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PROFILE

Rachel is a performance maker, cultural producer, and community organizer. She works nationally in both the USA and the UK with a focus on developing new plays and installations for stage and public spaces. Her approach is collaborative, her aesthetic is light and flexible with a close attention to visual design and productions often incorporate original live music and rich choreography as narrative vehicles. Recent productions include *Museum of Our Forgotten Selves* (Cambridge/Coventry, UK), *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* and *Be Here Now* (Aurora Theatre, Atlanta), *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* (7Stages, Atlanta), *Opera in the Shower* (Works on Water, NYC and Art on the Beltline, Atlanta), *The Drum Major Project* (city-wide, Atlanta).

Currently, Rachel is Artistic Director of the *Little Five Arts Alive* Creative Placemaking initiative, is Adjunct Faculty in the Center for the Study of Human Health at Emory University, serves on the Charting Board of the Little Five Points Alliance as well as on the Arts Advocacy Committee for C4 Atlanta. In the UK she is collaborating with arts and research partners to develop an interactive audio-adventure animating the inner life of infants for adult audiences. In NYC she is finalizing a multi-year project as Resident Artist at CUNY's Dispute Resolution Centre working with members of the New York Police Department's Hostage Negotiation Team to develop an arts-based compassion-training course for police officers, with a book forthcoming in 2019.

Rachel trained in the UK on the National Theatre Studio Director's Course, and received her MA with distinction from the Central School of Speech and Drama. In the USA she studied at the University of Georgia, with LaMama ETC and the SITI Company, and is a graduate of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab.

PRODUCTIONS

THEATRE, 2004-2018

Director	<i>Be Here Now</i>	Aurora Theatre, Atlanta	by <i>Deb Zoe Laufer</i>
Director	<i>Revolt. She Said.</i>		
	<i>Revolt Again.</i>	7Stages Theatre, Atlanta	by <i>Alice Birch</i>
Director	<i>Throw me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up</i>	Aurora Theatre, Atlanta	by <i>Lucy Alibar</i>
Dramaturg	<i>Knead</i>	Alliance Theatre, Atlanta	by <i>Mary-Lynn Owen</i>
Director/Deviser	<i>Manifesting Destiny</i>	Corbett Theatre, E15, London	by <i>the Company</i>
Co-creator	<i>Controlled Explosions</i>	Theatre Absolute, Coventry	by <i>the Company</i>
Director and co-author	<i>Hellscreen</i>	The Vaults, London	by <i>Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and Rachel Parish</i>
Director	<i>Camino Real</i>	East15, London	by <i>Tennessee Williams</i>
Director	<i>Soon until Forever</i>	Theatre 503, London	by <i>Shireen Mula</i>
Director and Co-Author	<i>Superjohn</i>	The Garage, Norwich	by <i>Titania Krimpas and Rachel Parish</i>
		Governor's Hall, London	
		Pleasance Two, Edinburgh	
		Evelina Children's Hospital, London	
		UK tour, Spring 2013	
Director	<i>Other People's Gardens</i>	Arcola Theatre, London	by <i>Kenneth Emson</i>
Director	<i>Arabian Nights</i>	City Lit Theatre, London	by <i>Mary Zimmerman</i>
Director	<i>Caucasian Chalk Circle</i>	Royal & Derngate, Northampton	by <i>Bertolt Brecht</i>
Director	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	The Scoop, London	by <i>William Shakespeare</i>
Director	<i>The Alchemist (after Jonson)</i>	Hoxton Hall, London	by <i>the Company</i>

Director	<i>Elevator</i>	New Diorama, London	<i>by Gabriel Pintilei</i>
Director/Deviser	<i>Stella (after Goethe)</i>	Southwark Playhouse, London	<i>by the Company</i>
		Douglass Theatre, Macon, Georgia	
Director/Deviser	<i>Grimethorpe Race (musical)</i>	Arcola Theatre, London	<i>by the Company</i>
Director	<i>The Silents</i>	The Albany, London	<i>by the Company</i>
		The Hive, Brighton	
Director	<i>Salsa Saved The Girls</i>	The Old Red Lion, London	<i>by Rose Martula</i>
Director	<i>No Going Back</i>	The Tabard Theatre, London	<i>by Simon Warne</i>
Director	<i>Old O'Malley</i>	Southwark Playhouse, London	<i>by Sam Holcroft</i>
Director	<i>The Journey</i>	Southwark Playhouse, London	<i>by the Company</i>
Director	<i>Lunch</i>	Kings Head Theatre, London	<i>by Steven Berkoff</i>
Director	<i>The Long Engagement</i>	Kings Head Theatre, London	<i>by Matthew Smith</i>
Asst Director	<i>Venus and Adonis (Opera)</i>	Wilton's Music Hall, London	<i>dir. Netia Jones</i>
Asst Director	<i>The Archbishop's Ceiling</i>	Southwark Playhouse, London	<i>dir. Gareth Machin</i>
Asst Director	<i>Anna Karenina (musical)</i>	Kings Head Theatre, London	<i>dir. Ray Wright</i>
Asst Director	<i>Three On A Couch</i>	Kings Head Theatre, London	<i>dir. Andy Jordan</i>
Asst Director	<i>Edge</i>	Kings Head Theatre, London	<i>dir. Paul Alexander</i>

