

# MICHAEL SCHOLAR, JR.

Director / Artistic Director / Actor / Teacher / Writer

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Unions: CAEA, UBCP / ACTRA / SAG & AEA (eligible)

<https://vimeo.com/michaelscholarjr/directingportfolio>

<https://vimeo.com/michaelscholarjr/actingdemoreel>

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"Michael is brilliant. His mind is capable of understanding all of the necessary elements to make a complete theatrical language. Whether it is text, movement, light, or architecture/scenery, he is unique in that his interests and knowledge lie in classical and traditional theater as well as the newest theatrical works of our time."

-Robert Wilson (Visionary Theatre and Opera Director), *Arts Culture Beat*

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## DIRECTING

Lungs	Duncan Macmillan	Mitch & Murray Prod., 2020
Indian School	Esther Almazán	Arizona State University, 2020
A Midsummer Night's Dream	William Shakespeare	Colonial Theatre RI, USA, 2019
Born Yesterday	Garson Kanin	Ensemble Theatre Co., 2019
As You Like It	William Shakespeare	Studio 58 / Langara College 2017
Baby Fat: A Rock Opera*	Ben Weasel (after Verdi)	La MaMa ETC / November Theatre, 2016
ILSA, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp*	Blake Brooker Medicine Show	Theatre / November Theatre, 2015
Uncle Vanya	Anton Chekhov	Medicine Show Theatre, 2014
Mr. E's Humungous Underground	Devised	November Theatre / Columbia University, 2014
Digital Vaudeville Extravaganza*	Liz Thaler	Kraime Theater / Amios, 2014
The Third Option*	Dominic Finocchiaro	Columbia University, 2014
David Foster Wallace's GON*	Chas LiBretto / Kristin Slaney	Columbia University, 2014
Miranda The Teenage Satanist*	Ming Peiffer	Columbia University, 2014
Illicit*	David Greig	Globe Theatre, 2012
Midsummer*	Manuel de Pedrolo	Persephone Theatre, 2007
Humanity and No*	Neil LaBute	Mitch and Murray Prod., 2009
Fat Pig*	Devised	VAG / FUSE, 2011
I Needle East Van*	Carmen Aguirre & Michael Scholar, Jr.	Vancouver Cultural Olympiad / Hive 3 / November Theatre, 2010
Ana*	Joe DiPietro	Gateway Theatre 2008
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change	Alan Ball	Presentation House, 2004
Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*	Joe DiPietro	Arts Club Theatre, 2003
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change	Michael Scholar, Jr.	Fringe Festival Tour, 2003
Barbie Screams*	Joe DiPietro	Waterfront Theatre, 2002
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change	Aaron Craven	PTC / Actor's Jam, 2002
Masculine Mystique*		

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*	Joe DiPietro	Presentation House, 2001
Talking With...	Jane Martin	Studio 16 / Barestage Prod., 2001
110 Toes*	Collective	First Night Festival, 2000
Checking Out*	Collective	Azimuth Theatre, 2000

(\*World, National, or Provincial Premiere)

### ASSISTANT DIRECTING

Romeo and Juliet	Dámaso Rodríguez <i>Dir.</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Quills (French)	Robert Lepage <i>Dir.</i>	Ex Machina, Quebec
La Traviata	Robert Wilson <i>Dir.</i>	Landestheater Linz, Austria
Ubu in Chains	Barbara Vann <i>Dir.</i>	Medicine Show Theatre, NY
Morris Panych's Vigil	Glynis Leyshon <i>Dir.</i>	Vancouver Playhouse
Romeo and Juliet	Glynis Leyshon <i>Dir.</i>	Vancouver Playhouse
As You Like It	Susan Ferley <i>Dir.</i>	Studio Theatre
Torched	Kate Twa <i>Dir.</i>	Fringe Festival Tour

**Faculty Assistant to Head of Directing, Anne Bogart, Columbia University (NY)**

### READINGS / WORKSHOPS (DIRECTING)

Anywhere But Here	Carmen Aguirre	Oregon Shakespeare Festival / PTC / November Theatre
The Vampire Mosquito	Adriane Raff Corwin	Arizona State University
What Price? What Glory?	Dave Osmundsen	Arizona State University
Mens Rea	Mark Kramer	Medicine Show Theatre, NY
Selling Your Life	Howard Pflanzler	Medicine Show Theatre, NY
The Forgotten House (French / English)	Dominique Robin	Schapiro Studio, NY
The Frenzy of Queen Maeve	Anthony MacMahon	Sask. Playwrights Centre
The True Color Blue	David Nugent	Theatre Network / Next Fest
Piece of Mind	Paul Matwychuk	Theatre Network / Next Fest

### ARTISTIC DIRECTION / PRODUCING

#### **Founding Artistic Producer**

#### **November Theatre, Vancouver / Toronto**

Selecting projects, acquiring rights, assembling creative teams, contracting, tour co-ordination, fundraising, grant writing, marketing, publicity, event planning, playwriting, directing, performing.

