

NIGEL SEMAJ

WWW.NIGELSEMAJ.COM
558 GATES AVE, NY, NYC 11221
NIGELSEMAJDIRECTING@GMAIL.COM • 240.353.9607

EDUCATION

MFA., Theatre, The New School for Drama, 2020

Concentrations: Theatre Directing, New Work Development.

Thesis: *Spell Number 7* by Ntozake Shange. (Case Book/Select Footage Available Upon Request)

B.A, Theatre, Lycoming College, 2017

Majors: Directing and Performance

Minors: Sociology/Psychology

Thesis: *The Baltimore Waltz* by Paula Vogel. (Case Book/Dramaturgy Links Available Upon Request)

Advanced Directing Thesis: The *columbinus* Project (Case Book/Program Information Available Upon Request)

Garrett Community College, McHenry MD

Studies: Secondary Education and Fine and Performing Arts

RESEARCH AND AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Physical Theatre and Theatrical Movement/Dance: How Movement Plays a Crucial Role in The Development of Story

Greek Tragedies and Mythologies and What The Greeks Teach Us About Theatre

Black Theatre: What Is It, and Why It Is Different from African American Theatre

Intimacy and Sexual Violence on Stage: What It Does, and How Do You Do It Safely.

TEACHING/INSTRUCTING EXPERIENCE

The New School for Drama. *New York, NY*

Teaching Associate, Dance for Actors (**Graduate Students**)

August 2018 – Present

The New School. *New York, NY*

Teaching Assistant, Intro. to Graduate Studies (**Graduate Students**)

August 2019 – January 2020

Lycoming College Theatre Department. *Williamsport, PA*

Teaching Assistant, Acting I and II (**Undergraduate Students**)

August 2014-May 2017

Lycoming College *Williamsport, PA*

Teaching Associate: Intro to Dance (**Undergraduate Students**)

August 2015 – May 2016

South Williamsport High School. *South Williamsport, PA*

Associate Teacher (**Secondary Education**)

December 2013 - March 2017

South Williamsport High School. *South Williamsport, PA*

Assistant Director/Choreographer (**Secondary Education**)

November 2016-March 2017

December 2013-February 2017

Lycoming Valley Intermediate School) *Loyalsock, PA*

Instructor/Theatre Director (**Primary School**)

October 2016-February 2017

HIGHER EDUCATION TRAINING

Relevant Training: Title IX Conduct - Peer Mediation- CPR and First Aid (2019 Recertified) - Crisis Management Interpersonal Communication, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Intimacy Direction,

Technical Skills: Microsoft Office (Advanced)- Prezi (Advanced) Google Drive/Docs/Forms/Sheetz (Advanced)

CURRICULUM AND PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT

LINK TO DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Rehearsal Protocols: An In-Depth Document Outlining Expectations and Best Practices for Varying Rehearsals at The New School, **Creation 2018 – In Effect January of 2020**

Slurs Protocol: How Slurs are Used/Understood in Rehearsal Spaces, The New School, **Creation 2019 – In Effect: Ant. August 2020**

Hair and Makeup Protocols: A Guide for The Design and Handling of Students Hair (primary Students of Color). The New School, **Creation 2019 – In Effect: Ant. August 2020**

Cultural Change New Student Orientation: A Presentation For Incoming Students at The News School. **Developed and Executed in 2019 for the 2019/2020 School Year.**

HIGHER EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE

The New School, New York, NY

Cultural Change Task Force Committee	April 2019 – Present
Affinity Group Facilitator/Co-Coordinator	August 2018 – Present
Drama Ambassador, College of Performing Arts,	August 2018 – Present
Sex Positive Health Advocate	August 2017 - Present

Lycoming College, Williamsport, PA

Title IX Conduct Panel, Office of Student Life- TITLE IX	August 2015 – May 2017
Residential Life Hiring Panel, Department of Res. Life	Summer of 2016
Office Assistant, Department of Student Life	Summer of 2015 and 2016
Resident Assistant, Department of Residential Life	December 2013-May 2016
Conference Assistant, Department of Residential Life	May 2015 – August 2015
Summer Orientation Leader, Department of Student Life	June, 2014 and 2015

Garrett College, McHenry, MD

Resident Assistant, Office of Residence Life	October 2011-May 2013
Summer Resident Assistant, Office of Residence Life	May 2012 – August 2012
Summer Orientation Leader	May 2012- June 2012
Student Worker, Office of Student Life	January 2012 – May 2013

