

ANTHONY BYRNES

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Anthony Byrnes is a producer, teacher, critic, and arts administrator based in Los Angeles. He has served as the founding Artistic Director of Burning Wheel & the Umbrella Company, weekly columnist on KCRW, Director of Cultural Relations for the University of Southern California, and Associate Producer of New Play Development for Center Theatre Group. He received an MFA from CalArts, a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and currently teaches at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2010 - present **Theatre Critic**

Opening the Curtain - KCRW 89.9 FM

Host of the weekly radio column Opening the Curtain for KCRW. Airing weekly during NPR's All Things Considered, and available for podcast through iTunes, the show focuses on the theater of Los Angeles and Southern California with the aim to not only provide a critical voice for the theatre community but also highlight the trends and issues that the community confronts. Past shows are available at kcrw.com/theater. KCRW is Southern California's leading National Public Radio affiliate reaching 550,000 listeners weekly.

2006 - present **Producer**

USC Under Construction Play Festival

Oversee, coordinate and manage the annual festival featuring the work of graduating MFA playwrights from the University of Southern California. The two week festival, which yields three to four original scripts each year, employs professional directors and actors to bring the plays to life in readings for a public audience.

2004 - present **Teacher**

Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA)

Teach two forms of movement training - the Suzuki Method of Actor Training and the Viewpoints, acting, and text analysis to the senior class at Los Angeles County's public art conservatory. The senior class comprises approximately 40 students each year.

1998 - present **Artistic Director**

2009 - present **The Umbrella Company**

1998 - 2009 **Burning Wheel**

Founder Artistic Director of Burning Wheel (co-founded with Kim Weild), a Los Angeles-based theatre company committed to the development of world-class theatre ensembles dedicated to the art of the theatre. In 2009, Byrnes established The Umbrella Company to continue the work of Burning Wheel. He continues to serve as the organization's artistic director.

With a mission to support and strengthen the Los Angeles theatre community through training sessions with world-class theatre artists, The Umbrella Company offers year-round training in the Suzuki Method of Actor Training and the Viewpoints. Each summer, the training year commences with a two-week intensive, SITI in LA, led by members of Anne Bogart's New York-based SITI Company. Following the summer intensive, the company offers between three and five six-week/twice a week training sessions each year. These training sessions are alternately led by Anthony Byrnes and members of the SITI Company. Since 1998, over 1,000 theatre artists (actors, directors, choreographers, designers, technicians, playwrights, and dancers) have participated in the training offered by Burning Wheel and The Umbrella Company.

2009 - 2010

Producer

Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara

Producer and general manager for award winning, Broadway-bound, Los Angeles born musical, Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara. Following their eight month run at the Geffen Playhouse, which earned \$1.4 million in a 135-seat house, Anthony oversaw re-writes of the script with dramaturg Tom Bryant, brought on Tony award winning director John Rando, produced a New York script retreat, and contributed to the strategic planning for the production's artistic journey to Broadway.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

2007 - 2009

Director of Cultural Relations University of Southern California

Served as the liaison between the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles arts community. Responsibilities included curation of Experience LA! as part of the University's Visions & Voices arts and humanities initiative. Experience LA! brought USC students to existing cultural events throughout Los Angeles. Conceived of as a way of promoting artistic engagement, cultural literacy and encouraging the next generation of arts patrons, the program drew from across the university's diverse undergraduate and graduate student body. Each event was designed to contextualize the work of art with either pre-show lecture or post-show discussion with the artist or an expert in the field. Events ranged from the Wooster Group's Hamlet at Redcat, ABT's Swan Lake, to Los Angeles's 99-seat theater community, walking tours of Los Angeles architecture focusing on the work of Thom Mayne and Frank Gehry, Agamenon at the Getty Villa, Danny Hoch at the Kirk Douglas Theater, Essa Pekka Salonen's final concert at Disney Hall, and the opening of the Broad Contemporary Art Museum (BCAM) at LACMA.

1997 - 2005

Associate Producer of New Play Development Center Theatre Group (CTG) - Mark Taper Forum & Kirk Douglas Theatre (KDT)

For Center Theatre Group, produced, with Luis Alfaro, the Taper, Too, New Work Festival, and Play Development activities at the Kirk Douglas Theatre, Ivy Substation, the evidENCE room, and the Actor's Gang from 1999 to 2005. Associate Produced the Inaugural Season of six world-premieres at the Kirk Douglas Theater. Highlights from New Play Development include Nancy Keystone's Apollo, Universes' Slanguage, The Square (a collaboration of ten playwrights led by Chay Yew and directed by Lisa Peterson), Alec Mapa's Mapa Mia, Kia Corthron's Slide Glide, Jessica Goldberg's Good Thing and Sex Parasite, and Luis Alfaro's Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner. Produced the work of Jessica Goldberg, Kia Corthron, Universes, Luis Alfaro, Alec Mapa, Culture Clash, Lynn Manning, Sunil Kuruvilla, Chay Yew, Jerry Quickley, Nancy Keystone, Charles L. Mee, among others. As Associate Producer of New Play Development for CTG, produced, co-ordinated, and oversaw over 100 readings and workshops of new work for the theatre.

In addition to producing work for CTG, served as the Project Coordinator/Manager for the renovation of both the IVY SUBSTATION and the KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE.

For the KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE, served as Project Coordinator for CTG. The KIRK DOUGLAS THEATRE is an adaptive re-use of a 1947 streamline moderne movie theatre in the heart of Culver City. The new theatre houses a 317-seat theatre, which was completed on schedule and on budget in October of 2004 for \$12.1 Million. Anthony began working on the project in 1997 during its early conceptual stage. As the project progressed, Anthony shepherded the project through all stages leading initial budgeting and programming studies, the architect selection process, and design development with Theatre Projects Consultants and Steven Ehrlich Architects. He negotiated the Disposition and Development Agreement and Lease Agreements, and finally, during the construction phase served as project coordinator and daily representative for CTG. Following construction, Anthony was in charge of the commissioning and outfitting of the theatre for its inaugural season. Anthony worked under board member Ron Arnault, Managing Director Charles Dillingham, and Artistic Director Gordon Davidson.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1998 -

Intensive Workshops

In addition to his position at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Anthony has been dedicated to training emerging and established performing artists in the theater community and has held numerous teaching engagements across Southern California including: California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), Loyola Marymount, CalState Northridge, CalState Fullerton, Crossroads School, Harvard Westlake, Mayfield Senior School, Lincoln Center Directors Lab West.

EDUCATION

1994 - 1997

California Institute of the Arts Master of Fine Arts - Acting

1989 - 1994

University of Pennsylvania Bachelor of Arts Major: English, Art History Graduated with Honors

COMPLETE LIST OF THEATER CREDITS (PRODUCING, ACTING, DIRECTING) AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