*November Theatre produced the world English premiere of Tom Waits, Robert Wilson and William S. Burroughs' The Black Rider, which is the only show to be honoured by the Jessie Awards (Vancouver), the Sterling Awards (Edmonton), the Betty Mitchell Awards (Calgary) and the Dora Awards (Toronto). The company has toured North America working with some of the most celebrated Canadian theatres.*

Projects 1998-present:

- **The Black Rider** by Tom Waits, William S. Burroughs and Robert Wilson - Tarragon Theatre (Toronto) / Arts Club Theatre (Vancouver) / Magnetic North Theatre Festival (St. John's, NF) / Theatre Network (Edmonton) / Persephone Theatre (Saskatoon) / Ground Zero Theatre, Big Secret Theatre & Calgary Opera / Intrepid Theatre (Victoria) / PuSh Festival (Vancouver) / Yukon Arts Centre (Whitehorse) / Fringe Fests (NY, Edmonton & Winnipeg)
- **Hard Core Logo: LIVE** by Michael Scholar, Jr., Joe "Shithead" Keithley adapted from Bruce McDonald, Michael Turner and Noel Baker - Theatre Network (Edmonton) / Touchstone Theatre / PuSh Festival (Vancouver) / Banff Centre for the Arts / Shadbolt Centre for the Arts (Burnaby)

- **I Needle East Van** (devised installation) - Vancouver Art Gallery / FUSE
- **Everyone** (collective creation) - Caravan Farm Theatre / Electric Company / Theatre Replacement / Newworld Theatre / Pound Of Flesh Theatre / Theatre Melee (Vancouver and Armstrong, B.C.)
- **Salon: An Intimate Evening with David Rhymer & Onalea Gilberston** (Vancouver)
- **Ana** by Michael Scholar, Jr. and Carmen Aguirre - Hive 3 / Vancouver Cultural 2010 Olympiad / Electric Company / Newworld Theatre / Theatre SKAM / Boca del Lupo / Leaky Heaven Circus / The Only Animal / Pi Theatre / Rumble Productions / Theatre Replacement / Theatre Conspiracy
- **Mr. E's Humongous Underground Digital Vaudeville Extravaganza!!!** - Columbia University (NY)
- **ILSA, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp** by Blake Brooker and David Rhymer – Medicine Show Theatre (New York)
- **Baby Fat** by Ben Weasel of Screeching Weasel – La MaMa (New York)
- **Anywhere But Here by Carmen Aguirre and Shad** – Oregon Shakespeare Festival / PTC / Shadbolt Centre for the Arts / rice & beans theatre

### Artistic Associate

### Globe Theatre, Regina

Programming and overseeing the Shumitacher Sandbox Series which produces and presents original work that challenges the boundaries of theatre, dance, music and multi-disciplinary performance. Programming the Main Stage season with AD; dramaturging new works; directing; tour managing.

*Globe Theatre is Regina's regional theatre and is Canada's only permanent professional theatre-in-the-round, offering up to 12 shows yearly in the main stage and black box theatre.*

Projects (2011-2012):

- **Midsummer** by David Greig
- **Cope** by Greg Ochitwa
- **Countries Shaped Like Stars** by Mi Casa Theatre (Ottawa)
- **The Fusion Project** - Globe Theatre School
- **House of Three** by FadaDance
- **Kaleidocycle** by Chrystene Ells
- **Blue Box** by Carmen Aguirre - Nightswimming Theatre (Toronto)
- **The Story of Mr. Wright** by 2b theatre - Neptune Theatre (Halifax)

### Artistic Producer

### The Wrecking Ball, Vancouver

The Wrecking Ball is a national political theatrical cabaret that curates playwrights and theatre artists to create work ripped from the headlines. This installment coincided with productions across the country, and was staged at the Vogue Theatre. It was a night of theatre, music, dance, film and protest.

