

# ERIK EHN: CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

MFA, Playwriting, Yale School of Drama, 1983  
BA, English, Yale College, 1979

## TEACHING

Director, Writing for Performance, Brown University TAPS Department (2009-present)  
Graduate: Head of Writing for Performance Program, Cal Arts (2004-6)  
Naropa, Boulder (2 wk intensive – writing for actors, 2003)  
California Institute of the Arts (Assoc. Prof., Thtr. Hist. and Playwriting, 2002-3)  
UC San Diego (Visiting Faculty, 2001)  
University of Iowa, Iowa City (Visiting Faculty, Playwriting, 1994, 95, 98, 2000)  
University Texas, Dallas (Assistant Professor, Humanities, Creative Writing, 1997)  
Undergraduate: USF (Visiting Faculty, 2002)  
Santa Clara University (Visiting Faculty, Playwriting, 1994-2000)  
San Francisco State (Visiting Faculty, Creative Writing, 1995, 97)  
Skidmore (Visiting Faculty, Acting, 1997)  
High School: Fordham Preparatory High School (Faculty, English, 1983–85)  
Other: Initiated, conducted playwriting workshop for mentally ill homeless at the Julian Street Inn (Santa Clara, 1994); regular guest instructor, ‘Pataphysics Workshops, Flea Theater, NY (2006-present)  
Founded, co-facilitated free theatre-arts workshop through Tenderloin Reflection and Education Center (SF 1992-4)

Classes have included Graduate and Undergraduate Playwriting (introduction to advanced), Writing and Contemplative Practice, Survey of Twentieth Century Drama, Survey of World Drama, survey of Performance Styles and Theory, Writing and Testimony, Ensemble Writing, Artists Respond to Genocide. I have mentored writers through production processes; I supervised thesis productions at Iowa and CalArts; I supervise theses at Brown

Conducted guided silent writing retreats for the past five years, through ‘pataphysics/The Flea Theater (NYC) of 1, 4, and 10 days in duration, in Texas, MA, upstate NY

Ran week long writing workshops at La MaMa Umbria, summers 2011, 2013

## PUBLICATION INCLUDES

*Channels of Witness* (Essay), in *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, vol 27 #2. UKansas: Spring 2013. (Peer reviewed)  
*Soulographie*. 53<sup>rd</sup> State Press, Long Beach, CA: Nov 2012  
*Eschata-Logos: Word and Ruin* (Essay), in *Performing Arts Journal*. MIT Press, MA: Jan 2009  
*Color Drum* (Play), in *Eleven Eleven*, California College of the Arts: Fall 2008  
*Maria Kizito in The Theatre of Genocide: Four Plays about Mass Murder in Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia, and Armenia*. Edited and with an introduction by Robert Skloot. U WI Press: January 2008  
*Manifesto Series, Volume One* (Edited, and introduction: “What’s the Story: Mourning Glory”). Rain City Projects, Seattle: 2007  
*Saints, Sin and Erik Ehn*, by Celia Wren, in *American Theater Magazine*. TCG Press, NYC: June/July 2004. (Article about.)  
*What’s That Puppet Doing in My Play*, by Gretchen van Lente, in *American Theater Magazine*. TCG Press, NYC: Feb 2004 [Panel discussion featuring Ehn, Paula Vogel, Octavio Solis, others.]