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ADAPTATION WORK

Inferno: a theatrical movement piece on Dante's Inferno – in current development. Adapted by Nigel Semaj – Original Score and Composition by Carlos Zarate

Niggertown; an Adaptation of Thornton Wilder's Our Town – developed and written by Nigel Semaj

For Hylas; a theatrical movement piece – developed by Nigel Semaj and written by Nigel Semaj and Calley Anderson

10,000 Moor: an adaptation of William Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus – developed/adapted by Nigel Semaj

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

*indicates an original work

Assistant Director	<i>Passing Strange</i> (dir. Tea Alagic)	A.R.T. 2020
Director/Choreographer	<i>Spell No. 7</i>	The New School, 2020
Assistant Director	<i>La Boheme</i>	Mannes Opera, 2020
Director/Choreographer	*"For Hylas; a playlist"	The New School, 2019
Director	<i>a curious thing: or superheroes k'aint fly</i>	AADA, 2019
Director	<i>wolfchildren runslowly through a bruegel landscape, 1559</i>	The New School, 2019
Director/Adaptor	<i>10,000 Moor</i> (An Adaptation of <i>Titus Andronicus</i>)	The New School, 2019
Director	<i>Black Hollow</i>	Argo Collective, 2018
Director/Producer	<i>Argonautika</i>	The New School, 2018
Director	<i>448 Psychosis</i>	The New School, 2018
Director	"I'll Follow Tomorrow"	The New School, 2018
Assistant Director	* <i>Ah Sweeter Lyme</i>	The New School, 2018
Director	<i>Hell Is Normal</i>	The New School, 2017
Assistant Director	<i>Blood Wedding</i>	The New School, 2017
Director	<i>columbinus</i>	Lycoming College, 2017
Director/Dramaturg	<i>The Baltimore Waltz</i>	Lycoming College, 2016
Director	<i>The Heidi Chronicles</i>	SCCT, 2016
Director	<i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged</i>	Lycoming College, 2016
Director	<i>For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide</i>	Lycoming College, 2015

MOVEMENT SKILLS/TRAINING

Methodologies: Neutral Masque –Viewpoints - Lecoq – Laban – Commedia Dell’Arte
Action Through Analysis (Chekov/Dimitri Krymov)

Movement Training: Frantic Assembly, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Tectonic Theatre Company

Dance Training: Hip-Hop (Intermediate), Contemporary (Advanced), Ballet (Basic)
Jazz and Musical Theatre (Advanced), Tap(Intermediate)

SAFD Certifications: Unarmed (Rec Pass- 2018), Small Sword (Rec Pass -2018),
Knife (Basic Pass, 2019), Rapier & Dagger (Rec Pass, 2019),
Quarterstaff (Rec Pass, 2019)

Additional Weapons: Broadsword (Beginner) Fencing (Competitive Training)
Foam/Boffer/LARPing Weapons (Advanced) Knife Throwing (Intermediate)
Archery (Skilled), Riflery (Advanced)

Additional Movement Training: Yoga, Cross-Country Running (Three Years), Kickboxing (Beginner)

CHOREOGRAPHY & MOVEMENT

*Choreographer for Select Numbers in production

Movement Director/Fight Director	Troll King Rises	Argo Collective, 2020
Fight Director	As You Like It	The New School, 2019
Fight Choreographer	Be A Man – Short Film	The New School, 2019
Choreographer	<i>Footloose</i>	South Williamsport, 2018
Choreographer	<i>Ah Sweeter Lyme</i>	The New School, 2018
Assistant Choreographer	<i>Passing Strange</i>	The Wilma Theater, 2017-18
Movement Coach/Choreographer	<i>Blood Wedding</i>	The New School, 2017
Fight Choreographer	<i>Come Here, Scrawny</i>	The New School, 2017
Movement/Fight Choreographer	<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Lycoming College, 2017
Choreographer	<i>Cyrano de Burgershack</i>	South Williamsport High School, 2016-2017
Movement Director/Fight Coach	<i>Hansel Und Gretel Opera</i>	Lycoming College, 2016-2017
Choreographer	<i>The Baltimore Waltz</i>	Lycoming College, 2016
Choreographer	<i>Annie Jr!</i>	Lycoming Valley Intermediate School, 2016-2017
Choreographer	“The Big Bad Musical”	Community Theatre League
Choreographer*	<i>For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf</i>	Lycoming College, 2015
Choreographer*	<i>The Cradle Will Rock</i>	Lycoming College, 2014