- Curated Playwrights 2009: Daniel MacIvor, Carmen Aguirre, Camyar Chai and Mark Leiren Young

### Artistic Associate

### Mitch & Murray Productions, Vancouver

Directing and developing projects for this critically acclaimed production company. Nominated for 12 Jessie Awards, our focus is on contemporary, character-driven work that rocks the status quo and provokes lively debate from a diverse audience.

### PERFORMING (Theatre)

A Good Place (Radio Play)	Jorge	Factory Theatre	Guillermo Verdecchia
Enemy of the People (after Ibsen)	Captain Horster	Firehall Arts Centre	Donna Spencer
Th'woxiya	Spa:th (Bear)	Axis Theatre / WCT	Chris McGregor
Alice Munro Stories	Phillip & Others	Belfry Theatre	Anita Rochon
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Bad Blood	Dr. B	Curtain Razors	Joey Tremblay
Green River	Paul	Solo Collective	Rachel Peake
Mata Hari	Vadim	NYMF / Signature Center	Peter Schneider
Macbeth (Heiner Mueller)	Macbeth	Theatre Conspiracy	Carl Weber
Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story	Ritchie / Hi-pockets	Arts Club Theatre	Bill Millerd
Hard Core Logo: Live	Joe Dick	November Theatre / PuSh Festival	Bradley Moss
Refugee Hotel	Juan	Theatre Passe Muraille	Carmen Aguirre
The Black Rider	Peg Leg	November Theatre (Tour)	Ron Jenkins
The Flannigan Affair	Tracker	Electric Company / Hive 2	Kim Collier
Tideline (Wajdi Mouawad)	Knight / Director	Newworld Theatre / Touchstone Theatre	Camyar Chai & Katrina Dunn
Life After God	Todd	Touchstone Theatre	Katrina Dunn
Taming of the Shrew	Tranio	Bard on the Beach	Miles Potter
Romeo and Juliet	Tybalt	Bard on the Beach	Dean Paul Gibson
Little Mercy's First Murder	Norma / Witness	Touchstone Theatre	Katrina Dunn
Hamlet	Laertes	Bard on the Beach	Dean Paul Gibson
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern	Player	Bard on the Beach	Dean Paul Gibson
Hedwig and the Angry Inch	Hedwig	Theatre Network	Bradley Moss
Cloud Tectonics	Nelson	Vancouver Playhouse / Pi Theatre	Bill Dow
Twelfth Night	Orsino	Free Will Players	John Kirkpatrick
The Merchant of Venice	Morocco / Arragon	Free Will Players	Marianne Copithorne
The Edible Woman	Duncan	Theatre Junction	Nikki Loach
The Blue Orphan	Jonah	Catalyst Theatre / Traverse Theatre / Tron Theatre, Scotland	Jonathan Christenson & Joey Tremblay
Mojo	Silver Johnny	Theatre Network	John Cooper
Over the River and Through the...	Nick	Stage West	James Brewer
Collected Works of Billy the Kid	Billy	Studio Theatre	Kim McCaw
As You Like It	Le Beau / Amiens	Studio Theatre	Susan Ferley
Village of Idiots	Feyvel	Studio Theatre	Dean Gilmour
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Jekyll / Hyde	Stage Polaris	Susan Woywitka
Passion	Lieutenant Barri	Epiphany Theatre	Rebecca Benson
Sweeney Todd	Sweeney Todd	Kimberley Summer Rep.	Roxanne Harper

### **PERFORMING (Film & TV)**

Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies	Recurring	Paramount +	Alethea Jones
Chucky	Principal	Syfy / NBC / Universal	Leslie Libman
Resident Alien	Actor	Syfy / Dark Horse Ent.	David Dobkin
Fringe	Principal	Bad Robot / Fox / WB	Brad Anderson
Rags	Actor	Nickelodeon	Bille Woodruff
Smallville	Principal	Warner Brothers	James Conway
Les Boys (French)	Guest Star	CBC	Louis Saïa
The Collector	Guest Star	CHUM	Holly Dale
Stealing Christmas	Principal	USA Network	Gregg Champion
Jeremiah	Principal	MGM Worldwide / Showtime	Russell Mulcahy
Black Sash	Principal	Warner Brothers	Harry Winer

