

mike durkin

(he/him/his)

Multidisciplinary Performance Artist

MFA in Devised Performance with Pig Iron Theatre/University of the Arts

In Development/Upcoming

Art Residency *And You Will Know Its Done When* Hambidge Center for the Arts Rabun Gap, GA Fall 2021
 - I will be in residence at the Hambidge Arts Center to develop the recipebook project celebrating the past, present and future of Northern Georgia. I will be developing a photo series and conducting oral histories of restaurants and the recipes at these locations.

Creator/Director *Sportsplay* Texas A&M University- Performance Studies College Station, TX Winter 2022
 - A campus-created project looking at the role football plays on and off-campus. I will work with students in different departments to create a series of public displays and performances modeled after a tailgate. The project will combine theatre, dance, story-telling, photography, and installation.

Performer/Creator *What If We Gather At the Botanical Gardens...* North Carolina Botanical Gardens/Asheville Fringe Winter 2022
 - *What If We Gather at The Botanical Gardens, Stare Up At The Clouds And Dance With Plants*, is an interactive performative walk where audiences will explore the history of the NC Botanical Gardens and explore their physical distances and space with each other.

Creator/Director *And You Will Know Its Done When* Multiple Collaborators Asheville, NC 2021-2022
 - A community-based recipebook performance looking at the role recipes play in the Western North Carolina region. I will work with the organizations of Asheville Poverty Initiative, SeekHealing, and Homeward Bound to develop a print and digital recipebook with art inspired by the recipes. These will commence to a community meal launching the cookbook.

Directing (Devised Work)

Creator/Director *Mallbodies* Performative Soundwalk Virtual Spring 2021
 - *Mallbodies*, is a soundwalk exploring the past, present, and future of shopping malls. Designed as a performance for one, audiences would listen to text and score at their nearest shopping mall. This work will be expanded to an in-person experience in Fall 2021.

Creator *This Is Where We Cross The Street* FreeFringe Festival Philadelphia, PA Fall 2020
 - This is a soundwalk exploring the need to slow down and to understand the new circumstances in the COVID-19 world. Audiences download a music file to be played at their convenience.

Creator/Director *Matisse's Joy Of Life* The Renegade Company In Partnership with The Barnes Foundation Fall 2019
 - A performance installation combining knitting, dance, and music recreating Henri Matisse's *Le Bonheur de Vivre (The Joy of Life)*. The production featured professional knitters as the performers.

Creator/Director *In A Dream* The Renegade Company In Partnership with Brandywine River Museum Summer 2019
 - A performance held at the Brandywine River Museum exploring N.C. Wyeth's paintings.

Director/Creator *(Kensington) Streetplay* The Renegade Company Walking Tour In Kensington Fall 2018
 - This is a site-specific, community-driven devised work addressing issues of substance abuse, and unemployment in the Kensington neighborhood

Director/Creator *Animal Farm to Table* The Renegade Company Urban Creators' Farm (FringeArts) Fall 2016
 - A new form of dinner theatre exploring food culture through the lens of George Orwell's novel. The piece will take place at a farm where the audience will be walking around and grabbing items to make a meal together.

Director *Damned Dirty Apes!* The Renegade Company FDR Park (FringeArts Fest) Fall 2015
 - A theatrical expedition set in various points of FDR Park in South Philadelphia. Written by Chris Davis and Sam Henderson.

Director/Conceiver *One The Road for 17,527 Miles* 14th Street In development Winter 2015
 - A techno-infused staging of GPS directions created by Gregor Weichbrodt of Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*

Director/Conceiver *Hunchback...A Mute Play* The Renegade Company First Presbyterian Church, FringeArts Fall 2014
 - A version of Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* performed wordless in a Cathedral, inspired by the silent films of the 1930s.

Director/Deviser *Cheesesteaks Cheesesteaks...* 14th Street SoLow Festival Summer 2014
 - A competitive cheesesteak eating competition/performance piece in a neighborhood bar modeled after the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest

Director/Conceiver *Bathtub Moby-Dick* The Renegade Company FringeArts Festival Fall 2013
 - A site-specific repurposing of Herman Melville's novel set in a South Philadelphia row home.