TECHNICAL SKILLS/TRAINING

Skills: *QLab (Advanced), Audacity (Adv.) Garageband (Adv) Adobe Suit (Adv.) QuickBooks (Int.) Website/Logo Design (Adv.), Social Media Management (Adv.) Event Planning (Adv.)*

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Production Manager	Plato Learning/Camp Half-Blood Brooklyn	November 2017 – August 2019
Producer	Summer Reading Series (Argo Collective)	May 2019 – July 2019
Producer	Summer Studio Series At The New School	Summer of 2018
Program Manager	Sexualitea Group Meetings	New School Health Services, 2017
Production Manager	<i>Sacrifices, The Ancient Musical</i>	29 Hour Plays, 2017
Production Manager	Plato Learning Afterschool Programming	Plato Learning, 2017
Production Manager	<i>Hissifit: A Punk Rock Musical</i>	The Cradle Theatre, 2017
Box Office Manager	Lycoming College Productions	Lycoming College, 2013- 2017
Production Manager	<i>columbinus</i>	Lycoming College, 2017
Production Manager	Take Back The Night March	Lycoming College, 2016
Artistic Director	The Happiest Show On Earth Make-A-Wish Foundation Benefit	Williamsport PA, 2015
Production/Tour Manager	A Saucy Sausage Sandwich	Lycoming College, 2014-15

DESIGN/ENGINEER EXPERIENCE

*indicates an original work

Marketing Design	New Visions Festival	The New School, 2020
Marketing Design	New Visions Festival: Directors' Lab	The New School, 2019
Sound Designer	<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	PrismHouse Theatre, 2018
Sound Designer	<i>The Melting Pot</i>	Everyday Inferno Theatre, 2018
Sound Designer	<i>*Hell is Normal</i>	The New School, 2017
Sound Designer	<i>columbinus</i>	Lycoming College, 2017
Sound Designer	<i>Almost, Maine</i>	Lycoming College, 2016
Props Designer	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	Community Arts Center, 2015
Props Designer	<i>In The Next Room: Or the Vibrator Play</i>	Lycoming College, 2015

WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

*SLIDES AND MATERIAL AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Gender, Sex, And Sexuality: Cultural Change Workshop, The New School, 2019)

What is gender, what is sex, and what is sexuality? One thing that have in common is that they have the tendency to be confused for the same thing. In this workshop, students will gain the tools needed to engage in healthy conversations regarding gender, sex and sexuality.

STIS and Stigmas: Sex Positive Collective Training, The New School, 2018

How do we talk about/educate ourselves and others about STD's in a way that encourages behaviors that make the spread of disease less likely but also destigmatizes.

Decolonizing Dramatic Structure & Dismantling The Master's Playhouse, KCACTF, (2018)

Every theatre maker has learned Aristotle's Poetics, and the way in which to understand dramatic structure. Well, what happens you try to identify the dramatic structure of a piece wherein the playwright writes against that dramatic structure? This workshop seeks to expand the young theatre makers concept of what a dramatic structure is and can be, and provide them with the tools needed to dismantle current theatrical structures and create new ones that are reflective of the more diverse world we live in.

The Actors Body: Intro to Physical Theatre, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (2017)

In this workshop, students will learn the basics of stage movement and the many ways to communicate emotion through the body. Students will learn to move instinctively and will learn to fully connect with their body to subdue the feeling of "stuck in the head" when acting. In using Stanislavski's method of acting, students will become more adept physical actors.

The Physical Actor: Storytelling with the Body Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, (2016)

Storytelling is an art form encompassing both movement and speech, the journey an actor can take during movement to tell a story is incredibly important, this workshop is about that importance. During this workshop, we will learn about the art of movement in storytelling, the importance of building ensemble through movement, body communication and self-awareness. Through these objectives, we will learn to develop a strong and flexible body which will ultimately lead to the development of the ability to move through space with ease and interact instinctively with scene partners. Through exploration of the human body paired with an exercise in devised storytelling, we will collectively tell a story through choreographed movement.

Stage Combat, Fencing and Sword Play for Youth, (Camp HalfBlood – Plato Learning, 2017 – 2019)

Rasa Boxes for Kidz!, Theatre For Youth Workshop, (Fall 2016)

Intro to Commedia – Lycoming College (Spring 2015)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2017 Lycoming College Overall Excellence in Theatre Award

2017 Outstanding Program of The Year Award – Take Back The Night March

2017 Outstanding Service Award (Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival)

2017 Lycoming College Brick Award for Outstanding Contributions to Lycoming College Community

2016 Lycoming College Theatre Performance/Directing Award for Excellence in Directing

2015 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Certificates of Merit in Direction and Ensemble