

Susan W. Thompson
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EDUCATION

Tufts University: Medford, Ma.

- Ph.D., Theater History (2007)
- dissertation: *Tout Ensemble: The Actor/Creator and the Influence of the Pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq on American Ensembles*

École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq: Paris, France

- Certificate of Completion for the two-year professional theater program (1989)
- Laboratoire d'Étude du Mouvement (LEM, 1988), one-year studio art class in scenic design and movement led by Jacques Lecoq and architect Krigor Belekian

Boston University: Boston, Ma.

- B.A. Summa Cum Laude with Distinction in English Literature (1979)
- Distinction Thesis: "The Burlesque of Passion: Cardenio's Story in *Don Quixote* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*"
- New York University in Madrid, Spain (Junior Year Abroad)

AWARDS

- Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama (Tufts, 2002)
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education (Tufts, 2001)
- Graduate Symposium Award Winner for "Jacques Lecoq and the Actor/Creator" (Tufts, 2000)
- Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston Conservatory at Berklee (2017-present)

- guest artist for Contemporary Theater Lab
- director, co-creator, writer for *Tales from the Sandman*, an original ensemble piece
- lecturer: Mask, Dramatic Theory and Literature, Clown, Ensemble Performance Lab
- performer in *A Moment's Notice*, improvisations series in 2019, 2021

Boston College, Boston, Ma. (2000-present)

- Lecturer in Theatre Studies
- instructor for Clown Intensive (2008) and Dream Work (2009)
- movement for lawyers, Boston College Law School workshop (Fall, 2014)
- mentor for AHANA students
- classes taught: *Physical Theatre, Introduction to Theater, Acting*

The Commonwealth School, Boston, Ma. (2000-present)

- acting teacher/director
- director for over 32 productions

Emerson College, Boston, Ma. (2000)

- Improvisation and Movement for Actors*

Tufts University, Medford, Ma. (1998-1999 and 2012)

- Acting*
- Movement for the Theater*

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Ma. (2000 and 2013)

- Clowning*
- Acting*

New Theatre, Boston, Ma. (1997-2000)

- developed and implemented movement curriculum for two-year conservatory
- improvisation and movement teacher
- classes in scene study, improvisation, neutral mask, body awareness as well as advanced styles including commedia dell'arte, mask, clown, tragedy and choral movement

Guest Teacher/Artist

- choral movement and neutral mask (Boston College, 2007, Salem State, 1997)
- theater movement (MIT, 1996, 2000-2016)
- Character: from the banal to the eccentric* (Amherst College, 1996)
- commedia dell'arte/physical comedy (Eastern Nazarene College, 1999 & 2000)
- storytelling and integrating arts into the classroom (Lesley University, 1995 & 2005)

PUBLICATIONS

“Mujeres Aliadas/Women United: Exploring Birth Work in Rural Mexico” *International Doula* 28 (2), 6-10, 2020

“The Actor/Creator and Three American Ensembles,” *The Routledge Companion to Jacques Lecoq*, (Routledge, 2017)

The Wild Place, co-authored with Jon Lipsky with an introduction by Susan Thompson, *The Plays of Jon Lipsky, Volume 2*, edited by Jonah Lipsky and Bill Barclay, (Smith and Kraus, 2015)

“Freedom and constraints: Jacques Lecoq and ensemble theater,” *Encountering Ensemble*, (Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2013)

Boundless as the Sea, *Boston Theater Marathon XI, 2009 Anthology*, (Smith and Kraus, 2010)

“The 1985 Artist's Brigades, Mexico: an account from the streets” *Consciousness, Literature and the Arts*, (e-journal, Vol. 4, No. 3, December 2003). Presented at the VIII International Society for the Study of European Ideas Conference, Wales 2002 and "Identity, War and Other Crises: Theatre's Response

“Malleable reality in *Lo crudo, lo cocido, y lo podrido*” *Prologue*, (Tufts University Publication, February 1998)

ORIGINAL PLAYS

Tales from the Sandman, (director, co-writer and co-creator), an original, ensemble piece based on the dreams of the ensemble. Performed at the Boston Conservatory, Zackbox Theater (2017) and in numerous venues during a New England Tour in 2018.

