

## MICKLE MAHER CV

### Bio

Called "One of the most original voices in American theater today" by the Houston Chronicle, Chicago-based playwright Mickle Maher has been produced Off-Broadway (Barrow Street, 59 E 59), and by numerous theaters around the country and abroad. Plays include *There is a Happiness That Morning Is; Song About Himself*; book and lyrics for the musical *Small Ball; An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening; The Hunchback Variations; The Strangerer; Jim Lehrer and the Theater and Its Double and Jim Lehrer's Double; Cyrano* (translator); *The Cabinet; The Pine*; and *An Actor Prepares* (an adaptation of Stanislavsky's seminal book). In 2025, his adaptation of Jason Lutes' graphic novel *Berlin* was premiered by Chicago's Court Theatre. A co-founder of Theater Oobleck, he has taught playwriting and related subjects at numerous institutions, including the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Columbia College, and the University of Houston.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2000-2001

Instructor in "Styles and Crafts – Theater History 18th, 19th centuries", Columbia College.

2002

Artist in residence (with David Isaacson of Theater Oobleck), Columbia College. This residence was a playwriting and performance workshop, in which each of the students wrote a three character one act play. The plays were then produced and performed by the class – presented over a number of evenings to the college and general public.

2009

Lecturer and Sergel Writer in Residence, Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago.

Playwriting Workshop Instructor at Northwestern University.

Lecturer, University of Chicago English Department ("Text and Image")  
Lecturer, Univeristy of Chicago Theater and Perf. Studies Dept.  
("The Book Was Better", a workshop in adapting non-dramatic texts for the stage.)

2010-11 -- Lecturer in Theater and Performance Studies, University of Chicago, ("Clean Up Your Mess" – a workshop in dramatic structure, and "Working with the Playwright" a workshop on Maher's adaptation of Stanislavski's "An Actor Prepares")

2012 – ongoing

Lecturer, in both the University of Chicago Creative Writing and TAPS departments (Courses include: "Text and Image", "Investigations Through Rhyme", "Fundamentals of Playwriting", and "Microdrama." )

2010-11

Writer in residence at University of Chicago, adapting Stanislavski's "An Actor Prepares" for world premiere production at the Logan Arts Center in 2012.

2011 - 2016

Instructor, Columbia College Playwriting /Adaptation/Text Analysis.

2014 – Instructor, Northwestern University Theater Department, "Two Chairs and a Light Bulb".

2016 – Writer in Residence at DePaul University, developing "Michael Jordan in Lilliput" for MFA acting program.

2016 — 2018. Lecturer, Northwestern University Radio, TV, Video, and Film, dept.

2019 — Iowa Playwrights Workshop, Guest Seminar Teaching Artist.

2020 Jan/Feb – Writer/Instructor/Director in residence, University of Houston.

### PLAYS/Major Productions

#### **An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening**

Chicago - 1999, 2000 (Theater Oobleck with the Museum of Contemporary Art)

NYC – 2001 (NY Fringe Fest)

Austin – 2002 (Audacity)

Savannah – 2005 (Savannah Actor's Theatre)

New York – 2006 (Mighty Theater)

Helsinki – 2008 (Finn-Brit Players)

Chicago – 2009 (Oobleck)

San Francisco – 2010 (Performers Under Stress)  
St. Louis – 2010 (Midnight Theater)  
Milwaukee – 2011 (Youngblood Theatre)  
Cleveland – 2015 (Convergence—Continuum)  
New Orleans — 2018 (Great Beast and Clove Productions)

**Hunchback** (adaptation of Hugo's "Notre Dame de Paris" for Redmoon Theater)  
Chicago, New York (Public Theater), Milwaukee, Detroit -- 2000  
Remounted in Chicago, 2007, and again in New York City at the New Victory Theatre in 2008.

### **The Hunchback Variations**

Chicago – 2001, 2005 (Theater Oobleck)  
St. Louis – 2002 (The Midnight Company at the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis)  
Hapsburg, Germany — 2007 (Rover Rep)  
Washington DC – 2010 (First Stage)  
Houston – 2015 (Catastrophic Theatre)  
Antwerp, Belgium — 2018 (Hamburg Players) Best Production, FEATS 2018.  
Hamburg, Germany — 2018 (Couch Theatre)  
Edinburgh Fringe Fest – 2024 (Tortive Theatre)

### **Tedium**

Chicago – 2001 (Theater Oobleck)  
Chicago — 2019 (Oobleck/Neofuturist co-production, International Puppet Fest)

### **Master Stitchum and The Moon**

Chicago – 2001 (Store Front Theater at Gallery 37)  
Ljubljana , Slovenia – 2002 (translated to Slovenian for Lutkovno gledalisce)

