

GRAHAM SCHMIDT

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DIRECTING

Professional

<i>Sanctuary</i> , short play by Will Arbery	Ensemble Studio Theatre (New York, NY)	World Premiere
<i>Color at the End of the World</i> by Travis Tate	Theatre East (New York, NY)	World Premiere
<i>Gusev</i> by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Graham Schmidt	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	World Premiere
<i>The Fiancée</i> by Eliza Bent	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	U.S. Premiere
<i>The Black Monk</i> by Kama Ginkas	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	U.S. Premiere
<i>Dulcey and Roxy at City Hall</i> by M. Kurochkin	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	World Premiere
<i>Three, or the Sound of the Great Existential Nothingness</i> by Timothy Braun	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	World Premiere
<i>Martial Arts</i> by Yury Klavdiev	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	Regional Premiere
<i>I am the Machine Gunner</i> by Yury Klavdiev	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	Regional Premiere
<i>The Schooling of Bento Bonchev</i> by M. Kurochkin	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	U.S. Premiere
<i>Ghosts</i> by Henrik Ibsen	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	Original adaptation
<i>Uncle Vanya</i> by Anton Chekhov	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	Original Translation
<i>Flying</i> by Olga Mukhina	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	U.S. Premiere
<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> by Anton Chekhov	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	Original Translation
<i>The Seagull</i> by Anton Chekhov	Breaking String Theater (Austin, TX)	Original Translation
<i>Cinzano</i> by Lyudmila Petrushevskaya	Coldtowne Theater (Austin, TX)	Original Translation

Academic

<i>The How and the Why</i> by Sarah Treem	UT-Austin	MFA Thesis Project
<i>Galactic Orphans</i> by Megan Tabaque	UT New Theater Festival	World Premiere
<i>In The Glare</i> by Graham Schmidt	UT-Austin	World Premiere
<i>Luminosity</i> by Graham Schmidt	UT-Austin	World Premiere
<i>A Nervous Breakdown</i> by Graham Schmidt	2017 Cohen New Works Festival	World Premiere
<i>The Sonnets Project</i> by Graham Schmidt	UT-Austin	World Premiere
<i>Uncle Vanya</i> by A. Chekhov	UT-Austin	Undergrad Thesis

Staged Readings and Workshops

<i>Hoo-Ha Jedi Mind-Fuck</i> , by Julia Blauvelt	The Orchard Project Performance Lab (2021)
<i>Hoo-Ha Jedi Mind-Fuck</i> , by Julia Blauvelt	NYU Steinberg Playwriting Course (semester-long workshop)
<i>Harold & Marie</i> , by Daniel Gomez	NYU Steinberg Playwriting Course (semester-long workshop)
<i>Mother/Mary</i> , by Rose Tabor Montgomery	NYU Steinberg Playwriting Course (semester-long workshop)
<i>rain falls special on me</i> , by Lane Michael Stanley	Aye Defy (NYC)
<i>Galactic Orphans</i>	Egg & Spoon Theatre (NYC)
<i>Albamarle</i> , by Caridad Svich	The Wild Project (NYC)
<i>The Noir Project</i> , by Joanna Garner	National Winter Playwrights Retreat (CO)
<i>The War Has Not Yet Begun</i> by M. Durnenkov	The Lark Theater (NYC)
<i>Dulcey and Roxy at City Hall</i> by M. Kurochkin	Breaking String Int'l Workshop
<i>Invisible Women</i> by Megan Tabaque	UT Studio Theatre (Austin, TX)
<i>Galactic Orphans</i> by Megan Tabaque	UT Studio Theatre (Austin, TX)
<i>Butter</i> by Travis Tate	UT Studio Theatre (Austin, TX)
<i>The Animals</i> by Kirk Lynn	The Off Center (Austin, TX)
<i>Match Play</i> by Paz Pardo	UT Studio Theatre (Austin, TX)

Assistant & Associate Directing

Cambodian Rock Band, by Lauren Yee

National Tour (Associate Director)
Signature Theatre (Assistant Director)
La Jolla Playhouse (Assistant Director)

Dir. Chay Yew

Mojada, by Luis Alfaro

The Public Theater (Assistant Director)