Unforgettable: Letters from Korea, (playwright/actress), a piece based on archival love letters, songs and photos from the Korean War, venues include: Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls (2014), National Mall (Washington, D.C.) as part of the events commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War (2013), Osage, Iowa (2013), Boston College Arts Festival (2013), Acton Jazz Café (2012), Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. (2012)

Haunted by Waters, (writer/actress), a salon piece based on memoirs, archival letters and historical documents of New England's history, toured in farmhouses and private homes (Pilgrim Theatre, 2010-2014)

Boundless as the Sea, (writer/actress) Boston Theater Marathon (2009)

The Wild Place/El Lugar Salvaje, (writer/actor/translator), co-written with Jon Lipsky. Performance venues include, Teatro Yuyachkani, Lima and Urubamba, Peru (1995), Boston Center for the Arts (1995), Ko Festival, Amherst, Ma. (1994). Remounted by Boston University for Central Square Theatre (2008)

Anam Cara, (co-creator/director/collaborating writer) performed at Roy Hart Theatre, Chateau de Maleragues, France (2000), Mobius, Boston (2002) and Boston's Women on Top Festival (2001)

Missing Persons, (writer/director) performed at New Theatre's NeWorks Festival, Boston, Pilgrim Theatre's Fall Festival, Boston Center for the Arts (1998) and Arlington Center for the Arts (1999)

Panic, (writer/actor/director), performed at New Theatre's NeWorks Festival, Boston(1998) and Pilgrim Theatre's Fall Festival, Boston Center for the Arts (1999)

SCHOLARLY PAPERS AND PANELS

“The Theater of Jean-Claude van Itallie” CUNY Graduate Center, NY, (performer and panelist), 2008

“Why tell stories?” (keynote speaker/paper) Lesley University's Early Childhood Institute, 2005

"Life Gestures to Stage Gestures: Transforming Movement Theatre into Theatre Movement" (lecture/demonstration), American Theater in Higher Education Conference (ATHE), New York, 2003

"Synthesis and Actor Training in the Work of Pilgrim Theatre" (lecture/demonstration) SUNY Brockport's Conference *Moving Bodies*, Spring 2001

"Between Heaven and Hell: buffoons and embodying chaos in the pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq" (paper), American Theater in Higher Education Conference (ATHE), Chicago, 2001

“Jacques Lecoq and the Actor/Creator,” (paper)

Tufts Graduate Symposium (2000) and Tufts Drama Colloquium (2000)

"Movers and Shakers: Grotowski and Lecoq" (colloquium organizer) Tufts 'Graduate Drama Colloquium, 2000

ENSEMBLE THEATER WORK

Pilgrim Theater Research and Performance Collaborative, Ashfield, Mass.

(1990-present)

Narrative: Pilgrim Theatre was founded in 1986 in Poland and moved to the US in 1989. In 1990 Susan Thompson joined the company as a core artist. The company's work has been detailed in TheatreForum (Winter, 2007), Susan Letzler Cole's book *Playwrights in Rehearsal* (Routledge, 2001), International Theater Journal (Winter/Spring 2007), and Jon Lipsky's book, *Dreaming Together* (Larson Publications, 2008) and *The Plays of Jon Lipsky, Volume 2* (Smith and Krauss, 2016). Pilgrim has performed in the 2002 International Malta Festival (Poznan, Poland), La Mama (New York), Teatro Yuyachkani (Lima, Peru), Ko Festival (Amherst, Ma.), The National Mall (Washington, D.C.), and numerous New England venues. Pilgrim works collaboratively and represents a synthesis of training styles including Grotowski and Lecoq. The work of the ensemble is one of co-creation.