### **Spirits to Enforce**

Chicago - 2003 (Theater Oobleck)  
Portland, OR -- 2007 (Bluestocking Theater)  
Chicago - 2007 (Presented in the Goodman Theatre's "New Stages Series")  
Houston – 2008 (Catastrophic Theater)  
Milwaukee -- 2010 (Youngblood Theater)  
Austin -- 2011 (Capital T Theatre)  
Chicago – 2012 (Abraham Werewolf)  
Durham, NC – 2014 (Manbites Dog Theatre)  
Cleveland, OH – 2014 (Cleveland Public Theatre)

Chicago – 2015 (Columbia College)  
Boulder, CO – 2015 (CatamountTheatre)  
Chicago, IL — 2018 (Passage Theatre)

**The Cabinet** (Adaptation of “The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari”)  
Chicago – 2005, 2010 (Redmoon Theater),  
Evanston – 2009, (Cherubs Summer Program, Northwestern University)  
Brazil (tour) – 2010 (Redmoon Theater)

**Delivery**  
Chicago – 2005 (Collaboraction, Sketchbook)

**Lady Madeline** (Adaptation of “The Fall of the House of Usher”)  
Chicago – 2006 (Steppenwolf Theater)

**The Strangerer** (2006 funded project of Creative Capital)  
Chicago – 2007/08 (Theater Oobleck)  
New York – 2008 (Off Broadway production; Theater Oobleck at the Barrow St. Theatre)  
Houston – 2008 (Catastrophic Theater)  
Austin – 2015 (Capital T Theatre)  
Houston — 2018 (Catastrophic Theatre)

**Script for the Big Blocks Video Project**, a permanent installation at the Spertus Institute’s Family Center. In collaboration with director Jim Lasko.  
Chicago – 2007, ongoing.

**The Ox-Herder’s Tale**  
Chicago – 2008 (Blair Thomas and Company at Chicago’s MCA)

**The Flying Horse of Malumbruno**, libretto for a short opera, Mark Messing, composer. Performed at private function (Sam Zell birthday party), Chicago, 2008.

**Cape and Squiggle**  
Chicago – 2010 (Redmoon Theater at Chicago’s MCA)

**There is a Happiness That Morning Is**  
Chicago – April/May 2011 (Theater Oobleck at the DCA Storefront)  
Houston -- Sept/Oct 2011 (Catastrophic Theatre)  
Chicago – Jan/April 2013 (Oobleck at Victory Gardens)  
Cleveland – May 2013 (Cleveland Public Theatre)

Austin – Oct/Nov 2013 (Capital T Theatre)  
Boulder, CO – March 2014 (Catamount Theatre)  
Los Angeles, CA – May 2014 (Action! Theater)  
Washington, DC – Nov 2014 (Avant Bard)  
Los Angeles, CA – Jan/Feb 2015 (Sacred Fools)  
Sacramento, CA – May 2015 (KOLT Run)  
New York, NY — September 2015 (Theater Oobleck at The Tank)  
Tuscon, AZ — March 2018 (Scoundrel and Scamp Theater)  
Catskills, NY — September 2018 (Bridge Street Theatre)  
Milwaukee, WI – February 2023 (Next Act Theatre)

### **The Hunchback Variations** (a Chamber Opera)

Chicago – Jan-Feb-Mar 2012 (Theater Oobleck at Victory Gardens)  
New York City – June 2012 (Theater Oobleck, Off-Broadway at 59E59  
Street Theatres, Brian Parker Productions)

### **An Actor Prepares**

Chicago – April/May 2012 (University of Chicago, TAPS dept., Logan  
Center for the Arts, premier production)  
Bloomington, Illinois – May, 2014 (Wesleyan University student production)  
Cleveland, OH – Oct 2014 (Staged reading , Cleveland Public Theatre)

### **The Pine**

Houston – September, 2013 (Catastrophic Theatre/MAP fund grantee)

### **Song About Himself**

Chicago --March/April, 2015 Theater Oobleck at DCASE Storefront  
Theater. Play developed through the Goodman Theater's 2014  
Playwrights' Unit.  
Chicago -- July, 2015 Remount with Oobleck through the park district's  
Theater on the Lake series. Berger Park coach house.  
Austin — Oct.-Nov., 2016, Capital T Theatre.  
Houston — Nov.- Dec. 2016, Catastrophic Theatre.

### **Talking Statues/Statue Stories Project**

Chicago – August, 2015. Project through Sing London involving giving  
voice via smart phone to 30 of Chicago's outdoor statues and  
sculptures. Wrote monologue for the untitled Picasso in Daley Plaza,  
voiced by Deanna Dunagan.

