

# Danika Sudik

EDUCATOR-DIRECTOR-DRAMATURG

## EDUCATION

**M.F.A.** Dramatic Arts, Acting & Directing  
University of California, Davis

**B.A.** Theatre, Film & Television, Acting  
University of California, Los Angeles

---

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Co-Director & Founder:** Ground & Field Theatre Festival  
University of California, Davis, 2017-2019

Ground and Field Theatre Festival is a theatre development program and community festival introducing new plays and musicals onto the national stage. The festival is committed to sustainable production practices, and spotlighting urgent new narratives that engage problems of social, economic, and environmental justice. Co-Founded with Tom Burmester, Mindy Cooper, and Lisa Quorerisimo.

**Associate Instructor:** Introduction to Acting  
University of California, Davis, 2015-2017

Introduced voice and speech, movement, theatre games, script analysis, and improvisation.

**Guest Instructor:** Intermediate Acting/Gateway: The Actor's Toolkit  
University of California, Davis, Winter 2016

Led breath-work, movement, and script analysis based on the Stanislavsky system.

**Dramaturgy Research Lead,** Center Theatre Group, Sept 2014-2017

Responsible for researching & aggregating training materials for audience engagement teams at the Kirk Douglas Theatre and Mark Taper Forum. Productions include:

LUNA GALE by Rebecca Gilman

IMMEDIATE FAMILY by Paul Oakley Stovall

WOMEN LAUGHING ALONE WITH SALAD by Sheila Callaghan

GIRLFRIEND Book by Todd Almond. Lyrics by Matthew Sweet

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE Lyric Poem by Mike Kenny. Adapted by Debbie Devine

HOW TO BE A ROCK CRITIC by Eric Jenson & Jessica Blank

STRAIGHT WHITE MEN by Young Jean Lee

CHAVEZ RAVINE by Culture Clash

KANSAS CITY CHOIR BOY, Music & Lyrics by Todd Almond. Directed by Kevin Newbury

**Education Program Producer**, The Broad Stage, Santa Monica, Sept 2011-Dec 2013  
Responsible for managing programming and partnerships; K-12 arts education programs, and Lifelong Learning Opportunities:

- Managed programs servicing over 20,000 participants over the course of the 11-12 and 12-13 seasons.
- Worked with Marketing to produce Education & Outreach materials for the season.
- Hosted Q&As and talkbacks for student groups with artists that included Helen Hunt, Madrid's premiere classical company, Rakatá, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre from London.
- Created Master Class and Lifelong Learning opportunities with artists such as Grammy nominated Antonio Lysy, Academy Award nominated Julian Sands, and award-winning dance company BODYTRAFFIC.
- Created and managed the Teaching Artist Program. Recruited and managed teaching artists, interns, and volunteers.
- Represented The Broad Stage at education and presenting conferences.
- Developed and wrote new program proposals, grant proposals, and represented the department and theater at Board meetings, with donors, and foundations.

**Producer/Director**, The Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble, Los Angeles  
Jan 2009-Present

Ovation nominated Director/Producer.

- Negotiate budgets, rentals, timelines and supervises all aspects of design and production. Ensure compliance with all AEA standards and codes.
- Liaison between Actor's Equity and production staff.
- Coordinated company involvement with Center Theatre Group's Middle School Playwriting Project at John Adam's Middle School.

**Study Guide Writer**, Bonnie Franklin's Classic & Contemporary American Plays, Studio City, Feb 2014-Jan 2015

Created study guides for high school teachers and materials for advanced English students at inner city high schools:

- Illuminate play's themes by connecting them to current events and teenage point of view.
- Excavate the play/playwright's history to give students personal and contemporary access points into the material.

**Company Coordinator**, Powerhouse Theatre, Santa Monica, *June 2008-Sept 2011*  
Responsible for the daily operations of a 99-seat Equity Waiver House:

- Coordinated theatre, office and deck usage between resident company and visiting companies including load in, strike, build days and rehearsals.
- Initiated education programming; developed curriculum and marketing materials, engaged artists, and began mentorship program.