INSTALLATIONS, 2007-2018

Creator	<i>The Drum Major Project</i>	City-wide participatory public art, Atlanta
Lead Artist	<i>Hope in Action</i>	Peachtree Gallery, Atlanta
Lead Artist	<i>Museum of Our Forgotten Selves</i>	Alliance Theatre, Atlanta
		Shop Front Festival, Coventry
		Cambridge Science Festival
Creator	<i>Opera in the Shower</i>	Works on Water, Zucotti Park, NYC
Lead Artist	<i>And Some Are Hidden in Plain Sight</i>	Duke University, Durham, NC
Co-Creator	<i>You Are Here</i>	All Change Festival International
Co-Creator	<i>I Confess</i>	Tate Britain, London
and Director		Latitude Festival, UK
		HighTide Festival, UK
		The Blysh Festival, UK
		The Standpoint Gallery, London
		Nabokov Arts Club, London
		Greenbelt Festival, UK
		The Pleasance Courtyard, Edinburgh, UK
		Southwark Playhouse, London, UK
Creator	<i>London Eyes America</i>	Central School of Speech and Drama, London
Creator	<i>StoryStation</i>	CASA Latin American Theatre Festival, London
		Museum of Broken Relationships, London
		Peking University, Beijing
		Nu:Write Festival, Zagreb
		Nabakov Arts Club, London
		Hoxton Market, London
		Seven Dials' Festival, London
		St. Thomas' Hospital, London
		Southwark Playhouse, London
		Battersea Arts Centre, London
		Tristan Bates Theatre, London
		Arts Exchange, Macon, GA
		Bibb Senior Citizens Centre, Macon, GA
Creator	<i>Careful</i>	Museum of Broken Relationships, London

STAGED READINGS, 2003-2018

Rachel has directed over 15 staged readings of new plays at venues including Project Space, Dublin; in London at The Arcola Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Soho Theatre, Tristan Bates Theatre, the Romanian Cultural Institute and at the Kings Head Theatre; in Atlanta at 7Stages, Theatre Emory, The Bakery and PushPush

Theatre; in New York at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe and the Lark. Her focus has been on close dramaturgical work on plays in development and on plays in translation.

CREATIVE APPOINTMENTS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, FIREHOUSE, UK AND USA — 2009-CURRENT

As founder and Artistic Director of Firehouse Creative Productions, Rachel has designed and initiated each project including creating twelve original shows, seven community engagement programs and three international performance festivals. Our projects are multilayered initiatives designed to engage three distinct communities: audiences with limited access to the arts, artists who are looking to push their own practice into new territories, and traditional arts audiences. Examples of initiatives that sit alongside professional performance productions are:

Big Idea Workshops: an annual week-long interdisciplinary arts incubator workshop exploring the contemporary relationship to ideas including Power, Belief, and Time. The incubators have resulted in six produced shows, two new companies, and numerous collaborative performance research projects.

Firesides: a monthly dinner gathering for food, culture, conversation and collaboration involving both artists and non-artists.

Tesseract: An intergenerational story-sharing program promoting memory function in the elderly with cognitive deficits and literacy in at-risk youth.

Re-locate: A residential artist's retreat to develop projects, providing a unique place for artists to explore their work within an underserved community to heighten the insight for the artist vis-à-vis the cultural value of their work.

Bread and Roses: A three-year arts-based resiliency-building program for at-risk girls in Macon, GA, USA. Bread and Roses consists of a year round program of engagement, and a month long summer intensive for up to 17 girls between the ages of 7-13, with a team of five professional artists and a consortium of local partners to deliver the ongoing program of activities.

