

CURRICULUM VITAE 2011

TANJA BEER

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EDUCATION

1995-2000

Master of Arts in Set and Costume Design (First Class Honours)
UNIVERSITY FOR MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ARTS, GRAZ, AUSTRIA.

2001-2002

Graduate Diploma in Animateuring
THE VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

AWARDS

2011 Asia-link Performing Arts Residency (funded by Australia Council). This two month residency will be conducted at the Centre for the Study of World Civilisations at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. It will explore sustainable approaches to theatre design, and their potential to inform new design aesthetics.

2011 Australian Postgraduate Award (University of Melbourne). PhD scholarship awarded through the Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne. The research project will assess the conceptual and practical aspects of sustainable theatre design.

2011 Artist in Schools Residency (funded by Arts Victoria). This residency took place at the Sacred Heart College in Kyneton and explored themes of journey, identity, displacement and belonging through spatial design development using recycled materials and found objects

2009 joint Helpmann nomination for Best Visual or Physical Theatre Production: *At First Sight* (NICA).

2000 Scholarship Prize for Excellence in Stage Design awarded by the Austrian Arts Council and the Graz University for Music and Dramatic Arts for support further related study at VCA.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching

Tertiary Education

1. Sessional Lecturer (2009 – present)
School of Architecture & Design | RMIT University | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: Specialisations (3 hours per week) or Studios (6 hours per week)
Period of employment: 4 Semesters
Tertiary level: 2nd, 3rd and 4th year Interior Design students

Lecturing duties include: designing own course structures, guides, curriculum and assessment criteria; lecturing in theory and design practise; coordinating excursions, exhibitions, events, secondments and assessments. All studios involve coordinating and supervising two other sessional or guest lecturers.

Courses taught:

2011: 'Small Worlds' (Specialisation).

2010: 'The Art of Visual Storytelling' (Studio).

Guest lecturers: Leticia Caceres (direction) and Glenn Hughes (lighting).

Tertiary Education

1. Sessional Lecturer (2009 – present) (continued)

Courses taught:

2009: 'Design in the 4th Dimension' (Studio).
Guest lecturers: Leticia Caceres (direction) and Glenn Hughes (lighting).
2009: 'The Art of Visual Storytelling' (Specialisation).

2. Sessional Lecturer
School of Creative Industries | Victoria University | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: 3 hours per week
Period of employment: 1 Term
Tertiary level: 2nd year Drama students

Course taught:

'Introduction to Stage Design'.

Teaching Experience (Community)

1. Teaching Artist and Design Mentor (2009 – present)
Platform Youth Theatre | Northcote | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: Contract

Projects:

'Provokateur' and 'One is Warm in Winter and the Other has a Better View' (workshops and mentoring for emerging artists).

2. Teaching Artist and Workshop Facilitator (2006)
Contact Inc | Brisbane | Queensland | Australia
Nature of employment: Contract

Project:

'Ladyeez Business' (storytelling workshops with young indigenous woman).

3. Teaching Artist and Workshop Facilitator (2005)
Vulcana Woman's Circus | Brisbane | Queensland | Australia
Nature of employment: Contract

Project:

'Bungo the Money God' (design workshops with the Inala indigenous community).

Teaching Experience (Secondary Education)

1. Professional Advisor (2011)
Education | The Arts Centre | St Kilda Road | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: Contract

Project:

'Page to Stage' web project (consultation on the structure, contents and development of digital tools for the Page to Stage web project).

2. Teaching Artist (2008 – present)
Education | The Arts Centre | St Kilda Road | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: Casual

Project:

Design workshops for secondary schools throughout Victoria.

3. Teaching Artist (2007 – 2009)
Education | Malthouse Theatre | Southbank | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: Casual (contract)

Project:

'Year Ten Days' (design workshop).

Conference Workshops and Presentations

1. Workshop presenter (2009)
2009 Drama Victoria Conference (27-28th November)
Topic: 'Sustainable Design for Theatre'.
2. Workshop presenter (2007)
2007 Drama Victoria Conference (29-30th November)
Topic: 'Storytelling through Design'.

