

## **TOM BENTLEY-FISHER - RESUME**

### **YAT/BENTLEY CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE , OAKLAND/BERKELEY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2017 - PRESENT**

Founder and Artistic Director. The Centre offers a coherent and dynamic international teaching program to actors, directors, teachers, and dancers, based on the work of Yat Malmgren and Tom Bentley-Fisher. The mandate includes the mounting of full productions, nationally and internationally, with those graduate students who have attained a degree of excellence in the work. YBC (Yat/Bentley Centre) has expanded its studios to England and Los Angeles.

### **TANT PER TANT, CANADA/BARCELONA ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2007-2016**

Artistic Director of Tant per Tant, a theatre company dedicated to the translation, exchange and production of international plays. Productions directed include *Oooo*, by Gerard Vázquez, *The Vindication of Senyora Clito Mestres*, by Montserrat Roig, *Temptation*, by Carle Batle, and Pau Miró's trilogy *Buffalos*, *Lions*, and *Giraffes*. Programming included a three-year exchange project, bringing six Canadian and Catalan playwrights and their plays to theatre stages across Canada and Catalonia. Projects also involved international staged readings, workshops of new plays, and dramaturgical work on new translations. In 2016, Tant per Tant presented a multi-lingual version of Marie Clement's *Burning Vision* as a co-production with The Barcelona International Grec Festival and Q-ars Teatre. Directed by Tom Bentley-Fisher, it featured a mixed cast of North American and Catalan actors, original live music, dance, and film.

### **Q-ARS TEATRE, BARCELONA, SPAIN 2009-2010**

Creator and director of *Iliada*, an all-female version of The Iliad, created for the International Barcelona Grec 09 Festival, with a subsequent tour to regional theatres in Catalonia. It was translated from Catalan to Spanish and re-staged in 2010 for the Festival de Teatro Clásico de Mérida, performing in Teatre Romano, a Roman theatre built in 100 B.C. and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **GLOBAL AGE PROJECT, AURORA THEATRE, BERKELEY PRODUCER 2005-2008**

Ran an international discovery and developmental program bringing playwrights and their work for staged workshops and possible production. Plays directed include *Happy Slap*, by Laura Jacqmin, *Events with Life's Leftovers*, by Alberto Villarreal, and *Los Once*, by Finnian Sullivan. Program included new commissioned plays by Craig Lucas and Amy Freed.

### **TWENTY-FIFTH THEATRE, CANADA ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 1985-1998**

Established the theatre's focus as the discovery, development and production of original Canadian plays. Becoming one of Canada's flagship companies for producing world premieres, the theatre developed a strong reputation for innovative and socially responsive work. Accomplishments during a twelve-year tenure:

Produced twelve full seasons of original plays.

Directed over 40 productions. (List of the plays available on request.)

Established programs for new play development.

Toured and co-produced throughout Western Canada.

Established Outreach Programs with communities not normally associated with mainstream theatre.

Established Student Mentor Program for young writers from isolated rural communities.

Produced plays and festival work from Canada's indigenous communities.

### **SASKATOON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL FOUNDER/PRODUCER - 1990-1998**

Initiated and produced the Saskatoon International Fringe Festival, an eight-day theatre event consisting of over eighty provincial, national and international theatre companies, performing in seven indoor venues. The purpose of the Festival was to create opportunities for local artists who were finding it difficult to present their work, break down the traditional barriers between the artist and audience, and celebrate the community at large. Attendance grew from eight thousand to sixty thousand in five years, supported by a volunteer base of over four hundred.

### **SENIOR ARTIST GRANT 1993-1994**

Awarded an Arts Board Grant to observe and work with theatre and dance companies throughout Europe and Asia. The focus of the eight-month long sabbatical was to experience the work of companies creating innovative and cross-disciplinary presentation. This resulted in returning to Canada to develop and produce projects incorporating less traditional forms of development and production.

### **SELECTED DIRECTING:**

**San Francisco 2019** - *Electric Voices*, a co-production between the Yat/Bentley Centre for Performance and the French American International High School, San Francisco.

**Berkeley 2019** - *One Night Stand* and *Too Soon*, touring productions and featured at the Marsh, Berkeley.

**San Francisco 2018** - *Marat Sade*, Waterfront Playhouse and Conservatory, Berkeley

**Barcelona 2016** – *Burning Vision*, Marie Clements. Pina Bausche Theatre, Barcelona International Grec Festival.

**New York 2016** – *The Oy of Sex*, Alicia Dattner. Off- Broadway, the Bridge Theatre, New York.

**Saskatoon 2010 -2014** – *Under Milkwood*, Studio 914. *Buffalos*, Persephone Theatre. *Lions*, The Refinery.

**Merida, Spain 2010** – *The Iliad*, Festival Teatre Clásico.

**San Francisco 2002–2008** - Artistic Director of Theatre Release - plays directed include *Chekhov Squared*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Maids*, by Jean Genet. Freelance work with Bay area companies included the San Francisco Playwrights Foundation, Axis Dance Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Subterranean Shakespeare.

