

DAVID BASSUK

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Directing Southern Methodist University May 1985

B.A. in Literature State University of New York, May 1981

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

State University of New York, College at Purchase

PROFESSOR of Theatre Arts 2003-Present
DEAN, Conservatory of Theatre Arts & Film 2003-2007
Purchase, NY

United Nations

Advisor to UNAMI 2020-PRESENT
Working with the United Nations continuing my online work with the youth climate initiative building game narratives to encourage cooperation among diverse sectors of young people in the region

Alibaba Animation Studios

“希望的上帝” Purple Monster: a new film
CREATIVE DIRECTOR- White Horse Immersive 2018-PRESENT
In development: Directing and writing and co-producing an immersive theater experience anticipated to coincide with an original animated film set to open in December 2020. The inspiration is a children’s film about a rascal of a child who plays with his imaginary friend a large purple monster. The stage adaptation is conceived as a live immersive sequel to the adventures in the film.

Original Force Animation Studios

“故宫里的大怪兽” Monsters in the Forbidden City TV series
CREATIVE DIRECTOR- White Horse Immersive 2019-2020
In development: Directing and writing and co-producing an immersive theater experience anticipated to coincide with an original animated Television series based on the book series of the same name by Chaing Li set to open in Spring 2021. Adapted from the children's book series of the same title by Chang Yi, a Bing Xin Children's Literature Award winner, the immersive experience reveals the further adventures of Li Xiaoyu, a little girl who breaks into the world of the monsters by mistake and becomes friends with a dragon's son.

International Theatre Works, Shanghai, China

NARRATIVE DESIGNER, China Eden Project
About water and the global water cycle. This project focuses on the innumerable ways in which water, whether too much or too little, affects the planet and the populations it supports. Visitors to Eden Project Qingdao will journey through dramatic landscapes of extreme aridity and water abundance, surrounded by theatrical performances and interactive installations. With multiple narratives that winds through the park using ai and location sensitive technology. One path is a game path seeking pieces of a puzzle and a second path that holds the mystery of our origins in the oceans. A third path is for returning audiences using audio narratives with poetry and stories filled with music and deeper meanings to the Eden. Other pathways are still being developed for example we think it is very valuable to connect people who already visited to people currently in the park – have them share an

adventure app one remote that is paired with one inside -building the friendships and community of our audiences. Project in Development Eden Project Qingdao is set to open in 2023.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, Hainan, China

2015 - 2017

The Magical Mystery Tree

The project is the development of a production concept for a proposed original live stage production of a show as part of the Ocean Flower Island Development for ITW: “Wonderland” located off Hainan Island in China presented by the Hang Lok Cultural Danzhou Development Co., Ltd., a Chinese real estate development company. Responsibilities include: the creation of story, characters, physical production design, music, direction/staging/choreography, technical effects, venue design and capabilities in connection with the Show Concept.

Jewish History Museum

DRAMATURG/DIRECTOR

The Collected Plays of Chaim Potok

Fall 2016 to present

Assisted in the publication of “The Collected Plays of Chaim Potok,” reviewed extensive hours of video tapes of original 1990 production of Potok’s play “Out of the Depths,” The extant manuscript was flawed – this effort lead to successful publishing of the collection released in October 2018 by Monkfish books.

Arcadia University, Glenside PA

DIRECTOR OF THEATRE

1990- 2003

Responsibilities included development of BFA curriculum, oversaw all hiring and all producing of Arcadia Theatre productions.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, THEATER ARTS

Arcadia University, Glenside PA

1990-2003

Arcadia Shakespeare Festival

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2001- 2003

Glenside, PA

Founded in the summer of 2002 the festival was a summer Shakespeare Festival working under an equity small professional theatre contract.

Ark Theater Company, Los Angeles, CA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 1999- 2003

Ark Theatre Company’s mission is to produce the highest quality professional repertory seasons with an on-going team of actors, writers, directors, designers, technicians and administrators. Ark presents diverse and challenging works, ranging from universally themed contemporary productions to innovative adaptations of classical works, as well as original company pieces. The name Ark represents the company’s commitment to bridge theatrical traditions into the realms of film, television, and the Internet

University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF THEATER ARTS

2000-2001

Novel Stages Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 1987 - 1997

Founded professional Philadelphia theater company, Novel Stages, an organization whose purpose was to develop new plays through literature and inter-disciplinary collaborations. Presented ten seasons of work that included nineteen world premieres including plays adapted from works by authors Nadine Gordimer, Emile Zola, William Faulkner and Kurt Vonnegut as well as original plays by Chaim Potok, Richard Sennett, John Erlanger and Clista Townsend.

