

Guillermo Verdecchia

Theatre Artist / Teacher

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Education

M.A University of Guelph, School of English and Theatre Studies, August 2005
Thesis: Staging Memory, Constructing Canadian Latinidad
(Supervisor: Ric Knowles)
Recipient Governor-General's Gold Medal for Academic Achievement

Ryerson Theatre School Acting Program 1980-82

Languages

English, Spanish, French

Theatre (selected)

DIRECTING

El Terremoto 2024
By Christine Quintana. Tarragon Theatre, Toronto.

English 2022
By Sanaaz Toosi. Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto and the Segal Centre, Montreal.

The Jungle 2019
by Anthony MacMahon and Thomas McKechnie. Tarragon Theatre, Toronto
Outstanding New Play, Toronto Critics Award

The Royale 2018
by Marco Ramirez. Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto.
7 Dora Mavor Moore nominations incl. Outstanding Director & Production

Two Birds, One Stone 2017
by Rimah Jabr and Natasha Greenblatt. Theatre Centre, Riser Project, Toronto;
Impact Festival, K-W, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre.

- The Thirst of Hearts** 2015
by Thomas McKechnie. Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto
- The Art of Building a Bunker** 2013 -15
by Adam Lazarus and Guillermo Verdecchia
Summerworks Theatre Festival, Factory Theatre, Revolver Fest (Vancouver)
- Once Five Years Pass** 2012
by Federico Garcia Lorca. National Theatre School. Montreal
- Ali and Ali: The Deportation Hearings** 2010
by Marcus Youssef, Guillermo Verdecchia, and Camyar Chai
Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Factory Theatre Toronto
- A Taste of Empire** 2010
by Jovanni Sy, Cahoots Theatre. Multiple productions
- Rice Boy** 2009
by Sunil Kuruvilla, Stratford Festival, Stratford.
- The Five Vengeances** 2006
by Jovanni Sy, Humber College, Toronto.
- The Caucasian Chalk Circle** 2006
by Bertolt Brecht, Ryerson Theatre School, Toronto.
- Romeo and Juliet** 2004
by William Shakespeare, Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, Toronto.
- The Adventures of Ali & Ali and the aXes of Evil** 2003-07
by Youssef, Verdecchia, and Chai. Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Victoria, Seattle.
- Cahoots Theatre Projects** 1999 – 2004
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. Responsible for artistic planning and activities for company dedicated to development and production of new plays representative of Canada's cultural diversity. Developed 15 new plays, produced 5 new works, established and ran playwriting unit. Reporting to Arts Councils: Toronto, Ontario, and Canada, and Board of Directors
- Miss Orient(ed)** 2003
Nadine Villasin and Nina Aquino, Carlos Bulosan Theatre, Toronto. (Dora Award nomination: Outstanding Direction)
- In the Freedom of Dreams** 2003
by Michael Miller, Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, Toronto.
- Bhopal** 2003
by Rahul Varma, Cahoots Theatre Projects, Toronto.
- dreams of blonde and blue** 2002
by M.J. Kang, Cahoots Theatre Projects and Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto.

