

JUDYIE ELLA AL-BILALI

jalbilali@theater.umass.edu

646-399-2293

judyiealbilali.com

For over thirty years Judyie Ella Al-Bilali has been an innovator in the field of performing arts and arts education. As a performer, writer, director, producer and professor she has worked throughout the United States and internationally. Judyie teaches and creates theater from the perspective that we are in an extraordinary new era of human evolution and she is honored to contribute to progressive social development through the arts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Theater for Social Transformation – UMass Amherst Theater Dept. and Commonwealth Honors College, 2013 - present

Teaching courses in Applied Theater, Devised Theater and Acting. Research in Black Arts Movement, performance studies, Pan-African arts and culture

AFFILIATE FACULTY – WEB DuBois Dept. of Afro-American Studies, UMass

2016 - present, Co-coordinator of New Africa House Theater initiative

THESIS ADVISOR – M.A. in Applied Theater, CUNY (City University of New York)

2012 – 2013

Advising graduate students on field work projects and submission of final written thesis in applied theater

FULBRIGHT SENIOR SPECIALIST – Visiting Professor in Theatre July/August 2012

Conducted six-week workshop, co-teaching with faculty and long term planning for university arts center at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – New York University, Steinhardt School 2010 - 2013

Teaching in Educational Theatre Program specializing in issues of diversity and pluralism, how to create an effective cohort in the classroom, supervision of student teachers, artistic advising for student productions

PERFORMANCE/VISUAL ART INTERPRETER – Guggenheim Museum,

New York 2010

Member of performance/visual art 'interpreters' ensemble for Tino Sehgal's exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Guggenheim Museum

MASTER TEACHING ARTIST – American Place Theater ‘Literature to Life’ 2011 – 2013
Facilitation of stage presentations in academic and professional venues

ARTISTIC/PRODUCING DIRECTOR – Brown Paper Studio, South Africa 2004-2009
Founder of Applied Theatre company at University of the Western Cape, Azaad Youth Services and Glendale Secondary School, fund-raising and administration

THEATRE PROFESSOR – Semester at Sea, Voyage around the World 2007
Taught playwriting, directing and performance courses hosted by the Institute for Shipboard Education and the University of Virginia, travel to thirteen countries and led overseas field trips, advisor to Students of Color @ Sea

FULBRIGHT SENIOR SCHOLAR – University of the Western Cape 2004-2005
Awarded Teaching and Research grant for creative exploration of national identity in the New South Africa, created curriculum for playwriting and dramaturgy courses, established Brown Paper Studio as an extracurricular theatre program

GUEST DIRECTOR/THEATRE TEACHER – Project 2050/New WORLD Theater 2003/1998
Teaching high school youth acting and playwriting, directing devised theatre productions for arts education program focused on Hip Hop culture

VISITING ARTIST/THEATRE PROFESSOR – Amherst College 2002
Guest director for senior thesis production, visiting professor in playwriting specializing in devised theatre and development process for new works

ASSISTANT THEATRE PROFESSOR– Hampshire College 2001-2002
Initiated interdisciplinary arts curriculum in directing and acting, thesis advisor, head of dramaturgy on faculty directed production

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – Women of Color Leadership Network 2000-2002
Designed arts and cultural projects, staff hiring and training, fund-raising and event planning, workshop facilitator and public relations for program focused on needs of women of color at EveryWoman’s Center, UMass

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ARTIST – Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass 2002
Teaching and directing theatre in South Africa

ARTS PROGRAM ANALYST - New York State Council on the Arts, 1990-91
Organizational and fiscal review of arts groups funded by the state arts agency

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR - Crossroads Theatre Company, 1988-90

Grant-writing, fund-raising to public and private sector, long-range planning, public relations, special events coordinator, capital campaign initiative

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - Homecoming Festival Inc., 1983-88

Founder and director of annual celebration of African American Performing Arts, fund-raising and fiscal management

PROGRAM DIRECTOR – KY Governor’s School for the Arts Drama Program, 1987-88

Established drama department for gifted students from throughout the state

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE – Kentucky Arts Council, 1984-88

Teaching, directing, public relations and fund-raising for after school arts program, animation/resident arts initiative in Louisville neighborhoods

ARTS PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Four Quarters Community Action Agency, 1982-83

Grants writing, fund-raising, cultural programming, public relations

FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATOR – Actors Theatre of Louisville, 1981-82

Foreign and domestic press relations, staff management and hospitality for the Humana Festival of New American Plays and for the Shorts Festival of One-Acts

ARTS PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Brownsville Heritage House, 1980-81

Arts instructor, grants writing, staff supervision, public relations for neighborhood arts program in Brooklyn, New York

EDUCATION

MASTER OF FINE ARTS – Degree in Theatre, concentration in Directing

University of Massachusetts/Amherst

BACHELOR OF ARTS – Bachelor’s Degree with Individual Concentration (BDIC,

Theater and Afro-American Studies) in African American Performing Arts awarded Cum Laude, University of Massachusetts/Amherst

AWARDS & HONORS

MARION AND JASPER WHITING TRAVEL GRANT– Collective Creativity and Civic Life: the Osun-Osogbo Festival in Nigeria

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SERVICE LEARNING FELLOWSHIP (CESL) – UMass Amherst