Research

1. Exhibition Designer and Researcher (2008 – 2009)
Melbourne Museum | Carlton | Victoria | Australia
Nature of employment: Contract (1-5 days per week)
Projects:
'Paragon Shoes Display', Melbourne Story (exhibition design, including investigation and implementation of sustainable design practices).
'Charles Darwin Anniversary Foyer Display' (exhibition design, including investigation and implementation of sustainable design practices).

Creative Works

Stage Productions (Set and Costume Design), Australia

2011

*'Random'** (directed by Leticia Caceres): Co-production between Real TV, Melbourne Theatre Company, Brisbane Powerhouse and Sydney Opera House.

'Beautifully Imperfect' (directed by Robert Tannion, co-set design only): NICA

*'No Place Like'** (directed by Tom Gutteridge): Union House Theatre, University of Melbourne.

*'Home for Lunch'** (directed by Lucy Freeman): Chapel off Chapel

*'La Rejactamenta'** (created by Stuart Orr): La Mama Theatre

*'War Crimes'** (directed by Leticia Caceres): Real TV

*'Medea of Baghdad'** (directed by Tanja Beer): La Mama Theatre

2010

*'She's not Performing'** (directed by Kelly Somes): La Mama Theatre.

*'High School Musical 2'** (directed by Anthony Crowley): Gold Coast Arts Centre.

2009

*'Do you Love Me'** (directed by Leticia Caceres): Real TV (funded by Arts Victoria).

'Children of the Black Skirt' (directed by Leticia Caceres): Real TV (funded by Regional Arts Victoria).

'At First Sight' (directed by Gavin Robins): NICA.

*'The Walking Whale Circus'** (directed by Megan Jones): Museum Victoria and NICA.

2008

'An Unexpectedly Mind Boggling Adventure' (directed by Scott Witt): State Library of Queensland.

'Escape Hatch' (directed by Ailsa Wild): Westside Circus and the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

*'Urgent'** (directed by Glenn Shea and Julia Torpey): The Geelong Courthouse Youth Arts Centre.

*'Big Sky Town'** and *'Szentpaly'** (directed by Naomi Edwards and Bryan Davidson Blue): St. Martins Theatre of Youth.

*Project which included mentoring

2007

'Whispers of this Wik Woman' (directed by Steve Gratton): Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts.

'The Mack' (directed by Ian Brown): Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts.

'The Con' (directed by Dave Houston): The Torch Project.

'The Wanderlands'* (directed by Oliver Allen): St. Martins Theatre of Youth.

2006

'Getting Betterer all the Time' (directed by Felicity Carpenter): Emerge Project.

'Ladyeez Business'* (co-ordinated by Contact Inc): Stylin Up Festival (Inala).

'Howie the Rookie' (directed by Leah Purcell): Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts.

2005

'Bungo the Money God' (directed by Celia White): Vulcana Women's Circus.

'The Boy and the Goat' (directed by Andrew Corey): Metro Arts.

'Score' (directed by Maggi Seitsma): Expressions Dance Company.

'Passion for Performance' (directed by Celia White): CIRCA.

2004

'Far Away' (directed by Leticia Caceres): Queensland Theatre Company.

'Dinosaur-Adaptus' (created by Tim Mullooly, Peter Stewart, Jane Carpenter): Kite Theatre.

'The Children of the Black Skirt' (directed by Leticia Caceres): Real T.V. and Queensland Arts Council.

2003

'The Orphanage Project' (directed by Leticia Caceres): Queensland Theatre Company.

'Lonely Planet' (directed by Christopher Totten): Brisbane Pride Festival.

2002

'Crazy Brave' (directed by Nicholas Pollock): Momentary Theatre Company.

2001

'Charitable Intent' (directed by Tom Gutteridge): Melbourne International Festival.

Stage Productions (Set and Costume Design), International

2000

'Albert Herring' (directed by Reto Nickler): University for Music und Dramatic Art, Vienna, Austria.

1997

'The Barber of Seville': University for Music und Dramatic Art, Graz, Austria.

Stage Productions (Design and Direction)

2007

'Voiceprints': Melbourne International Arts Festival.

2002

'Elixir': Melbourne Fringe Festival.

'Journeys in a Suitcase'*: St Martin's Theatre of Youth and Victorian College of the Arts.

2001

'Hush, Hush' and 'A Room in the Sky': VCA School of Dance.

*Project which included mentoring

Stage Productions (Design Assistance)

1999

'*The Hour We Knew Nothing About Each Other*': Tübingen Theatre Company, Germany.