Dir. Chay Yew

In the Red and Brown Water by T. McCraney

The University of Texas at Austin

Dir. Robert Ramirez

The Diary of Anne Frank

The University of Texas at Austin

Dir. Brant Pope

AWARDS, HONORS

Resident Artist

National Winter Playwrights Retreat (Creede, CO)

Best Director, *Flying*

Austin Live Theatre Applause Award

Best Theatre Event, New Russian Drama Festival

Austin Live Theatre Applause Award

Best Original Translation, *The Cherry Orchard*

B. Iden Payne Awards

Best Director, *The Cherry Orchard*

Austin Theater Examiner Award

Top 10 Theatrical Wonders of 2012, *Ghosts*

Austin Chronicle

EDUCATION & TRAINING

M.F.A. in Directing, University of Texas (2018)

Austin, Texas

B.A., Plan II Honors Program, UT-Austin (2005)

OTHER SKILLS

TEACHING (Teaching statement and directing, acting, playwriting syllabi available upon request):

Brooklyn College BFA Acting program faculty member: Advanced acting workshop instructor or record since 2018

Brooklyn BFA Acting Class of 2020 & 2021 Showcase coordinator

Goodman Theater Alone Together high school education program (summer 2020 & 2021)

DRAMATURGY: Currently serving as dramaturg for the world premiere of Travis Tate's *Queen of the Night* at Dorset Theater Festival, directed by Raz Golden.

NEW PLAY: New Play Development Coordinator, Egg & Spoon Theatre Collective. Pitched & spearheaded the 2021 Incubation Series, which comprises three developmental workshops for new plays by global majority writers.

PRODUCING: Founder, Artistic Director, Resident Director of Breaking String Theater Company (Austin, TX) from 2007 – 2015. Annual budget up to \$50k, up to 3 productions per year.

PERFORMANCE TRAINING: Shakespeare, neutral mask, Lecoq, Laban, Commedia, Balinese Masks, Clown, Suzuki, Viewpoints.

Studied Devising under Kirk Lynn, the Rude Mechanicals (Austin, TX), and Pig Iron Theatre Co.

MUSICAL TRAINING: Seven years musical performance experience (French horn) and advanced music theory.

LANGUAGES:

Advanced Russian

Basic German

Basic Spanish

Basic Czech

BIO

Graham Schmidt is a New York City based theater and film director, dramaturg, and teacher who believes in the transformative power of ritual, that performance can help us create a more just society, and that stories save lives. Graham directs plays--new and old--with and for underserved communities and his work imagines and invites a liberated society, one production at a time.

Graham's current projects include *Hoo-Ha Jedi Mindf&&k*, an exploration of OCD that Graham is helping to create by leading a movement-based devising process. He serves as Associate Director for the national tour of Chay Yew's *Cambodian Rock Band*. He is the New Play Development Coordinator for Egg & Spoon Theatre Collective where he spearheaded a developmental workshop program for global majority writers, called the Incubation series.

From 2007 – 2015, Graham served as resident director of the company he founded, Breaking String Theater Co. (Austin, TX). Graham's work with Breaking String included re-imaginings of canonical plays (*The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, The Cherry Orchard, Ghosts*), international collaborations (*Dulcey and Roxy at City Hall*), contemporary and brand new American plays (*The Beyoncé* by Eliza Bent, *Three, or the Sound of the Great Existential Nothingness* by Timothy Braun, *The How And The Why*, by Sarah Treem), and annual new plays festivals that he produced from 2011 - 2013.

Graham has directed and developed work at institutions including The Orchard Project, Dorset Theater Festival, the Lark Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Wild Project, NYU-Tisch, Brooklyn College, Egg and Spoon Theatre Collective, Aye Defy, the Off Center, Salvage Vanguard Theater, the National Winter Playwrights' Retreat, and the Blue Theater. He has assistant directed under Brant Pope, Robert Ramirez, and Chay Yew. MFA, UT-Austin.

Graham teaches an advanced acting workshop in the BFA Acting program at Brooklyn College, and lives in Brooklyn with his impossibly delightful staffy-lab mix, Scout.