

# ROYAL CENTRAL

SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## CARIAD ASTLES, BA, MA

### Job title

Lecturer, Course Leader Puppetry: Design and Performance

### E-mail

c.astles@cssd.ac.uk



## PROFILE

---

I am the course leader for Puppetry: Design and Performance within the Theatre Practice Programme. 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 Irenia, 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.

## COURSES

---

Puppetry: Design and Performance, BA

## TEACHING AREAS

---

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

## RESEARCH AREAS

---

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

---

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

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

---

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 Kobialka, 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

---

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

---

British Unima - Committee and UK Councillor for UNUMA International  
UNIMA - Member of Commission for Cooperation, Research Commission and Commission for Cultural Cooperation