Directing with Pilgrim:

Birders Flock to Kentucky (2023)
Leader of the Band (2022)
Precious Little Things (2013)
Wishful Thinking (2012)
Doll Hospital (2011)
Psuedoephedrine (2010)
My Name is Art (2007)
Lysistrata (2003)
Ten Minute Dad (2003)
The Greatest Singer in the World (2002)
Missing Persons (1998-99)
Panic (1998-99)
Columbus: Dreams of a New World (movement director, 1992)
The Brides (co-director, 1990)

Acting with Pilgrim:

The Fiddler (Fiddler, 2017)
Buzz (Scientist, 2015)
Unforgettable: Letters from Korea (Cleora, 2012-present)
Haunted by Waters (Duet, 2010-2014)
Boundless as the Sea (Woman/Juliet, 2009)
The Tibetan Book of the Dead (ensemble, 1998 & 2008)
The Life You Save (Faith, 2004)
Faust 2002 (Dr. Faustus, 2002)
Claude and Claudette (Claudette, 2001)
House Not Touched By Death (Iliana, 2000-2002)
Letters from Sarajevo (Mama, 1997)
The Wild Place/El Lugar Salvaje (Susan, ensemble, 1994 & 1995)
Nada Brahma (ensemble, 1993)
Leonardo: Anatomy of a Soul (ensemble, 1992 & 1993),
A Tempest (Miranda, Stefano, 1992)
The Brides, (ensemble, 1990 & 1991)

Pilgrim Theatre's Intensive Training Exchanges:

Voice/Carol Mendelsohn and Saule Ryan, Roy Hart teachers
 Voice/Zygmunt Molik of the Polish Laboratory Theatre
 Neutral Mask/Dody DiSanto
 Dream Work/Jon Lipsky
 Scripting/Jean Claude van Itallie
 Movement/Max Palar, Indonesian Silat Martial Arts master
 Movement/Teatro Yuyachkani from Peru
 Voice and Rhythm/Jacek Ostaszewski, a Polish composer and musician
 Acting Exchanges with deaf and hearing actors

ENSEMBLE THEATER WORK (con't.)**Theatre Frederik: Mexico City, Mexico, (1981-1985)**

Narrative: Theatre Frederik was founded by the Belgian director, Frederik Vanmelle (1936-1985), based in Mexico and sponsored by the Flemish Minister of Culture. In 1981 Susan Thompson joined the company as a core artist, eventually also becoming a rehearsal and touring director for the ensemble. The company's performances of theatre-without-words included elements of puppetry, mime and modern dance.

Actor in over 380 performances:

Hermosas Locuras, Ilucinaciones and Angeles en el Desierto.

Venues in Belgium, the US and Mexico include:

The Palace of Fine Arts in (Brussels), The Barn in Wolfrapp (Virginia), Interlochen Center for the Arts (Michigan), Teatro de la Ciudad (Mexico) and El Festival Cervantino (Mexico).

OTHER THEATER WORK

- Movement**
- Dracula*, choreographer, Boston College Theater Department (2001)
 - Crazed Women*, choreographer/assistant director, Tufts University (2001)
 - The Rover*, movement consultant, MIT (2001)
 - Miranda's Dream*, artist advisor, Wendy Woodson and Present Company, Green Street Studios, Cambridge, Ma. (1996)
 - As You Like It*, buffoon and clown characters, MIT Shakespeare Ensemble's (1990)
- Directing**
- Commonwealth School, Boston (2002-present):
- Boundless as the Sea* (2023), *Much Ado About Nothing* (2023), *Inflation/Vacation* (2022), *Macbeth* (2022), *The Other Shore* (2021), *Brevity is the Soul of Wit: An Evening of Shorts* (2021), *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* (2020), *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (2020), *Arcadia* (2019), *Almost, Maine* (2018), *Three Sisters* (2017), *The Crucible* (2017), *Tartuffe* (2016), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2016), *Metamorphoses* (2015), *You Can't Take It With You* (2015), *The Weavers* (2014), *As You Like It* (2014), *Our Town* (2013), *The Green Bird* (2013), *The Cherry Orchard* (2012), *Twelfth Night* (2011), *The Queen and the Rebels* (2010), *Inspector General* (2010), *The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls* (2010), *365 Plays/365 Days* (2009), *Good Person of Setzuan* (2009), *An Evening of Shorts* (2008), *Much Ado About Nothing* (2008), *Arcadia* (2007), *Hayavadana* (2007), *Importance of Being Earnest* (2006), *Ubu Roi* (2006), *The Seagull* (2005), *Cyrano* (2005), *Winter's Tale* (2004), *Biederman and the Firebugs* (2003), *Skin of Our Teeth* (2003), *Life is a Dream* (2002)
- Other Venues:
- The Last Appointment*, a staged reading for Our Voices V: A Celebration of Boston Area Women Playwrights, Regis College (2011)
 - Guided Tour*, staged reading, Boston Playwright's Theatre (2008)
 - Anam Cara*, Roy Hart Theatre, Chateau de Malerargues, France (2000), Mobius, Boston (2000), Boston's Women on Top Festival (2001)
 - Taxi Dance*, new work by Rick DesRochers, Boston Center for the Arts NeWorks Festival (2000)
 - Tartuffe*, New Theatre, Charlestown Working Theater (1998)
 - Crazed Women*, assistant director, Tufts Department of Drama and Dance (2001)
 - The Raw, the Cooked and the Rotten*, assistant director, Tufts Department of Drama and Dance (1999)
- Performance**
- A Moment's Notice*, improvisational series at Berklee School of Music 2019 and 2021.
 - Son Corazon/Heartstrung*, an original bilingual play based on the life of Puerto Rican actress Myrna Vasquez, New World Theatre Festival, Amherst, Ma. (1996) and the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center, Boston, Ma. (1995)

