

JOHN BLONDELL
Theatre Arts Department
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EDUCATION

- Ph. D., Dramatic Art**, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), 1990.
GPA 3.87. Specialty Area: American Theatre and Drama, 1920 -- 1990. Dissertation:
Myth and Anti-Myth in the Work of David Mamet. Simon Williams, Committee Chair.
- M. A., Dramatic Art**, UCSB, 1985. GPA 3.80. Thesis: "*Lady Be Good!*" *The Birth of*
Broadway's Jazz Age. William Reardon, Committee Chair.
- B. A., Theatre Arts**, Winona State University, 1983. Graduated Magna Cum Laude.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor - Professor/Department Chair, Westmont College, 1991 -Present.
Theatre Arts Department 955 La Paz Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108. (On Leave, 1/97-
9/98.)

Administered five-person department, developed curriculum, created arts festival, coordinated special programs and colloquia. Created and developed classes in Theatre, including Principles of Theatre; Beginning Acting; Scene Study; Principles of Directing; Theatre History; Directing History and Theory; American Theatre and Drama; Russian Theatre and Drama; Acting Shakespeare; Dramatic Theory; and Survey of World Theatre. Created and developed an interdisciplinary class in Theory and Critical Methodologies in the Arts. Presented papers at ATHE conferences, 1990-1992. Taught abroad in Scotland, England, and Ireland, creating and developing classes in Renaissance Drama; History of the London Stage; and Contemporary British Theatre. **Recipient: Faculty Research Award, Westmont College 2002-2003.**

Workshop Leader and Facilitator

Developed and led workshops in physical theatre at the 1999 Lit Moon World Theatre Festival, the 2000 International Month of Culture Festival, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; and the 2001 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Developed and led workshops in Shakespeare at the 2004 and 2006 Tri-Cities Shakespearean Festival in Gdansk, Sopot, Gdynia, Poland.

Adjunct Professor, Pacifica Graduate Institute, 1995-1999. 249 Lambert Road, Carptineria, CA 93013 Mythological Studies Program, and Depth Psychology Program

Created and developed class in Ritual, Play, and Performance,

Adjunct Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara, Winter 1998. Department of Dramatic Art. Adjunct Lecturer in Directing.

Taught undergraduate course in the theory and practice of directing for the stage.

Guest Lecturer and Teacher, 1989 - 1996.

Frequent guest lecturer in dramatic literature, appreciation of theatre, and directing classes at University of California, Santa Barbara. Led lecture-demonstrations of Lit Moon Theatre Company's approach to theatre process (UCSB); developed Lit Moon's extensive educational outreach to area school children. Created and developed class in playing Shakespeare for The Family Acting Academy, Center Stage Theater, Santa Barbara, CA.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Westmont College, 1989-91.

Visiting Lecturer in Acting and Directing, 1988-89, Westmont College.

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

Chair/Director of Theatre, Westmont College Repertory Theatre, Santa Barbara, CA, 1989-2007.

Directed and produced critically acclaimed productions. Developed artistic philosophy of producing organization emphasizing innovative stagings of classical texts. **Recipient of Westmont College Faculty Research Award, 2002-2003.**

Productions include:

The Three Sisters (forthcoming), 2007
King Richard II, 2006, **Independent Theatre Award**
A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2005
Frankenstein, 2004
The Mariner, 2003
The Skin of Our Teeth, 2002
Much Ado About Nothing, 2000, **Independent Theatre Award**
The Critic, 1999 **Independent Theatre Award**
The Government Inspector, 1998
Everyman, 1998
ART/plays, 1996
No Clock in the Forest, 1995
The Serpent King, 1993
The Blue Bird, 1992
The Marriage of King Arthur, original script after Shakespeare, 1991
The Emperor Jones, 1991 **Critic's Choice, Santa Barbara News-Press**
Othello, 1991
The Marriage of Figaro, 1990

A Midsummer Night's Dream, 1990
Mother Courage and Her Children, 1989 **Critic's Choice, Santa Barbara Independent**
Peter Pan, 1989 **Best Production, Santa Barbara Independent**
The Man Who Came to Dinner, 1988

Founder/Artistic Director/Producer, Lit Moon Theatre Company, Santa Barbara, CA, founded June 1991.

Developed artistic philosophy. Directed and adapted numerous productions for critically acclaimed, award winning theatre company. Developed physical, image-oriented approach to theatre, stressing actor transformation, mask-work, use of live musical scores, and Action Design approach, theatricalizing dramatic and non-dramatic texts during long rehearsal periods. Oversaw company's transition to not-for-profit status: developed and led Board of Directors; devised successful grant format.