Special Unit 2	Principal	Paramount Pictures	John Kretchmer
Street Cents	Series Lead	CBC	Ron Murphy
Mentors	Principal	Minds Eye Pictures	Fred Frame
Fugue	Principal	Anagram Pictures	Blake Corbet
Mephisto Says	Principal	CBC / Salter Street / IFC	Stephen Hall
A Cowboy's Fairytale	Lead	CBC	Rick Gustavsen
Utopia Café	Host	CBC / Heartland	Stephen Hall
On My Mind	Actor	Minds Eye Pictures	Surgith Varughese
The Road Show	Lead	Frame 30	Michael Hamm
Lucky Stars	Supporting Lead	Calgary Film Fest	Jason Margolis
Baby Killer	Lead	Film Fest with a Twist	Peter Nadler
Section Locale 1001 ( <i>French</i> )	Principal	D. Active Productions	Don Bouzek
The Sounds of Earth	Lead	NW Projections Film Fest	Jason Margolis
Trappings	Lead	48 Hour Film Fest	Dave Pelletier
Portrait of a Young Artist	Lead	National Screen Institute	Jeff Beesley

### **PLAYWRITING**

Hard Core Logo: Live	Playwright	Lee's Palace / BFL, Toronto
Mr. E's Humungous Underground	Concept & Co-Creator	November Theatre, NY
Digital Vaudeville Extravaganza!!!		
Hard Core Logo: Live	Playwright	November Theatre / Theatre Network/ Touchstone Theatre / PuSh Fest, Edmonton & Van.
Barbie Screams	Co-playwright	Fringe Festival Tour
Ana	Co-playwright	Hive 3 / November Theatre
	w/ Carmen Aguirre	Vancouver Cultural Olympiad
Everyone	Co-Playwright	Caravan Farm Theatre / November Theatre
Effable	Co-playwright	Theatre Junction / Soulocentric
	w/ Nicole Zylstra	
Checking Out	Co-playwright	Azimuth Theatre

### **DRAMATURGY**

Cope	Greg Ochitwa	Globe Theatre
House of Three	Fada Dance	Globe Theatre
Kaleidocycle	Chrystene Ells	Globe Theatre
The Fusion Project	Collective	Globe Theatre
O.C.Dean	Daniel Maslany	Globe Theatre
Slippers from Kiev	Byrna Barclay	Sask. Playwrights Centre

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Hard Core Logo: LIVE	Play Excerpt	All Stages Magazine
Obey Or Else	Article	Edmonton Journal
Choc Norris	Short Story	Megaphone Magazine

### **TEACHING**

#### **Acting Instructor (2021)**

Michael Scholar, Jr.

#### **Opera NUOVA Hybrid Intensive Program**

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Teaching 6 master classes in Acting to emerging Opera and Musical theatre students, in person at Toronto Operetta Theatre.

**Lecturer (2019-2020)**

**Arizona State University /  
Herberger Institute for Design and  
the Arts / School of Film, Dance and  
Theatre**

Teaching a full course load (4 classes and directing a new play workshop); classes include “Introduction to Acting”, “Introduction to Directing” and co-coordinating (w/ Micha Espinosa) “the Acting Concentration for Stage and Screen”.

**Guest Lecturer / Director / Instructor (2018)**

**Arizona State University /  
Herberger Institute for Design and  
the Arts / School of Film, Dance and  
Theatre**

Directing a workshop / stage reading of an MFA student’s new play as part of the TheatreLab Series.

**Director / Instructor (2017)**

**Langara College – Studio 58**

Director and instructor for a production of Shakespeare’s *As You Like It* working with the senior Studio 58 Acting and Production students.

**Faculty Assistant to Head of Directing (2014-2015)**

**Columbia University (NY)**

**Assistant to Anne Bogart, Leigh Silverman & David Diamond** researching; coordinating visiting artists; class administration; departmental communications.

**Guest Teacher / Lecturer (Ongoing)**

**Various:**

**Columbia University (NY) /  
Langara College - Studio 58 /  
University of Regina /  
Capilano University (Vancouver) /  
Medicine Show Theatre (NY)**

Teaching and running workshops on acting, theatre, and creation for various theatre departments and high school drama classes.

**Acting Instructor (2008-2010)**

**Tarlington Training (Vancouver)**

Teaching young professional actors aged 11-20 advanced techniques for stage and screen, including monologues and scene studies (Senior Masters / Junior Masters).