## **Theatre & Film Teaching Artist**, Various programs including:

Theatre Arts for Children, Script to Screen & Fresh-i-Films, Southern CA, 2001-2010  
Facilitated deep understanding of course material with a focus on individualized personal growth; taught film and theatre fundamentals to children ages 8-18:

- Led 15-30 students to research, write and produce performances based on their history curriculum to deepen understanding of current events, literature, and history and explore social relevance. Taught acting, voice and movement techniques and choreographed dance pieces. Led acting games and exercises to promote self-esteem and self-awareness.
  - Explored different genres of film to influence story telling style and writing process.
  - Developed leadership and team building skills within groups to create fully functioning production teams. Work-shopped all design elements of production.
- 

## **DIRECTOR/DRAMATURG**

THE BRIARS by Briandaniel Ogelsby, The Wyatt Theatre,  
Ground & Field Theatre Festival 2018

THE DEAD KID by Max Guttman, Ground & Field Theatre Festival (Workshop) 2018

SET IN PLAY by Dan Born, Ground & Field Theatre Festival (Workshop) 2018

WARIKIRU by Jon Rossini, Ground & Field Theatre Festival (Reading) 2018

LADIES by Kit Steinkellner, University of California, Davis (Director-Reading) 2017

STUPID F\*ING BIRD by Aron Posner, University of California, Davis (Director-Reading) 2017

ELECTRICIDAD by Luis Alfaro, University of California, Davis (Director-Reading) 2017

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO FIRST SQUAD, Arena Stage, UCD Fall Symposium 2016

EXILES by Jonathan Redding, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2013

I'LL BE WAITING by Adam Emperor Southard, The Kirk Douglas Theater 2012

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO FIRST SQUAD by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble **\*5 Ovation Nominations** 2011

NATION OF TWO by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble

**\*LA Weekly Award Winner** 2010

SURVIVED by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble

**\*LA Weekly Award Winner** 2009

## **PRODUCER:**

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO FIRST SQUAD by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble **\*Ovation Nominated, LA Weekly Award Winner** 2011

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS by William Shakespeare, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2011

THE NAKED ARMY by Matthew Weedman, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2011

GROUP by Adam Emperor Southard, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble

**\*Ovation Nominated** 2010-2011

THE GOOD PRISONER by Kit Steinkellner, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble

**\*LA Weekly Award Nominated** 2010

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO FIRST SQUAD (workshop) by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble \***LA Weekly Award Winner** 2010  
NATION OF TWO by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble  
\***LA Weekly Award Winner** 2010  
WOUNDED by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble  
\* **LA Weekly Award Winner** 2010  
A GIANT ARC IN THE SKYSPACE OF DIRECTIONS by Michael Vukadinovich, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2010  
CHASE THE SLUT Third Star Films, Co-Producer/Production Design 2010  
NATION OF TWO (reading) by Tom Burmester, Kirk Douglas Theatre 2009  
MONKEY MADNESS by Daisuke Tsuji, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble  
\***LA Weekly Award Winner (Puppetry); \*6 Nominations** 2009  
SURVIVED by Tom Burmester, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2009  
FANDO & LIS by Fernando Arrabal, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2009  
SOCK AND SHOE by Daisuke Tsuji, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble 2009  
THE HIDING Mountain View Pictures, Co-Producer/Production Design/Wardrobe Design 2009

---

## **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

2017 UCD & Humanities Graduate Research Award  
2014 Directors Lab West  
2012 LA SCENIE Award Best Production, Drama  
2012 LA SCENIE Award Best Direction of a Drama  
2011 Ovation Award Nominee: Best Director  
2011 LA Weekly Award Nominee: Production of the Year  
2011 LA Weekly Award: Best Fight Choreography (as producer/director)  
2011 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award: Best Fight Choreography (as producer/director)  
2010 LA Weekly Award: Special Citation of Excellence for Technical Accomplishments and Breadth of Vision  
2009 LA Weekly Award Nominee: Best Ensemble (as producer/director)  
2009 LA Weekly Award: Best Puppetry (as producer)  
2010 LA Weekly Cover Story for *The War Cycle*.  
2004 Best Actress Award for "Sylvia"