**Canada 1983 – 2001**

**The Carlton Trail, Western Canadian Tour** - World Premiere. *The Oldest Profession*, by Pulitzer Prize winner Paula Vogel.

**Station Arts Centre, Rosthern** - Director and Musical Director of summer productions - *Spirit Wrestler*, by Greg Nelson, and *Saskatoon Pie*, by Geoffrey Ursell.

**Twenty-Fifth Theatre Centre** - Directed over forty original productions, including early work by Sharon Butala, Maria Campbell, Dianne Warren, Greg Nelson, Connie Gault, Joanna Glass, and Anne Szumigalski.

**Saskatchewan Playwright's Centre** - Director of ongoing workshops in new play development, plus six years as a director at their annual Spring Festival of New Plays. Most recently worked with Catherine Banks on the development of her Governor General Award winning play, *It is Solved by Walking*.

**Toronto Theatre Ensemble**– Artistic Director of artist run company, producing in the Adelaide Court Theatre. Plays directed include *The Threepenny Opera*, Brecht, *The Glass Menagerie* Tennessee Williams, *Spring Awakening*, Wedekind and *The Big Scene*, Schnitzler.

**Arbor Theatre, Ontario** - Artistic Director of Acorn Company, a youth theatre developed to provide workshops, theatre classes and productions to a wide range of the community. Plays directed include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *the Wizard of Oz*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

**Theatre Direct, Toronto** – Associate Director. Theatre for Youth. Two of the plays directed were nominated for Dora Awards as Best Production, and a third, *How I wonder What you Are* (Robert Morgan), was the winner of the Chalmer's Award.

**Theatre London, Ontario** – *Exile*, by Ric Wellwood. World Premiere. *The Happy Prince*, opera by Malcolm Williamson. Canadian Premiere.

**Citadel Theatre, Edmonton** – *Exposures*, by William Chadwick. World Premiere.

**Global Village, Toronto** – *Outcry*, by Tennessee Williams, Canadian premiere.

**Saskatoon Symphony** – *The Girl who was Saved by Jazz*, and *H.M.S.Pinafore*.

**Equity Showcase, Harbourfront, Ontario** – *La Ronde*, by Arthur Schnitzler.

**Majestic Theatre, Biggar** – *New York is Big but this is Biggar, The Musical*. Writer and director.

\*Additional work in Canada includes working as a member of a Government Arts Strategy Task Force, an intensive one-year examination of the Future for the Arts, and producing a performing, visual and literary arts festival in conjunction with the 1989 Jeux Canada Games.

### **SELECTED TEACHING:**

**University of Waterloo, Drama Department, 1977-83.** Principal Instructor. Reorganized the Acting Program to develop a teaching team with a coherent philosophy. Taught senior classes in Acting, Directing and Action and was responsible for supervising instruction in Voice and Movement. Directed over twenty productions on the Main Stages during a six-year tenure. Plays directed include:

<i>The Crucible</i> , Arthur Miller	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , Shakespeare
<i>Kennedy's Children</i> , Robert Patrick	<i>The House of Bernada Alba</i> , Lorca
<i>Bland Hysteria</i> , John Palmer	<i>The Diary of a Scoundrel</i> , Ostrovsky
<i>La Ronde</i> , Schnitzler	<i>A Day for Surprises</i> , Guare
<i>Play Strindberg</i> , Durrenmatt	<i>The Bear &amp; The Proposal</i> , Chekov
<i>The First Warning</i> , Strindberg	<i>The Stronger</i> , Strindberg

**University of Saskatchewan, Drama Department, 1997-2010.** Taught all levels of Acting in a four-year degree course. Employed for a total of seven terms.

**Studio and Master Classes, 1998-2020.** Character Transformation and The Psychology of Movement - developed from the work of Rudolf Laban and Yat Malmgren, founder of Drama Centre, London. Taught extensively throughout Canada, the U.S., England and Europe, including at the Sala Beckett Studio, the Institute del Teatre Barcelona, Central School of Speech and Drama, Axis Dance, and for six years at La Troupe de Jour in Saskatoon as part of Tant per Tant Theatre.

### **WRITING - FICTION /PLAYS:**

Work includes *Blind Man's Drum*, a collection of short stories published by Thistledown Press, a finalist for Best Fiction, Saskatchewan Book Awards, and *Wars and Rumours of Wars*, a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Humor. Play commissions include *New York is Big But This is Biggar, the Musical*, *Friends*, produced by Theatre Direct and published by Red Deer Press, *Hoopla*, and *Iliada*, adapted from Alessandro Baricco's version of the Iliad. (A complete list of published short stories, lyrics, and articles is available on request.)

### **ACTING**

Began theatre career as an actor in London, England, working regularly for BBC Radio and performing in the West End. In Canada, spent full seasons with Toronto Workshop Productions,

Young People's Theatre, and the Theatre Hour Company, as well as acting in regional theatres across the country. Worked also in film and television.

## **TRAINING**

Drama Centre, London - Yat Malmgren  
Studio Fourteen, London - Doreen Cannon  
Neighborhood Playhouse, New York - Sanford Meisner  
University of Alberta, Fine Arts  
Banff School of Fine Arts  
Toronto conservatory of Music

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