- Sealskin*, in *Trepidation Nation: scripts from the Human Festival 2003*. Playscripts, Inc/Smith and Krauss, New Hampshire: 2004
- Stuffing for the Pillow: Dreamaturgy Down*, in *@nd*. New Dramatists, NY: Summer 2003
- Spooky Action at a Distance* (Libretto), in *The Brooklyn Review* (ed. Jenny Husk, Amy Bourne). Brooklyn College, NY: Spring 2003
- Patti Page and The Way They Shine* (Plays), in *Play a Journal of Plays* (ed. Oswald and Harrison). Providence and NY: Spring, 2003
- In Conversation with Caridad Svich*, in *Trans-Global Readings*. Manchester University Press, UK: 2003
- Art as Spiritual Practice* (Panel with Alison Knowles, Eleanor Heartney, Meredith Monk, Linda Montano, Erik Ehn; moderated by Bonnie Marranca), in *Performing Arts Journal*. MIT Press, Cambridge: September 2002
- The Blue Horse* (Essay), in *Frederico Garcia Lorca: Impossible Theater* (ed. Svich). Smith and Kraus, New Hampshire: Spring, 2000
- The Saint Plays*. Johns Hopkins, NY: Spring, 2000
- You Must Translate* (Essay), in *Theater*. Yale University Press, New Haven: 29/2, 1999.
- Angel ub God* (Play), in *From the Other Side of the Century II: A New American Drama (1960-1995)*. Sun and Moon Press. Los Angeles, November, 1998
- New South Wales* (Play), in *Conjunctions 30*. Bard College, Annandale-on Hudson, NY: May, 1998
- Two Altars*, in *Plays for the End of the Century*. PAJ Press, NY: January 1997
- “The Miracle of the Twin” (Scene, in T. Skipitars’ *Under the Knife*), *Performing Arts Journal*. Johns Hopkins, Maryland: May 1996
- Translations and fragments...: 15 Plays for the New Utopian Theater Symposium (NUTS)*, in *Theater*, vol 26 nos 1-2. Yale University Press, New Haven: 1995
- Every Man Jack of You* (Play), in *Conjunctions: 25*. Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson: November 1995
- Brewing Revolution* (Article about the ratconference) by Mary DeDanan, in *American Theater*. TCG December 1995
- Beginner* (Play). Sun and Moon Press. Los Angeles: September, 1995
- Proposal and Alarum – Art Worker’s Hostel: Towards a New Broke Vaudeville* (Essay), in *Theater Magazine*. New Haven: September 1993.
- Eight Saint Plays*, in *TheatreForum*. San Diego: UC San Diego, October 1993
- Three Saint Plays*, in *Performing Arts Journal*. PAJ Press, NY: June 1993
- Wolf at the Door*. Plays in Process, TCG, NY: 1992

## PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE

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|------|--|---|
| 2015 | <i>Vireo</i> (libretto, opera)   | Grand Central Arts, Santa Ana (televised, KCET)             |
|      | <i>Can of Worms</i>  | Mathewson St. Church (written with Tenderloin Opera)        |
| 2014 | <i>Maria Kizito</i>  | Artspot, New Orleans (live stream to Ubumunto Fest, Kigali) |
|      | <i>Maid</i>  | Short film, wrapped principal shooting, Marfa TX            |
|      | <i>Paradise of Sighs</i>   | Mathewson St. Church (written with Tenderloin Opera)        |
| 2013 | <i>Clouded Sulfur</i>  | Automata, LA (Under the Radar Festival)                     |
|      | <i>I Want to Know...</i>   | Fyrhuset, Oslo, Norway                                      |
| 2012 | <i>A Child’s Drawing of a Monster</i>  | Vacant Lot, NY  |
|      | <i>Soulographie</i>  | La MaMa, NY   |
|      | 17 plays on genocide performed in series; 17 directors, international cast                             |   |
|      | Individual plays produced in NY, Minneapolis, DC, San Diego, Dallas, Providence, Boston, San Francisco |   |
| 2011 | <i>Cordelia</i>  | Yugen, SF   |
|      | <i>Three Saint Plays</i>   | Meteor Festival, Norway                                     |