Founded, curated, and developed the Lit Moon World Theater Festival, recognized both regionally and nationally. Responsibilities include fund-raising, liaison with local press, directing productions, selecting international participants, and producing and scheduling all aspects of the festival.

Organized company's international touring program: Plovdiv, Bulgaria (2000); Edinburgh, Scotland (2001); Montreal, QC (2003-4); Prague, Czech Republic and Gdansk, Poland (2004); Gdansk and Legnica, Poland (2006 and 2007); and Beijing, China (2007).

Productions include:

Mankind (forthcoming), 2007 1st International Festival 'The City,' Legnica, Poland
Queen C (forthcoming), 2007 Lit Moon World Theater Festival
The Tempest, 2006 Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival
King Richard II, 2006, **Performed at Tri-Cities Shakespeare Festival, Gdansk, and Modjeska Theatre, Legnica, Poland; Independent Theatre Award**
Tartuffe, 2003-2004, Lit Moon World Theater Festival
Hamlet, 2001-2004, **Invited to National Theatre Company of China, Beijing, China, November 2007; Performed at Tri-Cities Shakespearean Festival, Gdansk, Sopot, Gdynia, Poland; Divadlo U Hasicu, Prague, Czech Republic; Wildside Festival, Montreal, QC (2004); Montreal Fringe Festival - Centaur Award for Best Drama (2003).**
The Visions of Aksenty Ivanovich, 2001, **Performed at Edinburgh Festival Fringe**
Time(piece), 2000 **Developed and Performed in Plovdiv, Bulgaria**
Henry V, 2000 **Independent Theatre Award 2000**
Diary of a Madman, 2000 **Bulgaria Tour, Summer 2000**
The Master and Margarita, 1999
Pinocchio, 1998
Unseen Waters, Unknown Shores, 1996

Peer Gynt, 1995
The Nutcracker and the Mouse King, 1994 **Critic's Choice, Santa Barbara News Press**
Through the Looking Glass, 1994 **Critic's Choice, Santa Barbara News-Press**
Metamorphoses, 1993
Alice in Wonderland, **Best Production, Santa Barbara News-Press; and Independent Theater Award**, 1992

Festivals Include:

2007 Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival (forthcoming)

Queen C, Lit Moon Theatre Company
All For The Love of Me, Tampere Teatteri, Tampere, Finland
Mobile Horror (staged reading)
Olga (staged reading)

Lit Moon World Shakespeare Festival 2006

Romeo and Juliet, Bulgarian National Theatre, Sofia
Othello, Modjeska Theatre, Legnica, Poland
Hamlet, Lit Moon Theatre Company
Romeo and Juliet, Canis Tempus, Montreal, Quebec
The Tempest, Lit Moon Theatre Company
As You Like It, State Puppet Theatre, Bourgas, Bulgaria
Timon of Athens, Theatre Artists Group, Santa Barbara
King Richard II, Westmont College and Lit Moon Theatre Company
Rogue, Westmont College, Santa Barbara

Lit Moon World Theater Festival 2004

Bird's Eye View, Do-Theatre, St. Petersburg, Russia
James Donlon Mimeworks, Santa Barbara
Songs From a Book of Days, Eve Beglarian, New York City
Nonsense, Westmont College Theatre Arts, Santa Barbara
Tartuffe, Lit Moon Theatre Company, Santa Barbara

Lit Moon World Theater Festival 2003

Woza Albert, Market Theatre of Johannesburg, South Africa
Sweet Mama Stringbean, Fire Within, Los Angeles
Sabotage: In Fine Form, Burning Cities New Works, Albuquerque
Swimmer, Site Pacific, Santa Barbara
Tartuffe, Lit Moon Theatre Company, Santa Barbara
Hamlet, Lit Moon Theatre Company, Santa Barbara
The Mariner, Westmont College Theatre Arts, Santa Barbara

Lit Moon World Theater Festival, 2002

Nothing Twice, Omar Sangare, Warsaw, Poland
The Prisoner, Deborah Latz, New York City
Krapp's Last Tape, Robert Loesser, Santa Barbara
Bastards & Beggars, Jeff Mills, Santa Barbara