Drum Major Project: A city-wide civic arts engagement commemorating the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's funeral through collaboration with diverse communities, artists, and activists. This project engaged over 2000 participants in workshops and hundreds more participating in the March for Humanity, retracing the steps of King's funeral procession on the anniversary itself.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, LITTLE FIVE ARTS ALIVE, HORIZON THEATRE—2016-CURRENT

Rachel has developed and curated an outdoor arts festival featuring live and interactive performing arts on Findley and Davis Plazas running every weekend for six months (Apr-Oct) for the past three years. Funded by ArtPlace America and initiated through a partnership between Horizon Theatre and the Little Five Points Community Improvement District, this project involves developing deep and continued connections between diverse community stakeholders and contributing to fundraising of over \$750,000 for a physical redevelopment of the plazas in addition to programming and presenting over 500 artists from across the nation. Duties also include oversight of the development of all project systems and recruitment and management of project staff.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ALL CHANGE INTERNATIONAL – 2013 - 2014

Rachel is the founder and Artistic Director of *All Change Festival*, a free, boundary busting performance festival in five countries with over 50 performances in 2014 alone. All Change was initiated as an avenue to interrogate contemporary international performance practice with artists and audiences alike and was structured as a celebration of local creativity in a globalised and urbanised world. The Lyric Hammersmith hosted our 2014 festival in London, with satellite partners in Reykjavik, Iceland; Augsburg, Germany; and New York and New Orleans, USA. The 2013 festival was held in London at Theatre 503, with over 50 artists presenting new performance and holding cross disciplinary discussions on the current status of new performance making in Britain with a focus on international influences on makers and audiences.

ASSOCIATE ARTIST, TRESTLE THEATRE TAKING PART, ST. ALBANS, UK — 2009-2010

Rachel co-directed and devised large-scale, site-specific, promenade community plays, working particularly with two age-groups of local young people (6-9yrs and 10-14yrs). Productions include *Out of Sight*, *Out of Mind*, a production using real life stories to explore the history and continuing impact of the closure of a local mental institution and *1215*, a celebration of the history of Saint Albans in relation to the Magna Carta.

CURATOR, SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE, LONDON, UK — MAY-OCT 2008

With a team of two, Rachel designed, launched and programmed Southwark Playhouse *Secrets*—a platform for emerging performing artists to present work in non-traditional performance spaces. Presenting four productions per week, the work included live music, visual arts installations, interactive dance, cabaret, spoken word, poetry, and more. Managerial duties included programming, marketing, making alliances with people from the local community, arts organizations and businesses, and audience and artist development.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS AND RESIDENCIES

ADJUNCT FACULTY, EMORY UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA JAN 2016-CURRENT

Teaching classes for majors and non-majors in both the Department of Theatre Studies and the Center for the Study of Human Health. Classes include *Practicing Presence*, *Introduction to Theatre*, *Collaborative Theatre and the Creative Process*, and an experimental interdisciplinary course entitled *Reading a Scene*, focusing on awareness and nonverbal communication in theatre and medical practice.

RESIDENT ARTIST, JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER, NYC JAN 2013-DEC 2016

Multi-year collaboration with the head of the New York Police Department's Hostage Negotiation Team to develop an arts-based compassion-training course for police officers. We developed a program that used storytelling and actor training techniques to facilitate sensitivity training that was reflexive—that allowed the law enforcement officials to engage with their own vulnerabilities as well as the vulnerabilities of the communities that they encountered, on a deeply sensory and personal level. As part of the project design I included a phase of collaboration with six performance poets who participated in the training activities themselves, and created a series of performance poems and one fully produced play in response to the experience. A book is forthcoming from Hamline University Press in 2019.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, DUKE UNIVERSITY, APRIL 2015-APRIL 2016

A year-long placement engaging students, faculty and staff with the creative and educational role that Failure plays in their lives. Outputs included a sports recruitment day for the National Failure League (NFL), a student driven interactive performance engaging repetition and failure; creating a series of success/failure images to display in the Lilly Library; creating an interactive installation entitled *And Some Are Hidden in Plain Sight*; and presenting a Campus Talk entitled *Creating Safe Spaces to Fail: Risk, Experimentation and Creativity*.

TUTOR, 'EXPRESSIONISM IN TEXT', EAST15 DRAMA SCHOOL, UK--OCT-DEC 2013

Guiding devising Contemporary Theatre students to handle written texts and understand expressionism.

TUTOR, DEVISING AND ADAPTATION, CITYLIT, LONDON, UK--FEB-MAY 2012

Working with final year acting students with a foundation in working with written texts, Rachel guided students to explore approaches to devising from classic texts and collaborative approaches to adaptation.

TUTOR, BRECHT AND DEVISING, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON, UK FEB-APRIL 2012

Course tutor covering Brecht in historical context and approaches to devising around a classic text. Outputs included a post-dramatic performance with collaborative composition of over 30 original songs.