1998

'*Dreams come true*': Pika Design Company, Japan.

1996

'*Ali Baba: Tales from the Arabian Nights*': Baden City Theatre, Austria.

Film (Design), Australia

2006

'*The Walk*' (directed by Marcus Waters): A Raw Nerve Production (funded by the Australian Film Commission in association with Qpix and Screen Development Australia).

2003

'*QUT Show Reels 2003*': Queensland University of Technology.

Film (Concept, Direction and Design), International

1998

'*Machine-skin*': Department for Film and Television at the University for Music and Dramatic Arts, Vienna.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

'She's Not Performing', La Mama 2010

*"...If Tanja Beer is not one of Melbourne's hottest and most inventive designers, then I have no idea who is. Ms Beer's eventual loss to the main stages of not only this country, but I predict others, will be a great loss to Melbourne's independent theatre scene. Her signature and singular abilities to substantially alter our perception of spatial relationships within the theatre space is without peer on the independent scene, and her design for this play (like her visionary work for Platform Youth Theatre Company's **One is Warm..**) is unerringly brilliant, responsible, evolved and in complete service to the text. Her catwalk structure for **She's Not Performing** is possibly representative of the finest use of La Mama's demanding little space I have ever seen... this is completely involving design for theatre..."* **Stage Whispers**

'One is Warm in Winter & the Other has a Better View', Platform Theatre 2009

"..Ms Beer's brilliant set was not only startling in its conceptual simplicity, but it managed to serve the demanding production at every point." **Stage Whispers 2009**

"..As the audience assembles into the space, the large unshuttered windows let in the hazy light of dusk. This expectant, being on the verge of something, sets a lovely tone for what's to come. The space has been stripped back, stripped bare, opened up and filled with apples. Apples sit on windowsills, crates of apples are on the ground, spilling onto the floor, apples hang from the rafters in clusters, or alone. The space is visually arresting, but doesn't set you into a state of repose, it rather sets up a feeling of possibility.." **Arts Hub**

'At First Sight', NICA 2009

"..At First Sight is a perfect marriage of the physical prowess of circus arts, theatrical drama and truly innovative design...The result is a spell binding and original offering amongst Australia's circus arts.."
www.samesame.com.au

'Voiceprints', Melbourne International Festival 2007.

"..Director Tanja Beer imposed theatrical unity through timing and careful use of space... Even at two hours, Voiceprints seemed a sprint: an eye and ear-opening testimony to the theatrical power of poetry in an exciting new format.." **The Australian**

'The Mack', Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts 2007

"..Tanja Beer's outstanding set (a wondrous, adaptive creation that evokes both urban and outback environments and finds beauty in both) is magically lit by Conan Fitzpatrick (their combined triumph of design is surely worth the price of admission alone)..." **Time Off**

'Score!', Expressions Dance Company 2005

"..What let Score! make its points above a skit, however, were its wily choreography and crafty design - with brash video projections and on-target lighting by Nick Tomlin, and a studio set by Tanja Beer where battles and intimacies lay bare in lab-like steeliness.." **Sun-sentinel Miami USA**

'Far Away', Queensland Theatre Company 2004

"...A stunning set by Tanja Beer that manages to function as both locales and provides a bleak suggestion of a holocaust-style gas chamber.." **Brisbane News**

"Far Away evokes a world on the brink of disintegration, a terrible vision reinforced by Tanja Beer's unsettling design." **Time off**

"..The hats themselves are a remarkable array, paraded by a veritable army of volunteers, and a credit to the designer Tanja Beer allude to the various "hats" we choose to wear in our daily lives, the different roles we play, the choices we make ideological and emotional.." **The Courier Mail**

'The Orphanage Project', Queensland Theatre Company 2003

"..With such physicality driving the scenes, and an excellent use of music hall shadow plays, director Leticia Caceres and Designer Tanja Beer are given plenty of visual material to work on, and they make full use of the large performance space. Windows and doors open everywhere and points of focus shift repeatedly, helping this slick production to rattle along with only moments of reflection..." **The Australian**

"..The design team has created a dreamily evocative and versatile set. The production's real strength lies in its styling and design, and its wonderful re-invention of Gothic horror." **Scene**

REFEREES

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