Nicole Renaud in Concert, Paris, France
Hamlet, Lit Moon Theatre Company

Lit Moon World Theater Festival, 2001

Hopeless Games, Theatre Fabrik, Potsdam, Germany; and
Do-Theatre, St. Petersburg
Upside Down, Do-Theatre, St. Petersburg
True Theatre Critic, Omar Sangare, Warsaw, Poland
The Coat, Theatre Credo, Sofia, Bulgaria
The Visions of Aksenty Ivanovich, Lit Moon Theatre Company
Hamlet, Lit Moon Theatre Company

Lit Moon World Theater Festival 2000

Hopeless Games, Do-Theatre, St. Petersburg; and Theatre Fabrik,
Potsdam, Germany
Eating, Drinking, and Telling Lies, The Shamans, Budapest, Hungary;
And Lit Moon Theatre Company
The Diary of a Madman, Lit Moon Theatre Company
Henry V, Lit Moon Theatre Company

Lit Moon World Theater Festival 1999 **Independent Theatre Award**

A Simple Thing, Tom Leabhart, Los Angeles, CA
Amine, The Shamans, Budapest, Hungary
The Master and Margarita, Lit Moon Theatre Company

Lit Moon World Theater Festival 1998

The Coat, Theatre Credo, Sofia, Bulgaria
Pinocchio, Lit Moon Theatre Company

Director (free-lance), 1983 - present.

Joan of Arc, original musical, Penthos Productions, Santa Barbara, CA, 1995,
Lobero Theatre

Joan of Arc, original 1994, Trinity Episcopal Church **Robby Award, Best
Director of a Musical**

Table Manners, 1989, Ensemble Theatre Project, **Critic's Choice Santa
Barbara Independent**

Blue Blazes 1986 Ensemble Theatre Project

Home, 1986 Ensemble Theatre Project

American Buffalo, 1986

Fiddler on the Roof, Winona Community Theatre, Winona, MN, 1984

Brigadoon, Winona Community Theatre, Winona, MN, 1983

GRANTS, PAPERS, CONFERENCES, AND PANELS

"8th Shakespearean Festival: Gdansk, Sopot, Gdynia," *Slavic and East European*

Performance, Forthcoming Winter, 2005.

Recipient of Theatre Communications Group/International Theatre Initiative Travel Grant for Collaboration with Prague-based Designer Milon Kalis and 2003; Warsaw-based actor Omar Sangare, 2003.

Recipient of Theatre Communications Group/International Theatre Initiative Travel Grant for Collaboration with Prague-based Designer Milon Kalis, 2001.

Recipient of major grants from the Santa Barbara Foundation and the Santa Barbara Arts Commission, 1994-2006.

Recipient of Irvine Grant for exploring the development of an off-campus program, Westmont College, 2000.

Recipient of Faculty Development Grant, 2006, 2004, 2001 and 1998.

"The Holy Theatre of Maurice Maeterlinck." Paper delivered at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, Atlanta, 1992.

"Exhausting the Beyond: Notes on Censorship in the Postmodern World." Paper Delivered at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, Seattle, 1991.

"Unnerving the Audience: Censorship and the Abstract." Paper delivered at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, Chicago, 1990.

Coordinator for Faculty Artists Series, entitled "Collage," Westmont College, Fall, 1991.

Coordinator for "The Emperor in '91: Issues and Aesthetics in Staging O'Neill's Play Today." Colloquium on Visual Expressionism, Eugene O'Neill, and an actor's approach to Brutus Jones. In conjunction with Faculty Artists Series and the Westmont Classical Repertory Theatre.

Coordinator for "King Arthur in Literature and the Arts." Colloquium on the literary and visual tradition of King Arthur. In conjunction with Westmont Classical Repertory Theatre production of *The Marriage of King Arthur*.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Lector, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1994-Present.

Lit Moon Theatre Company; extensive educational outreach to area schools and universities, including lectures, discussions, and workshops. Frequent contributors to Kids Passport to the Arts, educational outreach for area children. Strong affiliation with the Arts Fund of Santa Barbara.

Program Committee, City-Wide Conference on the Humanities, sponsored by
Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California Santa Barbara.
Simon Williams, Executive Director, 1994-1997.

REFERENCES

Peter Lackner, Free-Lance Director. Former Director of Theatre and Chair,
Department of Dramatic Art, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106. (805) 966-1466.

Simon Williams, Professor, Department of Dramatic Art, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA
93106. (805) 893-8538.

Robert Potter, Playwright, Producer of Dramatic Women Theatre Company, Former
Professor, UCSB Department of Dramatic Art. (805) 965-5826.