- Chile Con Carne** 1999
by Carmen Aguirre, Station Street Theatre, Vancouver, 1995; Tarragon Extra Space, Toronto.
- WAR** 1994
by Dennis Foon, Green Thumb Theatre, Vancouver.
- WRITING**
- Feast** 2023
Produced by Prairie Theatre Exchange. Directed by Thomas Morgan Jones.
- Our Heart Learns** 2021
Produced by National Theatre of Italy in Genoa. Directed by Mercedes Martini.
- The Parliament of the Birds** 2020
an adaptation of *The Conference of the Birds* by Farid ud Din-Attar. With Soheil Parsa. Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto. (Around the World in 80 Plays audio series)
- Flashing Lights** 2017
by Guillermo Verdecchia and the Flashing Lights Collective. Ahuri Theatre and Bad New Days. Theatre Centre, Toronto.
- The Art of Building a Bunker** 2013
by Adam Lazarus and Guillermo Verdecchia. Originally produced at Summerworks Theatre Festival; Subsequently produced at Factory Theatre, Toronto
- Ali and Ali: The Deportation Hearings** 2010
co-created with Marcus Youssef and Camyar Chai. NeWorld Theatre, Vancouver, Toronto.
- bloom** 2006 & 2018
produced by Modern Times Theatre, Toronto. Directed by Soheil Parsa.
- The Adventures of Ali and Ali and the aXes of Evil** 2003 - 06
co-created with Marcus Youssef and Camyar Chai, Cahoots Theatre Projects and NeWorld Theatre, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Seattle.
- Insomnia** 1998/99
created with Daniel Brooks. Theatre Centre, Toronto, and Festival des Ameriques, Montreal. Director with Daniel Brooks. (Six Dora nominations including New Play, Direction, and Production. Chalmers Award Finalist).
- Truth, or The Terrible But Incomplete Journals of John D.** 1996
a live-to-air radio/theatre event produced by Rumble Theatre, Vancouver.
- A Line in the Sand** 1995
co-written with Marcus Youssef. Originally produced at NPC, Vancouver. Subsequent productions at Tarragon Theatre and World Stage Festival, Toronto, 1996; Venice, Italy, 2004. Montreal, 2010, Toronto 2016.

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| True Lies Rumble Theatre, Vancouver. | 1995 |
| Fronteras Americanas Originally produced at Tarragon Theatre, Toronto. Subsequent productions include: Soulpepper Theatre, Festival des Ameriques, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Vancouver Playhouse, Australian tour, TheatreFirst Oakland, CA. | 1993-2012 |
| Get Off the Stage co-written with Jim Warren. Originally produced at Tarragon Spring Arts Fair. (Subsequent productions: Fringe of Toronto, Factory Studio Theatre) | 1991 |
| The Noam Chomsky Lectures co-written with Daniel Brooks. Originally produced at Rhubarb Festival, Toronto. Subsequent productions: World Stage Festival, Theatre Passe Muraille, Great Canadian Theatre Company. Co-directed with Daniel Brooks. | 1990 |
| i.d. co-written with members of Canadian Stage Hour Co. Produced by Canadian Stage Hour Co. Directed by Richard Greenblatt. | 1989/90 |
| Final Decisions (WAR) Originally produced at Alberta Theatre Playrites. Directed by Sharon Pollock. | 1990 |
| ACTING (selected) | |
| Animal Farm Directed by Ravi Jain, Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto | Lead – Benjamin 2018 |
| Fronteras Americanas Directed by Jim Warren, Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto | Lead – Verdecchia., Wideload 2011 |
| Ali & Ali: The Deportation Hearings Directed by Guillermo Verdecchia, Factory Theatre, Toronto | Lead – Ali Hakim 2010 |
| The Good Life Directed by Daniel Brooks, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto. | Lead -- Dan 2003 |
| Sade Directed by Barbara Bourget, Kokoro Dance, Vancouver. | Lead – Sade 1999 |
| Fronteras Americanas directed by Jim Warren, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto. | Lead – Verdecchia, Wideload 1993 |
| Memoir Directed by John Murrel, Arts Club, Vancouver. | Lead – Pitou 1993 |
| Lion in the Streets Directed by Roy Surette, Touchstone Theatre, Vancouver. | Lead – David, Ed 1992 |
| As You Like It | Lead – Orlando 1991 |

Directed by Peter Hinton, Canadian Stage Dream in the Park, Toronto.

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| Short History of Night | Lead – Longomontanus | 1991 |
| Directed by Jim Millan, Crow's Theatre, Toronto. | | |
| White Biting Dog | Lead – Pascal | 1991 |
| Directed by Maja Ardal, Grand Theatre, London. | | |
| Amigo's Blue Guitar | Lead – Elias | 1991 |
| Directed by Dennis Foon, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto. | | |
| Serpent Kills | Lead – Ajay | 1990 |
| Directed by Peter Hinton, Crow's Theatre, Toronto. | | |
| Dali | Lead – Dali | 1984 |
| Directed by Jim Millan, Crow's Theatre, Toronto. | | |