**Shakespearean Workshop Leader (2005) Bard On The Beach (Vancouver)**

Directing high school students and teaching them how to read, speak and play Shakespeare’s text through exercises and games; with a final staged public performance of *The Comedy of Errors* on the Festival’s main stage (Young Shakespearians).

## **Private Audition Coach (Ongoing) Freelance (Canada and US)**

Working with students, emerging artists and professionals to prepare their audition scenes or monologues.

## **AWARDS**

Canadian Actors' Equity Association's "Emerging Artist Award"  
Banff Centre for the Arts - Artist Residency Program  
The City of Edmonton's Salute to Excellence "Performance and Citation Award"

### **Directing Awards**

Westerly Sun "Readers Choice Award for Best Live Production (2019)" *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers) Foundation Observership Program  
Jessie Award Nomination "Best Direction (Small Theatre)" *Fat Pig*  
Ovation Award Nomination "Best Production" *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*  
The J.B.C. Watkins Fellowship

### **Producing Awards**

Dora Award Nomination "Best Touring Production" *The Black Rider*  
Jessie Award "Best Production (Large Theatre)" *The Black Rider*  
Sterling Award "Best Production" *The Black Rider*  
Betty Mitchell Award "Best Production" *The Black Rider*  
Vancouver Sun Critic's Choice Award Nomination "Innovation Award" *The Black Rider*  
Betty Mitchell Award "FFWD's Reader's Choice Award" *The Black Rider*  
Sterling Award "Best Fringe Production" *The Black Rider*

### **Writing Awards**

Touchstone Theatre - Playwright in Residence  
Ovation Award Nomination "Outstanding New Work" *Hard Core Logo: LIVE*  
Victoria Fringe Nomination "Best New Work" *Barbie Screams*  
Reel Fast 48 Hour Film Fest Award "Best Screenplay" *Trappings*

### **Performing Awards (theatre)**

Sterling Award "Best Lead Actor" *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*  
Betty Mitchell Award Nomination "Best Performance in a Musical" *The Black Rider*  
Jessie Award Nomination "Best Supporting Actor (Large Theatre)" *Tideline*  
Jessie Award Nomination "Best Supporting Actor (Large Theatre)" *Taming of the Shrew*  
Jessie Award Nomination "Best Supporting Actor (Large Theatre)" *Life After God*  
Ovation Award Nomination "Outstanding Lead Performance" *The Black Rider*  
The Stage Award (UK) Nomination "Excellence in Acting (Ensemble)" *Blue Orphan*

### **Performing Awards (film and tv)**

Emmy Award "Best International Children's Series" *Street Cents*  
Gemini Award Nomination "Best Performance in a Children's Series" *Street Cents*  
SMPIA Showcase Nomination "Best Host" *Utopia Café*  
SMPIA Showcase Award "Best Lead Actor" *Portrait of a Young Artist*  
SMPIA Showcase Award "Best Film" *Portrait of a Young Artist*  
National Screen Institute Award "Best Film" *Portrait of a Young Artist*

## **TRAINING**

**Columbia University, MFA in Directing:** Anne Bogart, Brian Kulick, Gregory Mosher Visiting

Directors/Artists (selected): Julie Taymor, Ivo van Hove, Tina Landau, Bill T. Jones, Michael Mayer, Jack O'Brien, Pam MacKinnon, Moises Kaufmann, Laurie Anderson, Andrei Serban, Des McAnuff, Richard Jones, Diane Paulus, Sarah Benson, Rachel Chavkin, Jerry Zaks, Liesl Tommy, JoAnne Akalaitis, Jeffrey Horowitz, Andre Bishop, Michael Greif, Scott Ellis, Les Waters, Annie Hamburger, Will Power, David Binder, Elizabeth Streb, Sarah Ruhl, John Collins, Robert O'Hara, David Henry Hwang, Dan Safer, Daniel Auken, Gideon Lester, Lev Dodin, Joe Melillo, Joe Mantello, Anna D. Shapiro

**University of Alberta, BFA in Acting:** David Ley, Sandra Nicholls, Charlie Tomlinson, Kim McCaw, Betty Moulton, Carl Hare, Linda Rubin. Guest Artists: Michael Langham (Stratford Festival), Dean Gilmour (Theatre Smith Gilmour), and Susan Ferley (Grand Theatre/Globe Theatre).

