ANNA C. BAHOW

Director

anna.bahow@gmail.com | annabahow.com

"A director of immense skill and subtlety, with an impeccable eye for casting, and a gift for finding the action in a play about the mind and the heart." **— Chicago Sun-Times**

RECOGNITION

After Dark Awards – Production received awards – New Work, Direction, Ensemble & Scenic Design (Sweet Confinement)

Joseph Jefferson Special Citation – Production received award- Use of Multimedia (Martin Furey's Shot)

Joseph Jefferson Committee Award – Production received award - Best New Play (Vintage Red and The Dust of the Road)

American Theatre Critics Association / Steinberg Award – Nominee, Best New Play Produced Outside New York (Vintage Red and The Dust of the Road)

National Eco-Drama Award – Winner (Odin Horse)

3Arts WAVE Grant

City of Chicago Individual Artist Grant

Illinois Individual Artist Grants

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Associate Artist: International Voices Project, Chicago Dramatists, Silk Road Cultural Center

Ensemble: Promethean Theatre

Alumni: NY and Chicago Directors Lab

Michael Maggio Directing Fellow, Goodman Theatre

DIRECTOR – SELECTED WORKS

Date	Title	Playwright	Venue
Jan–Feb 2026	**Young Playwrights Festival** *(World Premiere)*	Clark Tavis	Pegasus Theatre
Sept 2025	**American Carnage** *(World Premiere)*	Jordan Marie Ford	Sarah Street / Curious Theatre Rhino Fest
Mar–Apr 2023	**A Town Called Progress** *(World Premiere)*	Trinia Kakacek	Promethean Theatre Ensemble
Oct 2022	**Man of the People**	Dolores Diaz	Stage Left Theatre
Mar–Apr 2019	**Detour Guide** *(World Premiere)*	Karim Nagi	Silk Road Rising
Jul–Aug 2018	**BLISS (Or Emily Post is Dead!)** *(rolling World Premiere)*	Jami Brantley	Promethean Theatre Ensemble
Sept 2017	**We Talk, We Swim, We Go To War** *(developmental workshop)*	Mona Mansour	Silk Road Rising
Jul 2017	**Silk Road Ensemble** *(World Premiere)*	R. Malley & Jennie O. Brown	Silk Road Rising at Ragdale

Jun 2017	**ALMOST EQUAL** *(stage reading)*	Jonas Hassen Khemiri	International Voices Project
Feb 2017	**Urge for Going** *(stage reading)*	Mona Mansour	Silk Road Rising
2016/2017	**My Sweet Land**	Amir Nizar Zuabi	Silk Road Rising · Nour Festival London, Aga Khan Museum Toronto & Vancouver
2016/2017/2019	**Zirab: Song Bird of Adelusia** *(World Premiere + college tour)*	Ronnie Malley	Silk Road Rising
Feb–Mar 2015	**A Nice Indian Boy** *(Midwest Premiere)*	Madhuri Shekar	Rasaka Theatre at Victory Gardens
Aug–Sept 2013	**INVASION!** *(Midwest Premiere)*	Jonas Hassen Khemiri	Silk Road Rising
Feb–Mar 2013	**Brewed** *(World Premiere)*	Scott Barsotti	Ruckus/Tympanic
Apr–May 2013	**Comrades Mine** *(World Premiere) · Jeff Recommended*	Maureen Gallagher	City Lit
Apr–May 2009	**The Rocks** *(World Premiere) · Jeff Recommended*	Mark Young	The Side Project
Nov–Dec 2009	**Rewind** *(World Premiere)*	Laura Eason	The Side Project
Sept–Oct 2008	**Odin Horse** *(World Premiere)*	Robert Koon	Infamous Commonwealth
May–Jun 2008	**Sweet Confinement** *(World Premiere)*	Anna Carini	Sinnerman Ensemble
Feb–Mar 2007	**Gray City** *(World Premiere)*	Keith Huff	Premiere Theatre & Performance
Nov–Dec 2006	**New Orleans** *(World Premiere)*	Mark Young	The Side Project
May–Jun 2005	**Martin Furey's Shot** *(World Premiere)*	Maureen Gallagher	TimeLine Theatre
2008	**St. Colm's Inch** *(World Premiere)*	Robert Koon	Chicago Dramatists
Nov–Dec 2002	**Vintage Red and The Dust Of The Road** *(World Premiere)*	Robert Koon	Visions & Voices Theatre

