

## CARIAD ASTLES

**Job title**

Lecturer - Performance Arts (Movement & Object Theatre)

**Email**

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### PROFILE

I trained in Drama at Exeter University, and then as a puppeteer as an apprentice to Travesura Theatre, run by Chilean exiles in London; I took several short courses in puppetry at the Institut de la Marionnette in France and in the UK. I then worked as a performer/puppeteer for several years at the Little Angel Theatre, with Sue Buckmaster of Theatre Rites and with Puppetcraft, among other companies. I have directed puppetry for a number of companies and shows including *Pericles* and *Eva Luna* for Wooden Tongues Theatre Company, *The Pied Piper* and *Tristan and Isolde* for Puppetcraft, *Macbeth* for the Northcott Theatre and *The Walk* for Med Theatre. I have run numerous puppetry training workshops in the UK, Australia, Brazil, Spain and China, focusing on training for the puppeteer-performer and on intercultural training practices. I also work with the Catalan-based collective Irènia ([www.irenia.net](http://www.irenia.net)), a group of artists and educators working on themes of peace, development and global education. With this group I have run training workshops in puppetry for peace education and development in Tunisia and Catalonia.

I worked at the University of Plymouth for many years prior to working at Central and also work at the University of Exeter as a Lecturer in the Drama Department. Apart from puppetry and object theatre, I teach applied drama, with a particular focus on health, Latin American performance and culture in performance.

I am a UK councillor for the international puppetry association, UNIMA, and a member of the Research Commission and the Commission for Cooperation. I have previously received awards from the Anna Lindh Foundation for the work with Irènia, which received a United Nations Intercultural Innovation Award for its work. I have also received funding from the AHRC for work on applied puppetry and funding from the Gulbenkian Foundation for the development of puppetry in live performance.

I was keynote speaker at the Yangzhou national puppetry conference in China, 2015

I am a member of PSI, Puppeteers UK, the IFTR and the South West Arts and Health Association.

## TEACHING AREAS

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- Puppet theatre; training; performance; directing; applied puppetry and puppetry and object theatre theory and history
- Latin American Theatre
- Applied Theatre

## RESEARCH AREAS

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- Puppetry training
- Puppetry as cultural identity
- Political puppetry
- Applied puppetry
- Latin American women's performance
- Latin American religious performance and religion in performance
- Latin American popular performance
- Applied theatre in health

## PHD SUPERVISION

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The above areas, with particular interest in PhDs in puppetry/theatre and national identity; transcultural performance; popular performance

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

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2016. '[Swazzles of Subversion: Puppets under Dictatorship](#)' in *Performing (for) Survival: Theatre, Crisis, Extremity*, edited by Duggan, Patrick and Lisa Peschel, (Basingstoke: Palgrave), pp. 103-120.

2016. '[Wood and Waterfall: Directing Puppet Theatre](#)' in *International Puppetry Research: Tracing Past and Present* (Bratislava: UNIMA Research Commission), forthcoming.

2015. 'On the Margins: Dementia and the present moment' in *Teatro de Excepción: experiencias escénicas no institucionales en la Europade los siglos XX y XXI*, special issue of *Quaderns de Filologia: Estudis Literaris*, 19, pp. 85-108.

2015. 'The archive and the repertoire: Kantor's living puppet theatre', in *Polish Theatre Perspectives: Tadeusz Kantor: Twenty Years Later*, 1.2, edited by Natalia Zarzecka and Michal Kobińska, Autumn 2011, ISSN: 2081-4844

2012. '[Absent Bodies and Objects](#)' in , in *Barcelona: Visual Culture, Space and Power*, edited by Helena Buffery and Carlota Causfield, (Cardiff: University of Wales Press), pp. 193-204.

2012. '[Puppetry for Development](#)' in *The Power of the Puppet*, edited by Livja Kroflin, Zagreb: UNIMA Commission for Education, Development and Therapy, pp. 63-78.

2010. '[Puppetry Training in Contemporary Live Theatre](#)', in *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training*, 1.1, pp. 22-35.

## PRACTICE

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My practice involves workshops, consultancy, performance and directorial work. Recent work includes:

2016. Plymouth Theatre Royal: leading skills in puppetry performance for live theatre.

2015. Puppetry consultant, Med Theatre's production of *The Walk*.

2014. Puppetry director, Puppetsoup's production of *Fix Freddie* (in collaboration with the NHS Connecting Care for Children).

2006-the present. With Irenia: performer, *Adama's Journey*.

## **REGISTER OF INTEREST**

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British Unima - Committee and UK Councillor for UNUMA International

UNIMA - Member of Commission for Cooperation, Research Commission and Commission for Cultural Cooperation