Published

CREATIVE

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| <i>The Art of Building a Bunker</i> - Talonbooks, Vancouver. | 2017 |
| <i>Ali & Ali: The Deportation Hearings</i> - Talonbooks, Vancouver. | 2013 |
| <i>Two Plays About War: Another Country and bloom</i> – Talonbooks, Vancouver. | 2007 |
| <i>The Adventures of Ali and Ali and the aXes of Evil</i> – Talonbooks, Vancouver. | 2005 |
| <i>Insomnia</i> - Scirocco, Winnipeg. | 1999 |
| <i>Citizen Suárez</i> - short fiction - Talonbooks, Vancouver. | 1998 |
| <i>The Terrible But Incomplete Journals of John D.</i> – CTR. | 1997 |
| <i>A Line In The Sand</i> - Talonbooks, Vancouver. | 1997 |
| <i>Fronteras Americanas</i> - Coach House Press, Toronto, 1993; Talonbooks | 1997 |
| <i>The Noam Chomsky Lectures</i> - Coach House Press, Toronto, 1991; Talonbooks | 1997 |

REFEREED ARTICLES

Revis(it)ing Animal Farm and The Cherry Orchard: Adapting Classics for Neo-liberal, Postcolonial Canada. Anglistik: Internation Journal of English Studies. 30.1 (2019) 81-92.

Naturalizing the Coup: Léo at the Tarragon. Theatre Research in Canada. 30.1&2 (2009): 111-128.

Mapping The Canada-America(s) Border: New Latin(a)-Canadian Play Writing. Zeitschrift fur Kanada-Studien. 26.2 (2006): 147-158.

We Win: Memory, Forgetting, and Audience in Que Pasa With La Raza, eh? Essays in Theatre. Special Issue. 21.1&2 (2002/03): 141-151.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

Hasta La Victoria Siempre! The Persistent Memory of Revolutionary Politics in the Plays of Carmen Aguirre. Latina/o-Canadian Theatre and Performance: New Essays on Canadian Theatre. ed. Natalie Alvarez. Toronto, Playwrights Canada P. 2013.

Contending with Rupture: Memory-work in Latina-Canadian Playwriting. Signatures of the Past: Cultural Memory in Contemporary Anglophone North American Drama. ed. Marc Maufort. Brussels, P.I.E Peter Lang. 2008. 115-128.

In the MT Space. Space and the Geographies of Theatre. ed. Michael McKinnie. Toronto, Playwrights Canada P: 2007. 194-200.

Seven Things About Cahoots Theatre Projects. How Theatre Educates: Convergences and Counterpoints with Artists, Scholars, and Advocates. ed Kathleen Gallagher and David Booth. Toronto, UTP: 2003. 133-143.

NON-REFEREED JOURNALS:

Through the Window: Interview with Liza Balkan. Canadian Theatre Review. 142 (2010): 18-24.
Tango's Cross-Cultural Dance. Canadian Theatre Review. 139 (2009): 17-24.

REVIEWS

Knowles, Ric. *Performing the Intercultural City.* Canadian Theatre Review. 178 (2019).

Joan Harrington and Crystal Brian, eds. *Playwrights Teach Playwriting: Revealing Essays by Contemporary Playwrights.* Modern Drama. 52.2 (2009).

Caridad Svich and Maria Teresa Marrero, eds. *Out of the Fringe: Contemporary Latina/o Performance.* Essays in Theatre. 19.2 (2001).

Awards and Honours

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| Seattle Times Footlight Award | <u>Ali & Ali and the aXes of Evil</u> | 2007 |
| Governor General's Award for Drama | <u>Fronteras Americanas</u> | 1993 |
| Governor General's Award Short List | <u>The Noam Chomsky Lectures</u> | 1992 |
| Chalmers Canadian Play Award | <u>A Line In The Sand</u> | 1997 |
| Chalmers Canadian Play Award | <u>Fronteras Americanas</u> | 1993 |
| Chalmers Canadian Play Award | <u>The Noam Chomsky Lectures</u> | 1992 |
| Chalmers Canadian Play Award | <u>i.d.</u> | 1990 |
| Montreal International Short Film Festival Prix de Publique | | 1995 |
| Cartagena (Colombia) International Film Festival Best Short | | 1995 |
| Tampere (Finland) International Film Festival, Best Fiction Short | | 1995 |
| Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival Golden Sheaf Best Screenplay | | 1995 |
| Huesca (Spain) Festival Internacional de Cortos Best Film | | 1995 |
| Jessie Richardson Award: Outstanding Production TYA | | 1995 |
| Jessie Richardson Award: Community Recognition | | 1995 |