**Q & A** – Short play in Tribute to Stanley Tigerman, commissioned and  
produced by Steppenwolf Theatre, as part of Chicago's Fifth Star

Awards

Chicago – Sept. 16th, Pritzker Pavilion.

**Jim Lehrer and the Theater and Its Double and Jim Lehrer's Double**

Chicago — January-March, 2017 , Theater Oobleck at Chopin.

Houston — May, 2018, Catastrophic Theatre

**Michael Jordan in Lilliput**

Chicago — May, 2017 (DePaul University, graduate theater program)

**Behold Where Stands the Usurper's Cursed Head**

Chicago — September, 2017, Cabinet of Curiosities Events at Links Hall.

**Small Ball**

Houston — April/May, 2018, Catastrophic Theatre

Denver -- Oct/Nov 2022, Catamounts

Philadelphia – June 2025, Philadelphia Theatre Company

**It Is Magic**

Chicago — May/August, 2019 Theater Oobleck

Austin – Oct/Nov, 2019, Capital T Theatre

St. Louis – Oct/Nov, 2021, The Midnight Company

Houston – Feb/March 2024, Catastrophic Theatre

Tucson, -- April, 2025, Scoundrel and Scamp

**Buried Mother**

Chicago --- Jan, 2020, The Gift Theatre.

**The Cabinet (adaptation for radio of the stage play)**

Chicago – March, 2021, Cabinet of Curiosity

**It is Always Almost Upon Us (short radio play)**

Chicago – March, 2021, 16<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre

**Break Room**

Chicago – April, 2022, Theater Oobleck

**John Keats on Cats**

Chicago – Oct, 2022, Theater Oobleck

**BERLIN (adaptation of Jason Lutes' graphic novel)**

Chicago – April/May, 2025, Court Theatre

## TRANSLATIONS

Rhymed verse translation of Cyrano de Bergerac from a literal English translation, adapted by Redmoon and Court Theaters at the MCA, 2004.

## ACTING ROLES

Doctor John Faustus, *An Apology*, etc., Theater Oobleck ,1999, 2000.

Man Servant, *Dark Continent*, by noted South African director/playwright Chris Pretorius for South Africa's Grahamstown Theater Festival, 1999

Ludwig Van Beethoven, *The Hunchback Variations*, Theater Oobleck , 2001,2005

Narrator, *Tedium*, Theater Oobleck, 2001

The Snow Heavy Branch, *Spirits to Enforce*, Theater Oobleck, 2003

Senator John Kerry, *The Strangerer*, Theater Oobleck, 2007/08

## HONORS

Hopwood Poetry Award, 1982.

Chicago Reader Critics Choice citation, various plays, various years.

Joseph Jefferson “Best Adaptation” nomination for “Hunchback”, 2000.

Named one of Chicago Theater’s “Fifty Leading Characters” by New City, 2004.

Creative Capital Grant recipient, 2006.

“The Strangerer” named one of Chicago’s Top Ten plays by Time Out Chicago and WBEZ.

Orgie Award for best play (“The Strangerer”), 2007.

“Spirits to Enforce”, Austin Critics’ Table Award, Best Drama, 2010-11.

“The Hunchback Variations” named Best Production at the Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies held in Antwerp, Belgium.

Through Theater Oobleck: Grants from the Macarthur Foundation, the NEA, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley

Foundation, The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Illinois Arts Council. Through Catastrophic Theatre: MAP grant for commission of new play.

Made Sergel Writer in Residence, Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Chicago, 2009.

Member of the Goodman Theatre's 2014 Playwright's Unit.

Keynote speaker for The Ohio State Theater Department's Syndicate Symposium, A Question of Survival: Adaptation/Abstraction in Performance, March, 2016.

Joseph Jefferson Award, Best New Work (*Berlin*) 2025

## PUBLICATIONS

**An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening and The Hunchback Variations** (Hope and Nonthings, 2001)

**Master Stitchum and the Moon** (Bollix Books, 2003)

**Spirits to Enforce and The Strangerer** (Hope and Nonthings, 2008)

**Delivery** (The Louisville Review, #68, November, 2010)

**There Is a Happiness That Morning Is** (In compilation of Oobleck plays, "More if You've Got It", Hope and Nonthings, 2012)

**The Jim Lehrer Plays** (53<sup>rd</sup> State Press, 2018)

**Six Plays** (Agate Publishing, 2022)

## EDUCATION

1982-84, Residential College, University of Michigan

1996 B.A. Bennington College

## AFFILIATIONS

Founding member, Theater Oobleck.

Advisory Board, Catastrophic Theatre.