**University of Regina, BFA in Acting:** Kelly Handerek, Gerald Lenton-Young, Jake Roberts and Robin Poitras.

## **ARTS ADVOCACY and ACTIVISM**

### **Steering Committee Member Latinx Theatre Commons (LTC), USA, 2017 - present**

The Latinx Theatre Commons (LTC) in partnership with HowlRound is a national movement that uses a commons-based approach to transform the narrative of the American theatre, to amplify the visibility of Latinx performance making, and to champion equity through advocacy, art making, convening, and scholarship. Our values include Service, Radical Inclusion, Transparency, Legacy & Leadership Cultivation, and Advancement of the Art Form.

**Undoing Racism: The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond - 3 day Workshop** as part of the Latinx Theatre Common's Steering Committee (Chicago, 2018)

**artEquity:** Equity Diversity and Inclusion Training 101 (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 2018)

**BC Arts Alliance for the Arts + Culture, Workshop:** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Arts Leading the Way (Vancouver, 2018)

### **Vice-President Interdisciplinary Arts Council - Columbia University, NY, 2014 - 2016**

Interdisciplinary Arts Council (IAC) is the official representative student council of Columbia University School of the Arts. Our mission is to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, foster a nurturing community, and advocate for the needs of the Columbia School of the Arts student body.

**Young Jean Lee, Workshop:** How To Work Outside Your Culture Without Being a Total Dick (Drama League, NY 2016)

**National Wrecking Ball Selection Committee Member** (Stanley Theatre, Vancouver 2008) – in the lead up to the federal election, this first ever national edition of the political cabaret was organized by local theatre groups across the country to engage artists in the political process.

- Playwrights: Judith Thompson, Lucia Frangioni, Michael Turner and Bill Richardson;  
Musician: Joe Keithley; and Host: John Mann.

**Grants and Awards Juries: the Canada Council for the Arts, Creative Saskatchewan and Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards Society**



## **REFERENCES**

**Anne Bogart**

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AD of Siti Company (New York), head of the Directing Program at Columbia University, world renowned director and author.

**David Rhymer**

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Composer, Playwright, Musical Director, OYR Member

**Corinne Kessel**

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Collaborator, Musical Director, former Managing Producer and Board Member of November Theatre.

**Joey Tremblay**

(306) 550-7234

[joey.r.tremblay@gmail.com](mailto:joey.r.tremblay@gmail.com)

Ensemble member of the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), former AD of Catalyst Theatre (Edmonton), Director, Theatre Creator.

**Dámaso Rodríguez**

(818) 679-8852

[damasobrodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:damasobrodriguez@gmail.com)

AD of ART (Portland), Freelance Director, I was Assistant Director to him on R&J at OSF

**Micha Espinosa**

(480) 688-8198

[micha.espinosa@asu.edu](mailto:micha.espinosa@asu.edu)

Co-coordinator of the Acting Concentration of Stage and Screen with the School of Film Dance and Theatre at Arizona State University (Tempe), Faculty, Actor, Voice and Dialect Coach (Oregon Shakespeare Festival)

## **PRESS QUOTES - DIRECTING (selected)**

“A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM A TRUE DELIGHT - There are so many good things to say about the Colonial Theatre's stellar (and very funny) production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Director Michael Scholar Jr., who played the role of the Changeling Child himself once upon a time when he was a child back in Canada (in a production directed by his father,) directs the play as a fantasy, seen through the eyes of the little girl changeling who is the character at the center of an argument between Oberon. An ideal setting with an ideal cast makes for a smash summertime hit.

**-Nancy Burns-Fusaro, The Westerly Sun – *A Midsummer Night’s Dream***

“The directors Shelby Bushell and Michael Scholar, Jr. make the best of a story that is a little outdated. It was a well-paced, colourful and fun production”

**-entertainmentvancouver.com – *Born Yesterday***

“[T]his production is positively bursting with life. ...there is so much energy in this show, from the delightfully silly staging of a group of sheep piling on top of a pair of lovers to the inventive physicality of a wrestling match in which the combatants fight without touching each other. ...the excitement of its best moments makes this Forest of Arden worth a visit.”