Dora Mavor Moore Award: Outstanding Performance 1992
 Dora Mavor Moore Award: Outstanding TYA production 1989

Canada Council B Grant 1991

Conference Papers & Presentations

Diversity and its Discontents: Contemporary Canadian Intercultural Theatre. Europas Grenzen im transnationalen Vergleich. Humboldt Universität zu Berlin; Universität des Saarlandes, American Studies Seminar. July 2, 2015; July 17, 2015.

Borders and Networks: Subjectivity and Globalization. Culture and the Canada-US Border Conference. Algoma University. May 25, 2013. Keynote.

Chronotopes of Exile: Carmen Aguirre's Refugee Hotel. Young Scholars' Forum of the Association for Canadian Studies in German-speaking Countries. "Canada at All Times: Aspects of Temporality in Canadian Studies" / "Le Canada en tout temps: Aspects de la temporalité en études canadiennes." Jun 23-26, 2011. Keynote.

Lady in the Red Dress: David Yee's Politics of Remembrance. Canadian Lit Day, Marburg. Keynote. July 2,3, 2010.

Falling and Walking: A Performance Paper. Canadian Association of Theatre Research Keynote. Carleton University. May 25, 2009.

Readings. Měsíc autorského čtení (The Month Of Authors' Readings) – Brno, Czech Republic, July 2, 2008.

Guest Artist. NEH Seminar on Hemispheric Literatures – Columbia University, July 2007

Contending with Rupture: Memory-work in Latina-Canadian Playwriting. Signatures of the Past: Cultural Memory in Contemporary Anglophone North American Drama – Center for Canadian Studies and the Modern Languages and Literatures Department University of Brussels, April 25-28, 2007.

Mirrors and Hammers: Theatre and The World. Algoma UC John Hayes Jenkinson B.E.M. Memorial Lecture – Sault Ste Marie, Feb 15, 2007.

Mapping the Canada-America(s) Border: New Latin/a-Canadian Playwriting. Gesellschaft fuer Kanada-Studien Conference– Grainau, Germany, February 17 – 19, 2006.

Ximena Escalante Panel. American Literary Translators Association Conference – Montreal, QC, November 4, 2005.

Towards a Culturally Diverse Theatre PERFORuM Symposium Keynote Address – MT Space, Kitchener, Ont., June 2005.

Fronteras Canadienses: Messing with Multiculturalism; Re/presenting Evil: Staging Power in A Line in the Sand and other plays. Scrivere e Confini Conference– Universita' Ca' Foscari di Venezia, 2003.

Panellist – Politics and Business of Playwriting; Reading. Celebrating Canadian Plays and Playwrights Festival and Conference – Stratford Festival, October 2002.

Seven Things about Cahoots Theatre Projects: A Reflection on the Development and Production of Professional Culturally Diverse Theatre Association of Canadian Theatre Research Conference Keynote -- Université Laval, 2001.

Connecting Communities: Developing and Producing Culturally Diverse Theatre Alberta Playwrights Network Conference Keynote – University of Alberta, 2001.

New Work: a reading and conversation Association of Canadian Theatre Research Conference -- Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Ottawa, 1998.

Pachucos, Latinos, Illuminati: Fronteras Americanas and the Invention of Canada; The Gulf War Did Not Occur: Writing Against Canada's Necessary Illusions Inter-University Post-Colonial Seminar -- University of London; University of Nottingham, 1997.

Canada is Latin America. Borders and Cultures Conference -- McGill University, 1995.