STUDENT CHOICE AWARD – Residential First Year Experience, UMass Amherst

FULBRIGHT SENIOR SPECIALIST – International Consultant for US State Department Fulbright Program

FULBRIGHT SENIOR SCHOLAR – Teaching and research grant awarded by the US State Department and the South African Fulbright Commission

JACOB K. JAVITS FELLOWSHIP – National Scholarship awarded in the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

PLAYWRIGHT'S FELLOWSHIP & ARTS ADMINISTRATION FELLOWSHIP - National Endowment for the Arts

PLAYWRIGHT'S FELLOWSHIP – New York Foundation for the Arts

ARTIST'S RESIDENCY FELLOWSHIP – MacDowell Colony for the Art

KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER – 1987-89

PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES

"The Circle" *Imagined Theatres: South Africa* curated by Megan Lewis
<http://imaginedtheatres.com/south-africa/>

Black Acting Methods: Critical Approaches, Ed. Sharrell Lockett, Tia M. Shaffer, Routledge 2017

"Collidescope 2.0: Adventures in Pre- and Post-Racial America" *UMass Research* 2016

"Loving the Alien: Collidecscope 2.0" *UMass Amherst Magazine*, Summer 2016

For the Feeling: Love & Transformation from New York to Cape Town - Memoir about establishing a theatre company in Cape Town and work as a cultural activist in the New South Africa, 2012

Jumping into Creativity: Encounters with Performance as Pedagogic Intervention in On and Off Campus Contexts with Dr. Miki Flockemann and Verity Vass - *The International Journal of Learning*, 2008

Halcyon Days – Book of haiku published by Indian Hill Press, Martha's Vineyard, 1996

North Carolina Notebook, *Black Masks*, Nov/Dec 1989 ed. Beth Turner

Defining Animation, *Connections Quarterly; National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies*, January 1987, ed. Barbara Schaffer Bacon

PLAYWRITING

Belly Incantation – Collaboration with playwright Constance Congdon Ko Festival, Amherst, MA 2002

Flood of Fire – Head Dramaturg for devised production, Hampshire College 2000

Saviour's Day – Author and Director for staged reading at Eureka Theatre, San Francisco, CA 1999

Ice House – Author and Director for Ensemble Theatre Company production, Newark, NJ 1989
Produced at Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA 1992

The Death of Black & White – Author and Director for Homecoming Festival, Louisville, KY 1986
Women in Theatre Festival, Boston, MA 1987

DIRECTING

Venus – UMass Theater dept., 2013

Out There! – Devised production by Brown Paper Studio and Temo Consulting, 2009

Trust on Tour – Devised production by Clothing Workers Bargaining Council Union of the Western Cape, 2008

Free for All: Meditations on Democracy – Devised production by Brown Paper Studio
University of the Western Cape, 2008

Just A Name – Brown Paper Studio Arts Residency; University of the Western Cape
Glendale Senior Secondary School, Cape Town, South Africa 2007/2008

The 13th Port – Devised production by Brown Paper Studio
Shipboard Company, Semester at Sea 2007

Looking for Mike – Brown Paper Studio Arts Residency; University of the Western Cape
Glendale Senior Secondary School, South Africa 2005

D’CIPHER: Set the Record Round – Brown Paper Studio, Cape Town Festival 2005
University of the Western Cape, South Africa, 2004

Peace by Peace – Hospital Audiences Inc., New York, NY 2002

The Cure at Troy (choreographer) – Old Deerfield Productions, Deerfield, MA 2002

What I Want You to Know – Devised production, Guga S’Thebe Cultural Center,
Cape Town, South Africa 2002

Pastel City- Amherst College, 2002

The Bacchae of Euripides – Rand Theater, University of Massachusetts, 2000

Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon – Augusta Savage Gallery,
University of Massachusetts 1999

Sanango – Curtain Theatre, University of Massachusetts, 1999
Genesis Festival, Crossroads Theatre Company, 1996

Love, Langston – studio production, University of Massachusetts, 1998

Coyote Gets Sober – New WORLD Theater, University of Massachusetts, 1998

It’s Morning – Rand Theater, University of Massachusetts, 1997

The Screened-In Porch – Crossroads Theatre Company, New Brunswick, NJ 1996
Genesis Festival, Crossroads Theatre Company, 1995

S’kin – Genesis Festival, Crossroads Theatre Company, 1996

Oak & Ivy – Bushfire Theatre, Philadelphia, PA 1994

Come Down Burning – American Place Theater, New York, NY 1993

Tar Baby and ***The People Could Fly*** – Kentucky Center for the Arts, Louisville, KY 1988

Conversation with the Future – Kentucky Center for the Arts, Louisville, KY 1987

PERFORMANCE

Jesusa's Laugh from Loiza to Langa – New York and Massachusetts

Belly Incantation – Ko Festival, Amherst College

Wit – Old Deerfield Productions, Deerfield, MA

So Far – Rand Theatre, UMass Amherst

Boogie Woogie Landscapes – Kennedy Center, Washington, DC

A Photograph: Lovers in Motion – Equinox Theater, Houston, TX

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf – Pittsburgh Public Theater, PA

Seascape – City Studio Theater, Northampton, MA

Company Member, Diana Ramos Dance Theater Ensemble – New Africa House, UMass/Amherst

Les Femmes Noires – New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theatre, NY

Company Member, Chicago Free Street Theater – Illinois Arts Council, IL