Performance/Creation

Performer/Creator	<i>Primary Realities</i>	Self-Produced	PhillyCAM Live Culture	Fall 2018
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- Live performance and filming of a satirical lecture exploring the ideas of Buckminster Fuller. Collaborated with Sterling Melcher, and Nick Schwasman.

Creator/Performer	<i>For A Good Time Call...</i>	14th Street	Different neighborhoods (SoLow Fest)	Summer 2016
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- Mike was tethered to a phone for a week, audience members were invited to call him 24 hours. From there, Mike engaged in conversation about the world around them and led to a walking performance..

Producing (The Renegade Company)

Artistic Director, Founder	The Renegade Company	Philadelphia, PA/New York City	2009-Currently
Producer	<i>The Amish Project</i>	James Stover-Dir	Walnut Street Studio 5 Winter 2013

- *The Amish Project* was co-produced with Simpatico Theatre Project (Allen Radway- Artistic Dir) and garnered a nomination for the Virginia Brown Martin Award given out by Theatre Philadelphia.

Teaching

Student Teacher- Headlong Performance Institute/Circus School	Sarah Sanford, Advisor	Pig Iron Theatre Company	Fall 2017
Teaching Artist	Autism Drama School	Angela Coleman- Director	Theatre Horizon School Years '13-'17
College Prep Specialist	Haverford Branch	Isamar Ramirez- Advisor	Free Library of Philadelphia Summer 2012
After School Leader	Nicetown-Tioga Branch	Jeffrey Neher- Advisor	Free Library of Philadelphia Spring 2010-2013
Camp Leader	Teen Camp	Gay Carducci- Kuhn-Dir	Curio Theatre Company Summer 2009
Developer	Dramaturgy Class	Harvey Rovine- Prof	West Chester University Fall 2007-Spring 2007
Teacher's Assistant	Theatre Department	Harvey Rovine- Prof	West Chester University Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Community-Based Art

- Recreation Specialist/Artist In Residence Two Bridges Women's Shelter Two Bridges, NYC Spring 2019-Currently
Creating and implementing arts and recreation therapy programming for a very active women's shelter in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, and Two Bridges, Manhattan. The types of work I would do would include arts, crafts, story-telling, group dialogues, and performance-making activities all in pursuit for individuals to process trauma, feel empowered, engage in social interactions, and develop artistic and interpersonal skills to continue on after they leave the shelter. I engaged in populations battling mental illness, substance abuse, trauma, immigration, and domestic violence interactions. I employed a deeply empathetic trauma-informed approach in all programming.

- Lead Artist and Facilitator Storysharing and Performance Making Workshop-
Kensington Storefront and Impact Services Veteran's Group/Mural Arts, Fall 2017-Fall 2018
Created, taught, and organized performance-making exercises, improvisation scenes, story-sharing circles, and playwriting activities for the Porchlight Project as Part of Mural Arts presented at the Impact Services Veteran's Group as well as the Kensington Storefront in Philadelphia. I worked with individuals battling substance abuse, addiction, homelessness, and currently either living on the street or in a Veteran's transitional home. These workshops were taught 3 times a week and led to a performance using participants as the creators and performers. For more information: <http://bit.ly/KensingtonStorefront>

Education

MFA in Devised Performance- Pig Iron Theatre Company/University of the Arts, 2017
B.A. in Theatre, Concentration in Acting/Directing, Minor in Film Criticism- West Chester University, 2008

Awards and Merits

2006 American College Theatre Festival Region II Winner of Student Dramaturgy Initiative
2007 National American College Theatre Festival recipient of Minneapolis Playwrights Center Playlabs Fellowship
2007-2008 J. Peter Adler Prize in Excellence in Theatre, West Chester University
2011 Michael is a member of the 2011 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab
2016 Residency at the Space at Ryder Farm in Brewster NY, to develop (*Kensington*) *Streetplay*
2018 Residency at Drop Forge and Tool in Hudson, NY to develop *Primary Realities*
2020 Liveness Lab at The Orchard Project, Virtual, exploring what performance looks like during and post-pandemic

References

Dani Bryant Dramatherapist/Playwright New York, NY danibryant11@gmail.com	Eric Preisendanz Executive Director Revolvd eric@revolvd.com	Adam Vidiksis Associate Professor, Music/Collaborator Temple University adam@vidiksis.com
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