Penn State Ogontz, Abington, PA
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF THEATER ARTS 1989 - 1993

Department of Theater, Temple University
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF THEATER ARTS 1988-1990

Lincoln Center Theater, New York
ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE 1985 -1987
DRAMATURGY & CASTING

Served as associate casting director for Vivian Beaumont and Mitzi Newhouse Theaters.
Worked on Jerome Robbins's workshop of Leonard Bernstein's, Stephen Sondheim's and John Guare's adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's *Exception and the Rule* as well as *Comedy of Errors*, *Anything Goes*, and the premiere of Arthur Miller's *Danger/Memory*.

Stella Productions, New York City, NY
MARKETING COORDINATOR 1987-1988
Marketing liaison for the Royal Shakespeare Company for Broadway production of *Carrie* the Musical.

American Place Theater, New York City, NY
DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN HUMORISTS SERIES. 1985
Responsibilities included the development of new projects and the identification of contemporary writers who might be encouraged to write or perform for the theater. Wrote and coordinated 1985 Rockefeller Foundation Anniversary presentation.

CONSULTANT/LECTURER IN TRANSMEDIA, IMMERSIVE & EXPERIENCE & GAME DESIGN 2008-PRESENT

Clients include companies Google, IKEA, Nonchalance, Whisperlodge, College of Extraordinary Experiences, Alibaba

2022-2023

- **Italy**
LARP in Tuscany June 3-5
MIAT two-day workshop 7/11 & 7/15
- **Austria**
Lecture in Salzburg June 23rd
- **Greece**
Two-week workshop in Greece with David Glass Ensemble 6/27-7/10
- **Sweden**
Knudepunkt LARP conference, Sept 9-11,2022
- **Poland**
Sept 1 & 2 Zabka Workshop
Sept 25-29 College of Extraordinary Experience
- **Ireland**
Lecture & Workshop at National Film School of Ireland November 16th – 27th
Two-day workshop Dance Dublin November 19th and 20th

- collaboration with Emily Aoibheann Company, Turrus project Nov 21-27
- **Estonia**
Island Project, Extraordinary Experience Studio, Estonia Feb 13-21
- **Denmark**
Copenhagen Workshop March 15-17
- **France**
Immersif, Lille France April 15-17th
- **Austria**
Teaching Game Design and Narrative Workshops May 15- June 22

DIRECTOR OF THEATER/Professional

2019		
OUT OF THE DEPTHS	Chaim Potok	Center for Jewish History New York, NY
2002		
THE TEMPEST	William Shakespeare	ARCADIA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL Glenside, PA
2000		
MARKS IN THE WATER	Clista Townsend	ARK THEATER COMPANY, Los Angeles, CA
1996		
CAT'S CRADLE	Kurt Vonnegut (Book and Music by Kevin Francis)	NOVEL STAGES Plays and Players Theater Philadelphia, PA
1995		
KAFKA'S SMILE	Adapted from short stories and diaries of Kafka	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
1994		
HAMLET	William Shakespeare	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
VISIONS OF CODY	Adapted from Jack Kerouac's novel	
THE BALTIMORE WALTZ	Paula Vogel	“
THE CHERRY ORCHARD	Anton Chekhov	“
1993		

THE SOUND AND THE FURY	Clista Townsend (from William Faulkner)	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
ROMEO AND JULIET	William Shakespeare	“
1992		
MARKS IN THE WATER	Clista Townsend	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
BRILLIANT TRACES	Cindy Lou Johnson	“
WAITING FOR GODOT	Samuel Beckett	“
1991		
THE BIG MAGOO	John Erlanger (Based on the stories of Damon Runyon)	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
SISTER OR NO SISTER	Original Teleplay	WHYY/TV 12
KING ARTHUR IN THE REALM OF THE DRAGON	Company Devised	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
1991		
OUT OF THE DEPTHS	Chaim Potok	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
1989		
UNDER MILKWOOD	Dylan Thomas	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA
THE EARTH	Adapted from Emile Zola's Novel	MOVEMENT THEATER INT'L & TOMLINSON THEATER, Novel Stages & Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
COYOTE UGLY	Lynn Siefert	INTERACT THEATER COMPANY Annenburg Center Philadelphia, PA
STIRRINGS AND OTHER STORIES	Adapted from prison writings	NOVEL STAGES Movement Theater International, Philadelphia, PA
1988		
THE CHOSEN	Chaim Potok	SECOND AVENUE THEATER