VISITING ARTIST, IDEAS FOR CREATIVE EXPLORATION, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ATHENS, GA — JAN 2012

Two week interdisciplinary arts engagement project researching *The Food Project*

VISITING ARTIST, GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, MILLEDGEVILLE, GA — JAN- FEB 2012

Performance: *The Food Project*, a performance lecture on people's contemporary relationship to food.

VISITING ARTIST, DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ATHENS, GA— MAR 2010

Lecture: *Gathering Stories as performance, as seen in StoryStation and I Confess*

Performance demonstration: *Creating Stella*

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, MACON STATE UNIVERSITY, MACON, GA — FEB 2010

Lecture: *Writing off the Page*; Practical workshop: *Trusting the goal: honing your vision through collaborative practice*; Performance: *Stella*

VISITING ARTIST, GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY, USA — JAN- MAR 2010

Dramaturgical consultant: Oral History Project, *Milledgeville Memoirs*; Practical workshops: *Using Fact, Creating Fiction*; Performance demonstration: *creating Stella*

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, HOW TO ACT, CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE TRAINING, LONDON, UK— FEB 2007

Residency: creating interactive performance piece, *Shhh!*; Performance: *Shhh!*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER, DRAMATURG'S NETWORK, LONDON, UK— OCT 2011

Panel: *Devising new theatre for children*

PRESENTING ARTIST, RETHINKING NEGOTIATION TEACHING, PEKING UNIVERSITY, BEIJING, CHINA— MAY 2011

Installation: *StoryStation*

ARTIST CONTRIBUTOR, MOVEMENT AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, EUROPEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL, SAAS FEE, SWITZERLAND— JULY 2010

Residency: the intersection of conflict resolution and nonverbal collaborative performance practice

PRESENTING ARTIST, CROSSROADS WRITERS' CONFERENCE, MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GA, USA— FEB 2010

Lecture and small group discussions: *Writing off the Page*; Small group discussion: Cross-arts collaboration; Performance: *The Live Radio Show*

PRESENTING ARTIST, POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE, CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA, LONDON, UK— MAY 2007

Lecture/Demonstration: *Public/Private Identity in Devising Performance*

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND DEVELOPMENT

FOUNDER, A SAFER BOULEVARD, ATLANTA, GA, USA—2016-CURRENT

Grassroots community organizing around road safety issues. Outcomes include lowering the speed limit on Boulevard SE and successfully lobbying to extend Renew Atlanta's Monroe/Boulevard Complete Street Project to include a previously excluded three mile stretch of road.

CONSULTANT, DAYBREAK CENTER, MACON, GA, USA— 2011-2015

Ongoing arts consultation and program development with Daybreak Center, a place of welcome and hospitality for homeless persons, Macon, GA

CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, KAIROS COMMUNITY, MACON, GA, USA— 2001-2003

A collaborative community initiative which included a house of hospitality for homeless immigrant and refugee families; outreach, advocacy, intervention and personal service to at risk children and adolescents affected by mental illness; social justice advocacy

MATERIALS DEVELOPER, INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, KENYA PROGRAM--2002

Created health education material for mothers with children in the pediatric ward of Moi Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya

CO-FOUNDER, AUNT MAGGIE'S KITCHEN TABLE, MACON, GA, USA— 1997-2001

Co-founded a community resource center and homeless outreach program, winner of the first Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for community collaboration

EDUCATION

Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London, UK, 2007-2008

M.A. Performance Practices and Research (graduation with distinction)

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA 1997 - 2002

B.A. Drama and Theatre; B.A. Philosophy (Honors program, graduated Cum Laude, with high honors)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

National Theatre Studio's Director's Course

Lincoln Center Director's Lab 2013

Anne Bogart and the SITI Company and Tina Landau on Viewpoints and Composition

Training workshops with Katie Mitchell, Simon McBurney, Gardzienice, Phelim McDermott, Matthew Dunster

Trainee Assistant Director at Kings Head Theatre Jan-July 2004

LaMama Umbria with Rina Yerushalmi, Arben Kumbaro, John Jesurun, Ping Chong, and Jean-Guy Lecat

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Fulton County Arts and Culture, *Drum Major Project*, 2018