2010	<i>Eight Saint Plays</i>	Factory 449, Washington DC
2009	<i>Dogsbodv</i>	w/Yugen, Yerba Buena Center, SF
	<i>Pretty</i>	Yugen, scheduled for INFANT Fest., Novi Sad, Serbia
	<i>Pretty</i>	Yugen, furyFest, San Francisco
	<i>One Eye Gone</i>	Edinburgh Festival, Scotland
2008	<i>Four Saint Plays</i>	ArtSpot Productions, New Orleans
	<i>Five Saint Plays</i>	Cal Rep, Long Beach
2007	<i>Cycle Plays (5 modern Nob)</i>	Theatre of Yugen, SF
	<i>Five Saint Plays (w A. Heimstead)</i>	Son of Semele, LA
2006	<i>Mortal Toys (w. Janie Geiser)</i>	Velaslavy Panaorama, LA
2005	<i>Moon of the Scarlet Plums</i>	Tour, Japan, U.S.
	<i>My Life as a Fairy Tale</i>	Lincoln Center Festival, NY
	<i>Invisible Glass (w J. Geiser)</i>	REDCAT/CalArts, LA
	<i>13 Christs</i>	Run of the Mill, Baltimore
	<i>Four St. Plays</i>	Kolonus Theater, Lithuania
2004	<i>FireFlow</i>	Bottom's Dream, LA
	<i>Frankenstein (Nob Adapt)</i>	Theatre of Yugen at Artaud, SF
	<i>Maria Kizito</i>	7 Stages, Atlanta
2003	<i>Frankenstein (Nob adapt.)</i>	Theatre of Yugen at Noh Space, SF
	<i>Maid</i>	Crowded Fire, SF
	<i>Muscle</i>	Golden Thread, SF
2002	<i>My Baby</i>	Perishable, RI (written w/stdnts of Internat. Inst.)
	<i>Smoke x 7</i>	Tenderloin Opera, SF (collective, thru free Tendo wkshps)
	<i>Morning Prayers</i>	Santa Clara U, CA (text for dance, K Kusanovich, choreo)
	<i>Mary Shelly's Santa Claus</i>	Cornerstone, LA
2001	<i>Crazy Horse</i>	Theatre of Yugen, SF
	<i>Three Saint Plays</i>	Cornerstone Theater, LA
2000	<i>Chokecherry</i>	Bottom's Dream, LA
	<i>Spooky Action at a Distance</i>	INFANT Festival, Novi Sad, Serbia
	<i>Gold into Mud</i>	Icehouse Series, Ohio Theatre, NYC
1999	<i>Moon of the Scarlet Plums</i>	Colorado College, Colorado Springs
	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>	Perishable Theatre, Providence, RI
	<i>Heavenly Shades of Night</i>	Frontera, Austin
	<i>Psyche (adapt. W/R.Lee)</i>	Metawee River Theatre, Metawee & NYC
	<i>Ophelia's Tattoo</i>	Our Shoes Are Red, Muhlenberg College, PA
	<i>Shiner (w/Octavio Solis)</i>	Undermain, Dallas
	<i>Maid</i>	Lincoln Center Director's Series, NYC
1998	<i>Angel ub God</i>	HERE, NYC
	<i>Thistle/Una Carroña</i>	The Loyola Project, St. Michael's Institute, Spokane
	<i>Little Rootie Tootie</i>	Annex, Seattle
	<i>Erotic Curtsies</i>	Bottom's Dream, LA
1997	<i>Phrenic Crush</i>	Creative Work Fund @ SF State
	<i>The Year of My Mother's Birth</i>	Printer's Devil, Seattle
	<i>Tailings</i>	Intersection, San Francisco
	<i>The Sound and The Fury</i>	Undermain, Dallas (adapted, directed)
	<i>Erotic Curtsies</i>	Undermain/Annex/Bottom's, ASK Festival, LA
	<i>The Imp of Simplicity</i>	Skidmore College

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\* The Saint Plays are an ongoing and open ended project: a set of plays on the lives of the saints, expressing themselves in as varied a cache of physical and discursive styles as I can manage. Each iteration generally introduces new material. The New Orleans production, for example, was all premiers.

1996	<i>Wolf at the Door</i> <i>The Freak/Wholly Joan's (Sts.)</i> <i>Ideas of Good and Evil</i> <i>The Silver</i>	Deep Ellum, NYC Lincoln Center Directors' Series, NYC U of Iowa, Iowa City (wrote, directed) Sledgehammer, San Diego
1995	<i>No Time Like the Present</i> <i>Three Saint Plays</i> <i>Three Saint Plays</i> <i>Beginner</i> <i>AOK</i>	Sledgehammer, San Diego; Whitney Museum, NYC Chimera Festival, Addison, TX U Michigan, Ann Arbor Undermain, Dallas Teeny Feets, Austin
1994	<i>Seven Saint Plays</i> <i>Wolf at the Door</i> <i>AOK</i>	Annex, Seattle Addison Theatre, Addison, TX Theatreworks, Tulsa
1993	<i>New</i> <i>Eight Saint Plays</i>	Sledgehammer Theatre, San Diego Intersection, San Francisco
1992	<i>Wolf at the Door</i> <i>Seven Saint Plays</i> <i>Moirra McOc/Red Sheets</i>	The Empty Space, Seattle Sledgehammer, San Diego Undermain, Dallas
1991	<i>Wolf at the Door</i> <i>Ten Saint Plays</i>	Portland Stage, Maine BACA, Brooklyn