A MAP HOME	John Istel	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY New York, NY
1987 PALAIS ROYAL	Richard Sennett (Adaptation: R. Sennett and D. Bassuk)	NOVEL STAGES/JAEFFERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Jaeffrey Center, NH
1986 AMERICAN CAMERA	Adaptations from the stories of Edith Wharton, Sherwood Anderson, William Faulkner, Mark Twain and O'Henry	HOME FOR CONTEMPORARY THEATRE & ART, NY
1985 OBLOMOV	I. Morelock (Adapted from Goncharov)	THEATER THREE, Dallas TX
1984 CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS	Sam Shepard	STAGE #1, Dallas TX
DIRECTOR OF THEATER/Academic		
2021 THE PIRANDELLO PARTY	Luigi Pirandello	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2018 EARTHQUAKES IN LONDON	Mike Bartlett	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2017 THE MAIDS	Jean Genet	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2014 TALES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS	Odon Von Horvath	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2013 MASTER AND MARGARITA	Jean-Claude Van Itallie (based on the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov)	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2013 HEDDA GABLER	Henrik Ibsen	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY

2012

PEER GYNT	Henrik Ibsen (trans. Robert Bly)	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2011		
THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD	Timberlake Wertenbaker	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2010		
LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN	Oscar Wilde	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2009		
BOOK OF DAYS	Lanford Wilson	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2008		
THE CHERRY ORCHARD	Anton Chekhov	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2007		
SUDDENLY THE SKY TURNED BLOOD RED	Devised work based on the work of painter Edvard Munch	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2005		
THE SEAGULL	Anton Chekhov	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2005		
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL	William Shakespeare	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2003		
LIGHT UP THE SKY	Moss Hart	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase, NY
2002		
AS YOU LIKE IT	William Shakespeare	ARCADIA UNIVERSITY Glenside, PA
2001		
OTHELLO	William Shakespeare	ARCADIA UNIVERSITY Glenside, PA

2000

JULIUS CAESAR	William Shakespeare	ARCADIA THEATRE Glenside PA
ROOM SERVICE		ARCADIA THEATRE Glenside PA
1999		
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	William Shakespeare	ARCADIA THEATRE Glenside PA
BONJOUR, LA BONJOUR	Michel Tremblay	“
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR		
1988		
THE DYBBUK PROJECT	Dir. John Hirsch & Ming Cho Lee.	YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven CT
CORIOLANUS	William Shakespeare Dramaturg, Director John Hirsch	OLD GLOBE THEATER San Diego CA
THE CHOSEN	Chaim Potok w/John Hirsch	SECOND AVENUE THEATER
1986		
THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE	John Van Druten Dir. Robert Berlinger	THE ROUNDABOUT THEATRE, New York NY
1980		
WE WON'T PAY, WE WON'T PAY	Dario Fo Dir. R. G. Davis	CHELSEA THEATER New York, NY
1979		
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST	Dario Fo Dir. R. G. Davis	OPEN CIRCLE THEATER, Toronto, Canada
PLAYWRIGHT		
SUDDENLY THE SKY TURNED BLOOD RED	Adapted from short stories	PURCHASE REPERTORY THEATRE Purchase College, Purchase NY
KAFKA'S SMILE	Adapted from short stories and diaries of Kafka)	NOVEL STAGES 1619 Walnut St, Philadelphia PA
VISIONS OF CODY	Adapted and Directed Jack Kerouac's novel	
SISTER OR NO SISTER	Original Teleplay	WHYY/TV 12

THE EARTH	Adapted Emile Zola's Novel	TOMLINSON THEATER, Temple University & Novel Stages
STIRRINGS AND OTHER STORIES	Adapted and Directed anthology of prison writing	NOVEL STAGES Movement Theater Int'l Philadelphia PA
PALAIS ROYAL	Co-Adapted Richard Sennett's novel with him.	NOVEL STAGES/ JAEFFERY CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Jaeffrey Center, NH
AMERICAN CAMERA	Adapted stories of Edith Wharton, Sherwood Anderson, William Faulkner, Mark Twain and O'Henry	HOME FOR CONTEMPORARY THEATRE & ART, NY

COURSES TAUGHT

SUNY Purchase College 2003-

- Script Analysis I
- Script Analysis II
- Rehearsal & Performance
- Solo Performance
- Contemporary Theater
- Immersive Storyworlds
- Directing II
- Acting Scene Study
- Transmedia & Performance
- Gameplay & Performance
- Adaptation of Literature into Performance
- Live Performance & Interactive Media

Movement Theater Studio 2020-PRESENT

- Immersive Narratives
- Surfing the Multi-Medium Wave: Crafting Experiences and Immersive Narratives

Arcadia University 1991-2003

- Introduction to Theater
- Fundamentals of Acting
- Business of the Arts
- Acting II Scene Study
- Children's Theater
- Acting and Directing for the Camera
- Classic Comedy
- Pluralism in the United States
- Creative Expression
- Play and Scriptwriting
- Directing
- Performance from Ritual to Theater
- Autobiographical Adaptations: Ethnographic Methods in Playwriting and Performance
- Musical Theater
- Modern Drama