Arts Council England *Museum of Our Forgotten Selves*, 2018

Dan and Joanna S Rose Fund, *Emotional Competency Pilot Project*, 2014-2017

Arts Council England *Hellscreen*, 2014-2015

Arts Council England *All Change*, 2014

Arts Council England *Hellscreen* and *All Change*, 2013

Arts Council England Organizational Development Award, 2012-2013

Arts Council England Award for *Superjohn*, 2012-2013

Wellcome Trust People's Award *Superjohn*, 2012-2013

Arts Council England Award for *Soon Until Forever*, 2012

Arts Council England Award for *Hellscreen*, 2011

Arts Council England Award for *Superjohn*, 2011

Arts Council England, GfA *Stella* and *StoryStation*, 2009

Arts and Humanities Research Council Research Preparation Award, 2007-2008

Arts and Humanities Research Council overseas travel grant, 2008

Centre for Excellence in Theatre Training Artist Bursary, 2007

Hope Scholarship, 1997-2002

Phi Kappa Phi

PUBLICATIONS

Chris Honeyman and Rachel Parish. "*Choreography of Negotiation: Movement in Three Acts*" in *The Choreography of Resolution: Conflict, Movement, and Neuroscience*, Chicago, IL, American Bar Association, 2013.

Leonard Lira and Rachel Parish. *Making it up as you go: Educating Military and Theater Practitioners in Design*, in *Educating Negotiators for a Connected World*, Vol 4 in the Rethinking Negotiation Teaching Series, St. Paul, MN, Dispute Resolution Institute Press, 2013.

Eric Blanchot, Noam Ebner, Chris Honeyman, Sandra Kaufman, and Rachel Parish. *Education of Non-Students*, in *Educating Negotiators for a Connected World*, Vol 4 in the Rethinking Negotiation Teaching Series, St. Paul, MN, Dispute Resolution Institute Press, 2013.

PRESS QUOTES

"...directed with a lightness of touch and delivered with a calm assurance which isn't just rare, it's almost unheard of." ★★★★★ for *I Confess* from allthefestivals.com

"In a time when the world is going crazy, and we may all wonder what life may be like a hundred years from now; it's a production that pulls you in from the start." For *Be Here Now* from Atlanta Arts Scene

"a sweet, touching, intimate play...audiences will no doubt leave the theater contemplating just how lucky they really are." for *Throw me on the Burnpile and Light me Up*, Atlanta Journal Constitution

"Rachel Parish's taut, naturalistic [production]...is by turns charming and desperately bleak..."★★★★ for *Elevator*, Time Out Critic's Choice

"Cleverly and sensitively...engaging young minds with a fantastical story about mortality and the power of the imagination" ★★★ for *Superjohn*, The Metro

"GOLD!...if you fancy...two hour's fun this is well recommended." for *The Alchemist* from Islington Gazette

"...bursting with humour..." for *The Alchemist* from The Londonist

"...a whirlwind of enthusiasm and delight..." ★★★★★ for *The Silents* from *broadwaybaby.com*

"...recaptures the heart of theatre" ★★★★★ for *I Confess* from Three Weeks

"...I was seduced and charmed by this production." For *Stella* from Southwark News

"Superjohn by Firehouse Creative Productions is a colorful and magical children's show... The show is lively, playful and really good fun. Essentially about serious illnesses, the play doesn't dwell on the subject but is rather a blend of medical topics, human anatomy facts with a sprinkling of enjoyment and imagination. Theatrically it's spot on, audience participation fits really well in this show, and it has the children absorbed and interested." --★★★★★Leigh Johnstone, The Good Review

"With a subtle yet captivating music by Joe Hastings and wonderful direction by Rachel Parish...this new play lures the spectator into a tiny playing space and brings about a forceful blow of scenarios, relationship strains and pushing of boundaries of the human needs. There is something about this production that takes you on a journey, skipping between emotions and tensions and emerges on the other side leaving nothing behind..." -- Jake Orr, a Younger Theatre, for *Elevator*

"This is a deeply effective production, one that's constantly finding new ways to toy with the audience and provoke a response from us. In a world full of fluffy theatrical trivialities it cuts a distinctive, solitary figure—one well worth checking out." ★★★★★ for *Hellscreen* from London City Nights

OTHER INTERESTS

Rachel is a certified yoga instructor for adults and children and holds a Design Certificate in Permaculture. She loves playing the ukulele (albeit as an exuberant novice) and making french macaroons. She is also often seen playing the part of the "red-green dragon" in the playground with her four and a half year old son Arlo and his little brother Edan.

REFERENCES

Lisa Adler, Artistic Director, Horizon Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia lisa@horizontheatre.com, (404) 617-5048

Sarah Cameron Sunde, Director, Works on Water, New York scsunde@gmail.com, (646) 325-7015

Anne Dennington, Executive Director, Flux Projects, Atlanta, Georgia anne@fluxprojects.org, (404) 245-585

Daniel Goldman, Artistic Director, CASA Latin American Theatre Festival, London daniel@casafestival.org.uk,
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