Residencies

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| Universität Leipzig, Institut für Amerikanistik <i>Picador Professor</i> <i>Instructor: Contemporary Canadian Intercultural Drama, readings</i> | Apr – June 2014 |
| Universita' Ca' Foscari di Venezia <i>Dramaturgia Residence</i> <i>Aspects of Canadian dramaturgy – workshops, lectures, and readings</i> | May 2005 |
| University of Guelph <i>Canada Council Writer-in-Residence</i> <i>Readings, class visits, individual consultations</i> | Winter 2005 |
| Media Centre OISE, University of Toronto <i>Artist-in-Residence</i> <i>Public Talk: Theatre – What is it Good For? Class visits and play writing workshop</i> | March 2004 |
| Memorial University of Newfoundland <i>Canada Council Writer-in-Residence</i> <i>Various class visits, individual consultations, several public readings, workshop with Resource Centre for the Arts</i> | Fall 1999 |

Translation

Blood Wedding – from Spanish **Bodas de Sangre** by Federico Garcia Lorca. Souleppper Theatre Mar. 2016.

Once Five Years Pass – from Spanish **Asi Que Pasen Cinco Años** by Federico Garcia Lorca. National Theatre School of Canada, 2013.

Phaedra and Other Labyrinths (with Jorge Gidi) – from Spanish **Fedra y Otras Griegas** by Ximena Escalante. International Reading Series National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Jan. 2005.

Twenty Steps To The Promised Land - from Spanish **Lo Que Cala Son Los Filos** by Mauricio Jimenez. Presented at World Stage Festival, Toronto 1994.

Radio

- Camera Lucida*** 2001
'Ideas' Documentary. Produced by Bill Lane. CBC
- Cancion en el Viento*** 1992
Radio Drama Feature. Produced and directed by John Juliani. CBC

Screenplays

- Dirt*** 2021
Written by Marcus Youssef. Produced and Directed Cameron Anderson & Chelsea Haberlin.
Story Editor.
- El Huaso*** 2011
Documentary Feature. Produced and Directed by Carlo Proto. Story Editor.
- Crucero/Crossroads*** 1994
28 minutes, 16 mm, colour. Produced and directed by Ramiro Puerta, Snake Cinema.

Teaching

- Faculty** 2022-present
Sage Hill Writing, Playwriting Lab
- Instructor** 2012/13-present
UNI 102 Y Performing the City University College UToronto
- Instructor** 2010-present
Drama 228 Introduction to Playwriting CDTPS UToronto
- Instructor** 2016-2018
DRM 101: Intro to Drama, Theatre and PS CDTPS Utoronto
- Instructor** 2010-2019
Thinking Theatre Souleppper Academy
- Instructor** 2014-2016
DRM 100 Y: Drama, Form & Style CDTPS UToronto
- Instructor** 2012
Writing for Theatre Alameda Theatre Nueva Voz Youth Program
- Instructor** 2011
Drama 328 Playwriting Advanced University College Drama UToronto
- Instructor** 2009/10
Drama 403 Performance 3 University College Drama UToronto
- Instructor** 2009
Drama 491 Intercultural Drama Drama & Speech U Waterloo

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| Instructor Drama 491 Play writing | Drama & Speech U Waterloo | 2009 |
| Instructor ENG 3477 Modern Drama | Algoma University College | 2008 |
| Instructor DRA 5000 Writing For Theatre | UT Drama Centre | 2008 |
| Instructor Persuasions and Presentations | Media Studies U Guelph-Humber | 2007/08 |
| Instructor THEA 3187 Directing in the Theatre | Algoma University College | 2007 |
| Instructor THEA 3F91 Play writing | Dept. of Dramatic Arts Brock University | 2002 |
| Instructor Drama 208 Acting | School of English & Theatre Studies U Guelph | 2000-01 |
| Instructor Drama 434 Play writing | School of English & Theatre Studies U Guelph | 2000 |
| Writer-in-Electronic-Residence National secondary school creative writing program | | 1995-99 |
| Instructor Playwriting Workshops | Theatre B.C. | 1997 |
| Instructor: Character and Scene Study | Maggie Basset Studio (Tarragon Theatre) | 1990 |

Professional and Other Affiliations

Siminovitch Prize Jury Chair

Soulpepper Resident Artist: Director of New Play Development; Head of Playwriting
(Soulpepper Academy)

Canadian Actor's Equity Association – Member

Playwrights Union of Canada -- Member

Amnesty International – Urgent Action Network Member