anniversary Retrospective" with an installation presented as a part of the Three Rivers Arts Festival Juried Show in 2013.

For More Information please see www.HiawathaProject.org

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE (selected)

My Traveling Song	Book by Anya Martin Lyrics by Monica Stephenson	Hiawatha Project, Carnegie Stage, Pittsburgh	2019
Wade	Isaac Gomez	Pittsburgh City Theatre, New Works Reading, Pitts.	2019
I Get Restless	Caroline McGraw	Pittsburgh City Theatre, New Works Readings, Pitts.	2017
JH: Mechanics of a Legend	Anya Martin, Monteze Freeland	Hiawatha Project, August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA	2017
Between Us and Grace	Clare Drobot, Nathan Zoob	New Hazlett CSA Series, Pittsburgh PA	2017
Unmanned	Robert Myers	Humanities Center, Carnegie Mellon University, Pitts.	2016
JH: Mechanics of a Legend	Anya Martin	Hiawatha Project & New Hazlett CSA Series, Pittsburgh	2015
Young Playwrights Readings	Various Playwrights	CMU Drama School, City Theatre Company, Pittsburgh	2014 & 2015
Muslims, Mennonites and Mommies	Anya Martin	ArtUp, Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh	2013
Camino	Anya Martin	Hiawatha Project, Dance Alloy Studios, Pittsburgh	2011
Jet Lag (Asst. Dir. to Marianne Weems)	Jessica Chalmers	Builders Association, Baryshnikov Center, NYC	2011
The Contingency Plan	Steve Waters	Center for Arts in Society, Eco-Drama Readings, Pitts,	2011
Atomic Farmgirl	C. Denby Swanson	Studio for Creative Inq., Frick Envir. Sch. Readings., Pitts.	2010
Young Playwrights Festival	Various Playwrights	City Theatre Company, Hamburg Theatre, Pittsburgh	2008 & 2009
Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Clause	Robin Walsh	Bricolage Production Company, Bus 4, Pittsburgh	2010
Teatro Latino De Pittsburgh	Anya Martin	Pittsburgh 250 Celebrations, Open Stage, Pittsburgh	2010
Anthropological Data	Anya Martin	Carnegie Mellon, International Festival, Pittsburgh	2008
Free Space	Tara Meddaugh	Six Figures Theatre, West End Theatre, NYC	2008
Bertrand Priest	Ian Cohen	Epiphany Theatre Company, Fall Readings, NYC	2004
Away in a Manger	Julie Jensen	Theatre-Studio, Inc; TSI/Playtime Series, NYC	2004
Crimes of the Heart	Beth Henley	Steinman Theatre, Lancaster Country Day Sch., PA	2006
Anthropological Data	Anya Martin	Steinman Theatre, Lancaster Country Day Sch., PA	2006
Bulba	Daniel John Kelley	MFA Thesis, Suzanne Werner Wright Theatre, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY	2005
Pullman Car Hiawatha	Thornton Wilder	Downstage Theatre, SLC Bronxville, NY	2005
Troop Train - futurist puppet show	Anya Martin	Frances Anne Cannon Theatre, SLC Bronxville NY	2005
Gint	Romulus Linney	BFA Thesis, Wells Studio Theatre, Carnegie Mellon, Pitts.	2003
Alarm Clock	Matt Shatz	New Works One Act Festival, Checco Studio, CMU, Pitts.	2002

PLAYWRITING EXPERIENCE (selected)