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Brown:

Chair, Theater Arts and Performance Studies (Summer 2014-)  
 Director of Writing for Performance, Brown University (2009-)  
 Governing Board, Cogut Center for the Humanities (Fall 2012-)  
 Panelist, Humanities Initiative, Office of the Dean of Faculty (Fall 2012-)  
 Committee Member, Creative Arts Council (Fall 2011-)

Pre-Brown:

Dean, School of Theater, CalArts (July 2005-2009)  
 President, Board of Directors: Performing Arts Journal (2009-)  
 Editorial Board: Performing Ethos (U Ulster, 2008-)  
 Head, Writing for Performance, CalArts (2004-2006)  
 Board Member, (1999-2000) Artistic Associate (1999-) Theatre of Yugen, SF  
 Co-Founder, Co-Artistic Director, Tenderloin Opera Company, SF (W/Lisa Bielawa, 1997-)  
 Planning Committee, Santa Clara University's Institute on Justice and the Arts (1995-96)  
 Board Chair, Intersection for the Arts (1993-96; oversaw Executive Director Search, participated in the NEA Advancement Program)  
 Literary Manager, Berkeley Repertory Theatre (CA, 1991-93)  
 Dean of Studies, National Theatre Workshop of the Handicapped (1988-90)  
 Co-Artistic Director, Thieves Theatre (NYC, 1984-85)

## CONFERENCES

*Co-founder of the ratconference, an irregular, international meeting of under-the radar experimental theaters. Speaker at all of the following, convener of the Iowa City conferences, and co-convener of the Novi Sad gathering. For full archives of press coverage and manifestos, see [ratconference.com](http://ratconference.com)*

San Francisco – October 3 - 6, 2002  
 PhilaRat (Philadelphia) – June 21-24, 2001  
 Novi Sad, Yugoslavia – June 25 - July 4, 2000  
 The Second Iowa City Conference – February 17-20, 2000  
 Los Angeles – July 22-25, 1999  
 RatFest(ation) (New York City) – August 14-24, 1997  
 RatRave (Austin) – August 8-11, 1996  
 Minneapolis – February 29 - March 3, 1996  
 Seattle – August 25-27, 1995  
 Iowa City – December 1-4, 1994

*Conduct annual cultural exchanges in Rwanda/Uganda (since 2006); students, faculty and working artists travel to E. Africa to study the history of the region with an eye to sharing on the uses of performance in redress of trauma. Ehn is co-founder (with Hope Azedo and Carole Karemera, RW) of the Centre x Centre Performance Festival, Kigali. Last year's festival included artists from Afghanistan, Haiti, Singapore, Israel, Mexico, Belarus, and Argentina, as well as Rwanda and Uganda.*

*Founder and regular convener of the Arts in the One World Conference, an annual gathering of artists committed to social change; This year there are two iterations – one at Brown and one at CalArts; I'm speaker only at the CalArts conference this year; I will continue to convene the conference at Brown. For notes from previous conferences, see the Arts in the One World page on the Brown site*

AOW Brown: A Life's Work – March 1-4, 2012  
 AOW Brown: Radicalizing Peace – April 21-23, 2011  
 AOW Brown: Home – March 17-21, 2010

AOW CalArts: Guhahamuka – January 21-24, 2010 (Speaker and Workshop leader only; convened by Leslie Tamaribuci. Speech: “Guhahamuka: Art and Chastity”; Playwriting workshop)  
 AOW CalArts: Motherhood and Revolution – January 14-18, 2009  
 AOW CalArts: Curricula and Agenda – January 24-27, 2008  
 AOW CalArts: Culture and Identity – January 25-28, 2007  
 AOW CalArts: A Consideration of Genocide – January 19-23, 2006

