

MAJA MILATOVIC- OVADIA

Job title

Lecturer, Advanced Theatre Practice

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COURSES

Advanced Theatre Practice, MA/MFA

Directing: An Introduction

PROFILE

I am a practising theatre director and facilitator working in a wide range of contexts, including classical and contemporary text-based theatre, devised work, music theatre, experimental opera, multimedia performances and socially engaged theatre practices.

Since 2017, together with my artistic practice, I have taught across various BA and MA levels. I've designed and delivered lectures and workshops in directing, collaborative theatre-making, comedy, European theatre, and socially engaged theatre at the University of Kent, the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the University of West London.

I studied Theatre and Radio Directing at the University of Belgrade (BA Hons), obtained an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice from the Royal School of Speech and Drama and further trained at the National Theatre Studio in London, and Directors Lab West in Los Angeles.

During my career I directed numerous projects for the principal national theatres of Serbia, Montenegro and Slovenia, as well as for various theatre companies in the UK, with a significant track record of success, both critically and commercially.

My socially engaged art projects focus on the use of comedy and humour within collaborative theatre practice. I have created a theatre with migrants and refugees in London, survivors of the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi, as well as ethnically segregated communities in post-war Bosnia.

In 2019, as part of Open University's AHRC-funded project 'Picturing Climate', I developed a multimedia community art project and ran workshops on methodology, including *Transgressive Methodologies: Skills and Tools for Critical Learning* at Tate Exchange event, Tate Modern. My photo essay 'Vanishing Line', which documents this work, is included in *Artistic Perspectives on Climate Change / PI2025*.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Directing
- Devising
- Collaborative theatre-making
- Ludic practice and post-war reconciliation
- Theatre in the places of conflict

KEY PUBLICATIONS

2023. 'Shakespeare's Fools: a piece in peacebuilding mosaic' in *Shakespeare and Social Engagement*. ed. Rowan Mackenzie and Robert Shaughnessy. (Berghahn Books), pp. 34-50.

2023. 'Bosnia and Herzegovina' in *Routledge Companion to European Theatre and Performance*, ed. Aneta Mancewicz and Ralf Remshardt (London: Routledge), pp 39-43.

2023. 'Serbia' in *Routledge Companion to European Theatre and Performance*, ed. Aneta Mancewicz and Ralf Remshardt (London: Routledge), pp 39-43.

2016. '[Theatre and Reconciliation: The Day of an Unlucky Man](#)', *Journal of Arts & Communities*, 8: 1-2, 121-134.

2015. '[Confronting Medusa in post-war Bosnia](#)', *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, 20:2, 191-195.

EXTERNAL PRACTICE

As a director, my recent work includes *Gift*, devised musical theatre exploring the political and ideological implications of Prometheus' act (MA Musical Theatre, RCSSD, 2022), and *I am Leah*, a new play based on the 100 Stories project which shares the testimonies of survivors of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide (AC funded, Queens Mary's University, 2021).

From 2015 I've been regularly directing public productions at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and University of West London.

Between 2007 and 2020, I was an associate artist and advisor at Most Mira charity organisation that is using art to support the process of reconciliation in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Previously, I was associate director of NADA (New Writing Project) at the National Theatre in Belgrade for five years and associate director at Blue Elephant Theatre in London for the Balkan Art Season.

Recent productions:

2023, (director) *The Suppliants*, Studio, UWL

2022. (director) *Gift*, Webber Douglas Studio, RCSSD

2021. (director/facilitator) *Conversation on Kraj*, socially engaged video work for the PSI Constellate.

2021. (director) *I am Leah*, Queens Mary's University

2021. (director) *Vanities the Musical*, Lawrence Hall, UWL

2020. (artist) *Postcards in Isolation*, a photo essay, Counterpoint Arts

2020. (director) *Plaza*, Webber Douglas Studio, RCSSD

2020. (director and facilitator) *Romeo and Juliet*, Prijedor Theatre

2019. (director) *The Tunnel*, Webber Douglas Studio, RCSSD

2019. (director) *One Hundred Trillion*, Southwark Playhouse

Selected Practice:

2011. (director) *Red, Black and Ignorant*, Edward Bond season, Cock Tavern Theatre

2011. (director) *Moonflower*, Tet-a-Tet Opera Festival, Riverside Studios

2007. (director) *Gagarins' Way*, BITEF Theatre

2003. (director) *Bukefal*, National Theatre, Belgrade

Conversations:

2021. (interview) The Identity Series, Dash Arts podcast.

2020. (interview) Second Hand Memory, Dash Arts podcast.

REGISTER OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.