* Mother(Land) Will Teach You That	Winner of the Silver Ear in the 2nd international Hear Me Out Monologue Contest produced by Roland Tec	2021
My Traveling Song	Writer and Director, Carnegie Stage, Pittsburgh Children's International Festival, Richard Rauh Theatre, Point Park University	2019 & 2021
* Helen at the Gym	Red Bull 8th Annual Short New Play Festival, Lucille Lortel Theatre, New York, NY (*Winner, staged between works by Tina Howe and Doug Wright) Published by Stage Rights	2018
JH: Mechanics of a Legend	Writer and Director, Producer for Hiawatha Project & New Hazlett Theater (CSA Series), August Wilson Center, Pittsburgh	2015 & 2017
Muslims, Mennonites and Mommies	Writer and Director, Actor for ArtUp, Mattress Factory Museum, Pittsburgh	2011
Camino	Writer and Director, Full Production, Dance Alloy Studios, Pittsburgh Staged Reading, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pierce Studio, Pittsburgh Workshop Production. Grav Box Theatre. Pittsburgh	2011 2010 2010
The Chloroform Gang	Commissioned for Midnight Radio Series, Bricolage Production Company, Pitts.	2009
Anthropological Data	Writer and Director, International Festival, CMU, Staged Reading, McConomy Theatre, Pittsburgh	2008
Those Before US	Writer's Gym Reading Series, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY	2006
Let All Who Have Ears Here	Writer, Staged Reading, 15th St. Quaker Meeting House, NYC	2003

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND ASSOCIATIONS (selected)

* Silver Ear Winner, Short Form Hear Me Out Monologue Competition	2021
With over 400 submissions worldwide, 13 writers were chosen as finalists for the Hear Me Out New American Monologue Competition. The finalists' pieces were performed live (via Zoom) in front of an audience of nearly 300 people during the Labor Day Festival on September 6, 2021. Festival judges Gretchen Cryer, Gary Garrison, Christine Toy Johnson, Craig Lucas, Austin Pendleton, and Charlayne Woodard.	
Here Me Out Monologue Competition Judge for 2020	2020
Nearly 400 writers from 43 U.S. States and countries throughout Europe, the Middle East and far away as New Zealand submitted their monologues. 60 judges formed the National Judges Circle including Julie Jensen, Kia Corthron, Kate Snodgrass, Doug Wright and Gary Garrison.	
National New Play Exchange Member	2019
The New Play Exchange, A National New Play Network Project, is the world's largest digital library of scripts by living writers. The mission of the New Play Exchange is to provide an open egalitarian platform on which writers all over the world can share their work and others can discover that work.	
* Playwright Winner for "Helen at the Gym" Red Bull 8th Annual Short New Play Festival, Lucille Lortel Theatre, New York, NY. Published with Stage Rights.	2018
Red Bull Theater's annual Short New Play Festival generates new short plays of classic themes and heightened language, presenting 6 winners each year, in a one-night only festival performance with some of New York's finest actors and directors. In its first ten years, the commissioned playwrights have included Marcus Gardley, John Guare, Jeremy O. Harris, David Ives, Ellen McLaughlin, Dael Orlandersmith, Theresa Rebeck, Anne Washburn, Doug Wright. Stage Rights has published a 4-volume collection of the plays from the first 8 years of Red Bull Theater's annual Short New Play Festival as RED BULL SHORTS. "Helen at the Gym" was staged between works by Tina Howe and Doug Wright.	
<i>*Featured as the #1 pick by "OnTheStage" blog for "9 Easy-to-Stage Shows for Virtual Production"</i> https://blog.onthestage.com/10-great-shows-for-small-socially-distanced-casts-0	
Dramatist Guild Member	2016 to Present
The Dramatists Guild of America is the national, professional membership trade association of theatre writers including playwrights, composers, lyricists, and librettists.	
Nominated for the 2016 Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Award - Emerging Artist*, Pittsburgh	2016
The Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Awards are jointly sponsored by The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments as part of Investing in Professional Artists. Twenty-four nominees visual arts are submitted.	
New Hazlett Community Supported Art (CSA) Performance Series, Pittsburgh	2014 & 2015
One of six artists chosen to represent the New Hazlett's Community Supported Art Performance Series. The CSA Performance Series is a new model of a subscription series that supports local artists in the creation of new work and establishes new relationships with local patrons. Performing artists of many genres are selected through a competitive application process.	
* Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP 2013, 40 Under 40 Award Winner, Pittsburgh	2013
The 40 Under 40 Awards honor forty influential Pittsburgh individuals under the age of forty who are working to make Pittsburgh a more innovative, caring and socially conscious city.	
Artist in Residence at the New Hazlett Theater, Pittsburgh	2013 & 2014
Artist in Residence at New Hazlett Theater whose mission is to cultivate the arts and provide and provide a venue for world-class cultural events.	
Artist in Residence at the Center for the Arts in Society, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh	2010 & 2011
Artist in Residence at CAS whose mission is to explore the role of arts in society – the place and impact of the arts both in the workings of social power and in processes of social change and the ways in which diverse forms of social and political engagement have shaped the history of the arts and might drive their transformation in the future.	
Flight School Fellow 2011 with Pittsburgh Filmmakers and Creative Capital, Pittsburgh	2011
A member of the inaugural class of Flight School Fellows. The Flight School Fellowship is a prestigious opportunity for fifteen artists in the Pittsburgh region to form a fellowship with artists peers and advance their artists careers in a way that sustains and expands financial and strategic goals, while keeping their artwork as the central feature.	
International Wow Company member, New York, NY	2005 & 2006
Former actor and theatre company member of Josh Fox's International Wow Company, an award winning internationally recognized NYC Theatre Company. Josh Fox is the director of the Sundance Films GASLAND, GASLAND II, and How to Let Go of the World.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (selected)