University of the Arts 2000-2001

- Acting Studio, Meisner Technique

Penn State, Ogontz 1989-1993

- Introduction to Theater
- Introduction to Acting

Temple University 1988-1990

- Audition: Third year Graduate Acting Class
- Fundamentals of Acting

Southern Methodist University 1982-1985

- Characterization
- Freshman Acting
- Audition Techniques
- Public Speaking
- Improvisation
- Dramatic Arts Today

DIRECTING/ ACADEMIC THEATER (Prior to 1995)
1995

SHAKESPEARE CABARET William Shakespeare ARCADIA THEATRE
Glenside PA

1994

WAITING FOR THE PARADE John Murrell ARCADIA THEATRE
Glenside PA

1993

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES Wendy Wasserstein ARCADIA THEATRE
Glenside PA

1992

AMERICAN CAMERA Adaptations from stories by Edith Wharton, Sherwood Anderson, William Faulkner, Mark Twain and O'Henry ARCADIA THEATRE
Glenside PA

1991

TOP GIRLS Caryl Churchill ARCADIA THEATRE
Glenside PA

1987

ROAD Jim Cartwright SOUTHERN METHODIST
UNIVERSITY, Dallas TX

1985

RED SWEATERS (An improvised ensemble work) “
SOUTHERN METHODIST
UNIVERSITY, Dallas TX

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER Oliver Goldsmith “

QUARTERMAINE'S TERMS Simon Gray “

1984

MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA	Eugene O'Neill	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, Dallas TX
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WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?	Edward Albee	“
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THE LONG CHRISTMAS DINNER	Thornton Wilder	“
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LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT	Eugene O'Neill	“
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ULYSSES	James Joyce (Adaptation: D. Bassuk)	“
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CREDITORS and THE STRONGER	August Strindberg	“
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1983

CABIN 12	John Bishop	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, Dallas TX
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CLOUD 9	Caryl Churchill	“
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1982

THE MAIDS	Jean Genet	State University of New York, College at Purchase, Purchase, NY
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1979

THE YES SAYER AND THE NO SAYER	Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill	PURCHASE ENSEMBLE THEATER
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GRANTS

- The William Penn Foundation
- Pew Foundation
- ARCO
- Rittenhouse Foundation
- Pennsylvania State Arts Council
- Philadelphia Cultural Fund
- Tuttleman Foundation
- Quaker Chemical Foundation
- Scott Paper

AWARDS

Nominated for “Ovation Award” in Los Angeles Theatre for
Best Direction of “Marks in the Water”
Pennsylvania Humanities Council Award 1995
Pew Foundation Theater Exploration Grant 1993
Augur Meadows Fellowship, 1982-1985
Bob Hope Achievement Award, 1985

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Arcadia University

- 2002 BFA in Acting: Music-Theater track
- 2001 BFA in Acting
- 1996 MFA in Multimedia Performance Studies (in conjunction with Fine Arts Department)
- 1995 Multimedia Performance Studies

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

FOUNDING MEMBER

WORLD EXPERIENCE ORGANIZATION

founded in 2020, with co-founders from Helsinki to Melbourne, from Shanghai to San Francisco, the world experience organization - the W XO - is a global institution dedicated to: improving the quality of experiences; enhancing the opportunities for experience creators; and promoting the experience economy.

KEYNOTE

4th Boao International Tourism Communication Forum

Held in Boao, China November 24 2019.

The forum is sponsored by the Communication College of Communication University of China, and the Qionghai Municipal People's Government. I was asked to speak about the possibilities for developing cultural tourism through immersive narratives and performance. I have been working in immersive storytelling for over ten years and been teaching three courses in the subject at Purchase since 2009. My talk discussed international projects where countries employed immersive narrative to expand tourism.

http://m.qionghai.ccoo.cn/cnews/news_s how.aspx?id=34726611

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/E7T3fUIQO nuGWlbcBfZHSQ>

Member

StoryForward NYC

Board Member	Center for Exploration of Western Acting Art, Beijing China
Reviewer,	Palgrave Macmillan: Transmedia and
Moderator	Immersive Theater and Gameplay,
Participant	Future of Storytelling Conference Columbia University -Experiential Learning and Applied Creativity workshop
Evaluator	Reported on new BA major in Transmedia & Performance Studies for University of the Pacific.
Constituent Member	Theater Communications Group 1991-1996
Founding Member	Performance Studies International
Board Member	Performing Arts League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA, 1992-1995
Director	The Actors Training Alliance New York, NY, & Philadelphia, PA, 1988-1990
Board Member	American Poetry Center, Philadelphia PA, 1988-1991
Judge	English Speaking Union, Annual Shakespearean Competition, Philadelphia, PA 1990-1995
Guest Artist	Institute for the Arts in Education, Philadelphia, PA, 1994-1995
Director	Oral History Project, Institute on Aging, Temple University, Philadelphia PA, 1989-91
Evaluator	National Endowment for the Arts, New Play Project. Washington, D.C. 1988-1990