*Other conferences/talks include:*

Volkenberg Puppetry Symposium, Chicago IL. Panelist: Text for puppets (Jan 2015)  
 Stockton College, NJ. Writing in the Dark: Genocide (Oct 2014)  
 Carnegie Mellon, PA. Writing workshops (Apr 2014)  
 Kansas State, KS. Talks on playwriting to var. univ. constituencies (Mar 2014)  
 Cities of Memory Conference, Panelist: Conflicting Reactions, April 2013, Belfast, Northern Ireland.  
 LMDA Conference, Panelist, June 2013, Vancouver.  
 Bread and Puppet – 50 Years, Panelist, September 2013  
 Puppet Forum, Lecture: Puppets and Extreme Violence: How They Withstand and What They Teach, UConn, November 2013  
 Invitational Lecture in the Humanities, Cogut Ctr, Brown University: “A Practical Global Humanities: Approaching a Vocabulary for Art and Advocacy,” April 10, 2012  
 Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, Lecture, Lecture/Presentation, Nov 30 2012, UConn: “Puppets and Extreme Violence”  
 Art and the Unspeakable, Presenter, Feb 2011, the Stone, NYC  
 NoPassport, Panelist, Dreaming the Americas Conference/Genocide & Political Atrocity in Theater, March 4, 2011, NYC  
 Puppetry and Postdramatic Performance, Panelist: An International Conference on Performing Objects in the 21st Century – April 1-3, 2011 UConn  
 ICAN conference, Keynote speaker and moderator, May 2011, Derry, Northern Ireland  
 Symposium, Panelist, Effects of Tutsi Genocide on Research in Africa, August 2011, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Presented on Art and Trauma at the Things Unspeakable Conference – October, 2011, U of York, UK  
 ICAN: Collaborative Arts/Conflict Transformation. Speaker – “International Perspective.” October 25-26, 2010, Derry, N Ireland  
 Acting On The World Stage, Panelist/panel facilitator: Theatre and Peace Building In Conflict Zones by Theatre Without Borders. September 23-26, 2010, LaMama, NYC  
 Fresh Print Series: Global Violence and Performance, Association for Higher Education – Aug 2, 2010 (Speaker), LA, CA  
 Great Plains Theatre Fest, Respondent, May 31, June 6 2010, Omaha NE  
 On the Table (Foundry Theater/Melanie Josephs) – Co-curator of a free meal and information sharing session with Furee – May 15, 2010, NYC  
 NAST, Guest Speaker – March 26, 2010, Boston  
 NoPassport Conference, Keynote: Dreaming the Americas/Utopia in Performance – February 26-27, 2010, NYC ()  
 TTRP, Lecture: “Culture, Genocide & the Small Matter of Theatre,” Jan 9, 2010, Singapore  
 Woolly Mammoth, Speaker: Who’s in Your Circle? – November 14-15, 2009, DC  
 Joan B. Kroc Inst. for Peace & Justice at U San Diego, Reading and response: Bearing Exquisite Witness, September 24-26, 2009, San Diego  
 NoPassport Conference, Panelist: Dreaming the Americas/The Body Politic – February 22, 2008, NYC  
 International Association of Genocide Scholars; Responding to Genocide Before its Too Late, Panelist – July 9-13, 2007, Sarajevo

Acting Together on the World Stage: Setting the Scene for Peace Panelist – October 4-8, 2007,  
 Brandeis, MA  
 Oglethorpe University and 7 Stages present "The Language of Madness/A Conversation with Erik  
 Ehn" – October 4, 2004, Atlanta  
 LMDA Conference, Keynote – June 13-16, 2002, Vancouver BC

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, COMMISSIONS

NYSCA Grant, for the play *Burnt Umber*, 2012  
 TCG On the Road Grant for Centre by Centre, 2011  
 Rockefeller MAP Grants, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011 (*Cycle Plays, Dogsboddy, Soulographie*)  
 Alpert Award (2001)  
 TCG/NEA Residency – w/Perishable, Providence, Rhode Island (2001)  
 Gerbode Award, for *Wandering Ghost* with Theater of Yugen, SF (2000)  
 McKnight Fellowship (1999)  
 Whiting Award (1997)  
 Creative Works Fund/Haas Foundation Grant, *Phrenic Crush* (1997)  
*Ideas of Good and Evil* – Partnership in the Arts project at the University of Iowa, Iowa City (1996)  
 California Arts Council Individual Artist Grant (1995)  
*Gravity's Drain* commissioned by the Mark Taper Forum (1992)  
 NYSCA Commission Grant, CA Commission on the Arts – *The Saint Plays* (1990, 93)  
 Mary Flagler-Cary Commission – *Service for the Dead, Sarajevo* (1995)  
 Graduate, New Dramatists