Guest Panelist, New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY Served as a juror for the capstone presentations of "Self Start: The Fundamentals of Artistic Entrepreneurship"	2021
* Adjunct Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, School of Drama, Pittsburgh, PA Taught Fundamentals of Directing and Directing for Designers to drama students. Classes focused on understanding of stage space, sustaining dramatic tension, and the process of creating devised works.	2010 - 2017
Guest Director, Carnegie Mellon University, School of Drama Pre-College, Pittsburgh, PA Guest Teacher and Director for the School of Drama Pre-College Directing Class. Taught Viewpoints and Composition work to rising seniors in high school.	2014 & 2015
Playwright and Director, Pittsburgh 250 Celebrations, Pittsburgh Commissioned to write and direct a staged reading of new play about immigration and labor in Pittsburgh, inspired by the novel <i>Out of This Furnace</i> by Thomas Bell. Collaborated with Latino community leaders as well as eighteen teenagers and young adults in weekly theatre workshops to create Teatro Latino de Pittsburgh, performed at Open Stage Theatre in Pittsburgh in 2008.	2008
Workshop Leader, The Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, CMU, Pittsburgh Led workshop entitled, "Theatre for a Reason; Creating Original Issue Driven Theatre with an Ensemble." Presented exercises and tools for artists striving to create original theatrical work around social issues. A four hour workshop presented at Carnegie Mellon University, School of Drama.	2008
Teaching Artist, Castillo Theatre, New York, NY Led workshop in ensemble creation, and discussions about immigration issues in collaboration with Brian Mullin, then head Youth Onstage! program for NYC's urban youth and young adults.	2007
* Head of Theatre Department; Theatre Teacher & Director, Lancaster Country Day School, Lancaster, PA Full time faculty member for rigorous independent college preparatory school. Taught grades 8-12 and developed all curriculums and lesson plans. Classes included: Beginning Playwriting, Acting Shakespeare, Monologue Study, Scene Study (Advanced Acting and Directing), and Beginning Acting. Directed three shows, one each trimester. See Directing Experience. Academic advisor to nine students.	2006 & 2007
Adjunct Professor in Acting, SUNY, Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY Taught Intro to Theater to college students, focusing on collaboration, imagination and basic acting techniques used in scene work.	2006 & 2007
Teaching Artist, Andrus on Hudson, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY Taught weekly classes to seniors focusing on oral histories and videography to create a community of storytellers.	2005

