

BEN BURATTA

Job title

Course Leader, BA Acting (Collaborative and Devised Theatre); Senior Lecturer in Acting and Theatre Making

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[Outbox Theatre](#)

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COURSES

Acting (Collaborative and Devised Theatre), BA

PROFILE

I am a theatre maker, director, teacher, and researcher. I am Course Leader for [BA \(Hons\) Acting \(Collaborative and Devised Theatre\)](#). I have directed plays and made work for many of the leading theatres in the UK including The Bush, Birmingham Rep, Contact, and The Royal Court. I am the founder and Artistic Director of Outbox, a company who collaborate with LGBTQIA+ performers, artists, and communities to make performance. My practice research and PHD study develops dramaturgies and rehearsal strategies to make theatre queerly. I am committed to inclusive and innovative forms of actor training that put the actor as artist at the centre.

I grew up and went to a comprehensive school in Swindon before graduating with a degree in Drama. I trained as an acting teacher at Central, gaining an MA in Actor Training and Coaching. I have worked as a director, actor trainer, and theatre practitioner in a variety of professional, educational, and community settings. I wrote and designed the Acting Diploma at Central and was Course Leader alongside running the short courses/summer school programmes. Prior to this role, I was Senior Lecturer on BA Contemporary Performance Practice teaching performance, acting, and devising skills and directing many large-scale productions. I have directed and taught extensively in leading drama schools and universities across the UK and internationally.

My theatre-making practice has led to partnerships and collaborations with many of the UK's best regarded and internationally-significant arts organisations. As Artistic Director of Outbox, I set the artistic vision for the company which includes directing productions, overseeing the participation programme, developing artists, and consultation and policy-making. Outbox produces innovative actor training programmes and participatory projects in collaboration with venues including National Theatre, Royal Court, Southbank Centre, Leeds Playhouse, Bristol Old Vic, and Royal Exchange. Our productions can be seen in mainstream venues but also in unusual and diverse settings such as dancefloors, nightclubs, community halls and warehouses. Recent productions include *GROOVE*, (Shoreditch Town Hall and Contact), nominated for three Off-West End awards, *And The Rest of Me Floats*, (**** 'fuelled by a mixture of generosity and pride'. *The Guardian*, **** 'a bold and beautifully constructed exploration of gender identity'. *The Stage*), The Bush Theatre and Birmingham Rep and published by Oberon books. This production has been recognised by the V&A, who have included a digital recording of it in the National Video Archive of Performance. Outbox have been consistently funded over the last decade and I have received multiple awards from Arts Council England and The National Lottery.

My practice research develops rehearsal strategies, methods of devising, and dramaturgies to establish a distinct approach to queer theatre-making. I have presented at conferences internationally including IFTR and ATHE and my article 'Embodied Queer Pedagogies: Performing HIV Narratives on the Dance-Floor' appears in the special edition on queer pedagogy of Theatre Topics, published in 2020. I am in the process of completing a practice-based PhD titled 'Dance-floor Dramaturgy: New Approaches for Making Theatre Queerly'.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Devising and collaborative theatre-making practices
- Acting and Performer training
- Directing
- Queer Performance
- Queer Theory
- Practice Research

PUBLICATIONS

2020. 'Dance-Floor Dramaturgy: Unlearning the Shame and Stigma of HIV through Theatre'. *Theatre Topics*, 30:2, 57-68. DOI:10.1353/tt.2020.0029.

EXTERNAL PRACTICE

2022. *GROOVE*, Shoreditch Town Hall and Contact Theatre

2020. Artistic Director, [BRIGHTER](#)

2019. Director, *And The Rest of Me Floats*, The Bush Theatre

2017. Director, *And The Rest of Me Floats*, Rose Lipman Building, Birmingham Rep

2016. Director, *Affection*, The Glory, Stan's Café

2015. Director, *HOOKUP*, Hackney Showroom, Contact Theatre

2014. Producer, *Outbox: Snapshots*, Arcola Theatre (writers including Alexi Kaye Campbell and Tom Wells)

2013. Director, *You Could Move*, Arcola, Contact Theatre

2012. Director. *Reach Out and Touch Me*, Shoreditch Town Hall

REGISTER OF INTEREST

Prime Theatre - Trustee