★ *Top shows of 2013*, Chicago Tribune (INVASION!) ★ *After Dark Awards 2008* – New Work, Direction, Ensemble & Scenic Design (Sweet Confinement) ★ *Joseph Jefferson Special Citation – Use of Multimedia* (Martin Furey's Shot) ★ *Joseph Jefferson Award – Best New Play*; American Theatre Critics Assoc. / Steinberg Award Nominee (Vintage Red)

ASSISTANT AND OBSERVERSHIP POSITIONS

Camino Real (2012)	Calixto Bieito	Goodman Theatre	*Assistant*
The Iceman Cometh (2012)	Robert Falls	Goodman Theatre	*Observership*
Chinglish (2011)	Leigh Silverman	Goodman Theatre	*Observership*
Red (2011)	Robert Falls	Goodman Theatre	*Observership*

Bus Stop (2006)	Rick Snyder	Goodman Theatre	*Observership*
Mamet Fest (2006)	Steve Scott / Rick Snyder	Goodman Theatre	*Observership*
Electricidad (2004)	Henry Godinez	Goodman Theatre	*Observership*
Undesirable Elements (1999)	Ping Chong	Ping Chong and Co.	*Assistant*

ONE ACTS AND FESTIVALS

Rhinofest · Estrogenfest · Strangetree · ATC · Collaboraction Sketchbook · The Side Project

READINGS AND DEVELOPMENTAL WORKSHOPS

Goodman Theatre · Victory Gardens · Chicago Dramatists · Stage Left · American Theatre Company · Silk Road Cultural Center · Infusion · The Side Project · WTA · International Voices Project

CURATORIAL AND LITERARY MANAGEMENT

Associate Artist, International Voices Project (2012–ongoing) — Directed and assisted in coordinating readings of international scripts at consulates and cultural institutions under the artistic direction of Patrizia Acerra.

Director / Associate Producer, Inclusive Playwrights Project / Access Project Cripslam New Play Showcase, Victory Gardens (2007–2015, 2018) — Annual showcase of short new works accessible to writers and audiences with and without disabilities.

Literary Staff, Victory Gardens Theater (2002–2006) — Read and critiqued scripts.

Program Director, Women's Theatre Alliance – New Play Festival and Workshop (1998–2003) — Curated, developed, and showcased early-career women playwrights.

TEACHING ARTIST

Playwriting in the Chicago Public Schools for Chicago Dramatists

Conducted workshops at Lake Forest College with Victory Gardens Theatre

Guest Artist at Southern Illinois University

Adjudicator, Dayton Playhouse National New Play Festival

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

My Sweet Land by Amir Nizar Zuabi (Palestinian playwright) · Silk Road Rising — Directed and toured production internationally: Nour Festival, London UK; Aga Khan Museum, Toronto & Vancouver

International Voices Project Associate Artist 2012–ongoing — Directed and coordinated staged readings of international scripts at consulates and cultural institutions across Chicago, representing playwrights from nine countries

INVASION! by Jonas Hassen Khemiri · Silk Road Rising — Midwest premiere of Swedish play addressing racial profiling and identity

La Mama Directing Symposium, Umbria, Italy · 2016 — Studied with international master directors Marianne Weems, Yoshiko Chuma, Tian Mansha, and Martha Clarke

EDUCATION

Master of Liberal Studies with distinction · September 2018

DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

Interdisciplinary degree centering on diversity and inclusion. Thesis: *Counter-narratives and Jonas Hassen Khemiri's play INVASION!: Storytelling that fractures the Orientalist Narrative.*

Bachelor of Arts · Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Double Major: Theater, Communications and Theater

Focus: Directing, Production, Arts Management, Photography

CONTINUED TRAINING AND MASTER CLASSES

Frantic Assembly NYC · September 2018

La Mama Directing Symposium, Umbria, Italy · July–August 2016

With: *Marianne Weems, Yoshiko Chuma, Tian Mansha, and Martha Clarke*

Additional training in Chicago with: Mary Zimmerman, Chicago Shakespeare, SITE Company and Mary Overlie

Movement Training with Chicago Physical Theatre Artists · 2024, 2025

Filmmaking studies, Columbia College Chicago · Production assistant for independent films · Directed short films

Equity and Inclusion Training: Equity Quotient · Crossroads · 3Arts Accessibility Workshop