**-Kathleen Oliver, The Georgia Straight – *As You Like It***

“In setting *As You Like It*, Shakespeare’s comedy about banishment, director Michael Scholar Jr. draws inspiration from the global refugee crisis. ...it does result in the creation of a multi-textured, sometimes surprising world. ...The excitement of disruption and the possibility of change hit you as soon as you enter the theatre. ...It’s a terrific opener and this sense of creativity continues throughout the show. ...elements are transcendent. In a viscerally poetic device, Scholar emphasizes the passing of the seasons: actors toss fall leaves, snowflakes, and spring flowers into the air. And that drag queen presides over a multiple wedding that is so innocently ecstatic it feels like a wet dream.”

**-Colin Thomas, colinthomas.ca – *As You Like It***

“This lively production, directed by Michael Scholar, Jr., illustrates how Chekhov’s characters draw energy from one another and, at least for a moment, grow beyond their isolated lives. ...The production was cast meticulously and for that Scholar must be given full credit. ...So well-conceived that it reminded me that Chekhov should be done much more.”

**-Jean Sidden, Front Row Center (NY) – *Uncle Vanya***

“*Midsummer* is everything you want (but so rarely get) from theatre: lively, touching, funny as hell, artful without tipping over into crushing self-regard. Michael Scholar Jr.’s nimble direction makes the most of a minimal set and the limited space of the Sandbox Theatre, rapidly shifting tone and expecting the audience to keep up.”

**-Aiden Morgan, Prairie Dog Magazine - *Midsummer***

“This production serves as director Michael Scholar Jr.’s introduction as artistic associate at the Globe, and he comes on like gangbusters. He couldn’t ask for a stronger first impression.”

**-Backstage with Nick Miliokas - *Midsummer***

“Director Michael Scholar Jr. has done a great job at staging the play in a way that keeps the audience focused and engaged. The set is minimal and shifts direction, both physically and metaphorically, at several points throughout the performance. *Fat Pig* is a play that everyone should see.”

**-Wendy Dallian – Vancouver Observer**

“Under Michael Scholar’s direction, the four person cast in this BareStage mounting works the material for all it’s worth. ...Expertly executed.”

**-Colin Thomas, The Georgia Straight - *I Love You You’re Perfect Now Change***

“I love this show, it’s almost perfect, now change you’re plans and see it. It’s a testament to Michael Scholar, Jr. that just about everything comes off sounding and feeling note-perfect.”

**-Peter Birnie, Vancouver Sun - *I Love You You’re Perfect Now Change***

“Combined, these actors add up to far more than the sum of their parts - a tribute to the direction of Michael Scholar Jr.”

**-North Shore News - *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress***

### **PRESS QUOTES - ACTING (Selected)**

“Michael Scholar, Jr. not only give[s] full life to the characters [he] plays, but help[s] to seamlessly set the stage for what is about to take place. Scholar is particularly good here as Jane’s father, capturing the anguish of what he felt he had to do at the time, and the reality of the young woman who shows up on his Knight Street doorstep.”

**-Mark Robins, Vancouver Presents – *Green Lake***

“Michael Scholar, Jr. is a young, brooding and powerful Macbeth”

**--Jo Ledingham, Vancouver Courier - *Macbeth***

“Playing Ophelia's brother, Laertes, Michael Scholar Jr. provides one of the most touching passages in this mounting: his character's reaction to Ophelia's death.”

**-Colin Thomas, Georgia Straight - *Hamlet***

“Scholar steals the production from an accomplished cast... it’s absolutely hilarious.”

**-Steven Schelling, Westender - *Taming of the Shrew***

“But the laughs keep coming thanks to Michael Scholar, Jr., whose frito-bandito precision as Lucentio’s servant is the show’s comic highlight.”

**-Jerry Wasserman, The Province - *Taming of the Shrew***

“Michael Scholar, Jr.’s Peg Leg is the other unforgettable creation. Athletic and dangerously sexy, but hobbled by an ancient wound, the character moves about the stage with the idiosyncratic power of a panther with a limp.”

**-Colin Thomas, Georgia Straight, *The Black Rider***

“Michael Scholar, Jr.’s fiendishly fun young Devil, alias Peg Leg, comes off like a hell-spawn hybrid of Johnny Depp and One Yellow Rabbit’s Michael Green, charming even as he limps about with one lame cloven hoof.”

**-Martin Morrow, Fast Forward (Calgary) - *The Black Rider***

“Michael Scholar, Jr. (as Norma Divine) just about sets the Cultch on fire with the sizzling "Rumba."

**-Jo Ledingham, Vancouver Courier, Best of 2005 - *Little Mercy’s First Murder***