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS (selected)

Roland Tec Online Advanced Writers Workshop Roland has been a fellow at the Byrdcliffe Artists Colony and at the MacDowell Colony. Mr. Tec is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America, American Composers Forum, the Producers Guild of America and is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect. Roland Tec is an Assistant Professor in the MFA Program in Playwriting at Hollins University and is a Dramatists Guild Institute faculty member. He's frequently invited to offer his groundbreaking workshops to artists nationwide.	2021
Playwriting Master Class with Tammy Ryan, Pittsburgh PA Tammy has been supported by the National New Play Network, The New Harmony Project, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sewanee Writers' Conference, The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. She is a resident playwright at New Dramatists and a longtime member of the Dramatists Guild of America. Her work is published by Broadway Play Publishing, Dramatists Play Service, Dramatic Publishing, and Playscripts.	2020
La Pocha Nostra workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Pena and ArtUp, Pittsburgh, PA Chosen participant in artist workshops with Guillermo Gomez-Pena, MacArthur Genius Award winner, National Book Award winner, international performer and lecturer, and Director of La Pocha Nostra.	2010
Suzuki and Noh Theatre Workshop with Izumi Ashizama, Pittsburgh, PA Participant in rigorous Suzuki workshop master class which incorporated elements of Noh Theatre led by award winning director, teacher and performer Izumi Ashizama UNESCO-Aschberg Award winner, among others.	2010

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)

Advisor & Theater Teacher Pittsburgh	Advisor to social action arts group of Latino young people entitled "Jovenes Sin Nombres." Led creative workshops to develop material for Pittsburgh's first Latino mural unveil in November 2010, entitled "Pintado Para Un Sueno."	2009 - 2012
Director The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh	Traveled to the Cork Midsummer Festival in Ireland to serve as a director and arts liaison between the Center for Arts in Society, the Cultural Trust, and the Cork Festival. Reviewed new work entitled "FML" directed by Pol Hayvaert of Belgium for a possible collaboration between the Festival and the Cultural Trust.	2010
Theatre Critic and Writer Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh	Paid blogger for the Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts' website and promotional materials. Wrote critical theatre reviews for all theatre and dance performances. Interviewed international and local artists for preview articles.	2008
Communications Coordinator Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama, Pittsburgh	Managed all public relations and marketing for the School of Drama. Managed the entire School of Drama audition tour, a process which spans four cities and auditions almost 1500 students for 60 spots. Managed and oversaw the creation of a new website for the school over the course of a year-long development period. Created a system of tours and visit protocols for prospective students. Worked extensively with the CMU Admissions Department.	2008 - 2011
Assistant to the Head of School Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama, Pittsburgh	Assisted the Head of the School of Drama with all day-to-day activities as well as managed all calendars and meetings. Managed all monthly meetings for heads of departments within the School of Drama. Guided the play season selection process. Administered all faculty search committees and guest artist visits. Managed and oversaw a prestigious Advisory Board visit and all corresponding documents, as well as a Middle States College accreditation visit and documentation.	2007 & 2008
Literary Assistant The Vineyard Theatre, New York, NY	Assisted Associated Artistic Director in reading script submissions and wrote detailed critiques of submissions in regard to production recommendations. Assisted with membership newsletters and updates.	2003 & 2004
Theatre Outreach & Education Intern Arena Stage, Washington, DC	Assisted in teaching dramatic workshops with D.C. urban school teachers in collaboration with Arena Stage's then outreach theatre, The Living Stage. Visited local schools and assisted in educational discussions and dramaturgical information regarding Arena Stage's main stage season.	2001

EDUCATION

Sarah Lawrence College
Masters of Fine Arts in Theatre
Concentration in original theatre creation
and experimental styles
Bronxville, NY

Carnegie Mellon University, School of Drama
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama Directing
Magna Cum Laude Graduate
School and College Honors
Minor in Creative Writing
Pittsburgh, PA