- Bare Bones Season Night of Improvisation*; Wendy Woodson and Present Company, Amherst College, Amherst, Ma. (1995)
- Out of the Blue*; Wendy Woodson and Present Company, Amherst College, Middlebury College, and The Dance Place, Washington DC (1990,1992)

FILM AND VIDEO

- Black, White, and Red All Over*, (Mrs. Streecher), Sundance Festival Dramatic Competition (1997), MOMA's Director's Festival (NY, 1997)
- Videoperette*, (ensemble), multimedia performance at Grand Halle (Paris 1989)
- The Falcon and the Snowman, Dune, and Conan the Destroyer*, (tech work and extra), Estudios Churrubusco (Mexico, 1981-83)

OTHER TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

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|-------------|---|
| Movement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dody Disanto/Bande mime/Neutral Mask (2015, 2017) -Ruth Zaporah, Action Theater, Improvisation (2009, 2011) -Tony Wolfe/Combat (2002) -Gardzienice Theater/movement and voice (2001) -Wendy Woodson/<i>The Institute</i>/movement and scripting (2000) -Tony Montanaro/movement & mime (1987) -early modern dance training and performance: Charles Weidman (NY), Ann Waugh Allen (Maryland) and Ballet Teatro del Espacio (Mexico City) |
| Performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Anne Gottlieb Chekhov (2011) -Dody Disanto/buffoon (2008) and clown (2017) -Jon Lipsky/dreamwork (2008) -Shakespeare and Company (2007) -Philippe Avron/mask work (1999) -Lisa Wolpe/ Shakespeare text and scene study (1999) -Agosto Boal/Theater of the Oppressed (1994) -Bread and Puppet "The Foot" |
| Voice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Judi Wilson, Carol Mendelsohn and Saule Ryan Carol/Roy Hart (1990-2009) -Louis Colaianni /Linklater Voice Intensive (2007) |
| Writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Emerson College courses in <i>Screenwriting</i> (2011) and <i>Memoirs</i> (2010) |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cultural Competence Engagement Models (2021) Boston College -Sketchbook Journaling (2021) |

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY WORK (Separate resume available upon request.)

Performer, curriculum consultant, teacher training, and trilingual (Spanish/English and French/English) artist-in- resident in schools throughout Massachusetts and in youth programs in Mexico and France. Performances include: *This Shining World/ Esta Tierra Reluciente*, *Penelope's Tale: A Retelling of the Odyssey*, *Gilgamesh*, and *Trickster Tales*.

Volunteer work includes: attending over 50 births as a Certified Doula with Adolescent Clinic at Brigham and Women's Hospital and with Birthing Gently (2011-present), Artists Brigades, performing for shelters after the Mexico City earthquake, and Vista Volunteer with Mexican and Chicano migrant workers.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- fluent in Spanish
- proficient in French
- DONA certified Birth Doula since 2011