

Brian Rott

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EXPERIENCE

Producing Artistic Director/Founder **Quasimondo Physical Theatre** **2012–Present**

Duties: Director and creator of 22 original productions through five critically acclaimed seasons, numerous choreography and design roles, production management, season selection, casting & hiring, development of collaborations with community partners, tour management, budgeting, creation and implementation of marketing strategies, website design, planning of "Studio G" black box co-op theater, production photography/film, teacher

Theater Chair/Co-Founder **Milwaukee Fringe Festival** **2015–Present**

Duties: Festival foundation and development, programming curator, scheduling, fundraising, community outreach

Producing Artistic Director **Loose Canon Theatre** **2006–2009**

Duties: Director of classical and devised productions, various design roles, production management, marketing, internship coordinator, workshop instructor, graphic design, sound editing, set construction

DIRECTING

The Performance Ecology Project **Director/Co-Producer** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2017**

An original piece devised with Performance Ecologist, Jeff Grygny, in collaboration with Cooperative Performance and The Urban Ecology Center.

***Zie Magic Flute*, Mozart & Schikaneder** **Co-Director/Producer** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2017**

Music, movement, and puppetry collide in an original translation of Mozart's beloved opera: in collaboration with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Cadance Collective, performed at the historic Tripoli Shrine Center.

- Received 2017 Footlight Award for "Best Performance"

Animolecules **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2016**

An original "dan-sci" theatre work following "the Father of Microbiology", Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, scientific progress, and the specimens of evolution to hypothesize what it means to be human today.

- Choreography, Projection, Lighting and Costume Design

Angst, Horror, & Fun **Director/Creator** **Present Music, Milwaukee WI** **2016**

In collaboration with contemporary/classical music company, Present Music, and the Milwaukee Art Museum; this fusion of film, music, and live theatre includes an interactive gallery tour, and original performances inspired by the German Expressionist silent films *Nosferatu*, *Metropolis*, and *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*.

The Nautical Tragedy of Dick III **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2016**

A crude sea shanty side show; this literary mash-up charts misfit mariners on a twisted mission. With music, clowns, *bouffon* and puppetry, this dark voyage plunges into injustice to expunge what's gettin' our guts.

- Official Selection of Milwaukee Fringe Festival • Lighting and Makeup Design

Kama Sutra **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2016**

Inspired by classical Indian performance traditions and the writing of Vātsyāyana, this erotic dance theater piece follows new-age Americans on holistic journeys to redefine dominance, love, submission, and sexuality.

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "Best Theater of 2016": "Best Play Runner Up" • Lighting, Makeup, and Scenic Design

Children of Pac-Men **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2015**

An original multimedia game-play examining generational growing pains and the fear of innovation. Narrated with spoken word, and performed with masks and black light puppetry.

- Listed by Examiner.com in "Most Awesome Theater of 2015" • Choreography, Projection, and Scenic Design

Carnival **Director/Choreographer** **Present Music, Milwaukee WI** **2015**

A collaboration with Present Music and Grammy award-winning pianist Cory Smythe. This theatrical concert fuses dance and *commedia dell'arte* with the music of Robert Schumann and Salvatore Sciarrino.

- Choreography and Lighting Design

Halloween Legends and Lore **Director/Co-Creator** **Old World Wisconsin, Eagle WI** **2012–2016**

Co-created with living history museum Old World Wisconsin, this annual collaboration features site-specific and interactive performances, inspired by supernatural folklore and macabre literature.

- Conception and Production Design of 14 theatrical shorts, including: *Beowulf*, *The Masque of the Red Death* by Edgar Allen Poe, *Feathertop* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Vasilisa & Baba Yaga*, and *Macbeth*.

Kamikaze Cutesauce: Cosplay Club **Director/Creator** **Fringe NYC, New York NY** **2015**

An American/Japanese fusion of dance, puppetry, and martial arts unraveling the world-wide phenomenon of cosplay(costume play), and the adolescent threads that bind gender to identity.

- Sound Design
- Official Selection of the New York International Fringe Festival.
- Featured in Time Out : New York, The Village Voice, and listed in The Daily Beast's "Best of Fringe NYC".
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "Best Theater of 2015": "Best Costume Design" and "Best Play Runner Up"

Giraffe on Fire **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2015**

A dance rhapsody and inter-arts collaboration between 7 choreographers, 7 visual artists, and 7 composers; depicting the life, works, and legacy of Salvador Dali.

- Sound and Lighting Design
- Listed by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for "Best Overall Design" in "Best Theater of 2015"
- Listed by Examiner.com in "Most Awesome Theater of 2015"

Buboes **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2014**

A grotesque comedy of contagion, examining the plague of the Dark Ages in light of modern medicine and mass hysteria. With puppetry, jazz, and abominable *bouffon* inspired by *commedia dell'arte*.

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "Best Theater of 2014": "Best Costume Design", "Best Play Honorable Mention"
- Choreography, Sound, Lighting, and Makeup Design

Animal Farm **Director/Adapter** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2014**

A world premiere puppet adaptation of the story by George Orwell, revealing disparate diets, animal cruelty, and the effects of complacent consumption. Staged in collaboration with the Wisconsin Historical Society at the 19th-century Historic Preservation Site, Trimborn Farm.

- Additional production run commissioned by Milwaukee County Parks
- Choreography, Projection, Scenic, and Costume Design
- Listed by Examiner.com in "Milwaukee's most daring performances of 2014"

Bottle 99 **Director/Choreographer** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2014**

A science-fiction, deep-space ballet following astronauts en route to an identified habitable planet. This multimedia collaboration with acclaimed animator Patrik Beck explores the physiological and psychological effects of isolation, and the necessity of physical contact.

- Listed by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for "Best Choreography" in "Best Theater of 2014"
- Choreography, Scenic, and Costume Design

Love & Cthulhu **Director/Adapter** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2014**

A theatrical horror show devised from the literature and mythos of H.P. Lovecraft investigating the pursuit of higher powers and the mortal drive to fabricate mystery. Created with movement inspired by *Butoh*, illusions of magic, demonstrations of science, and a terrifying menagerie of ungodly puppets.

- Scenic, Lighting, and Costume Design
- Listed by Examiner.com in "Milwaukee's most daring performances of 2014"

Americlown **Director/Creator** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2013**

A side-splitting, all-American clown show. Drone strikes, reservations, immigration, binge-drinking and baseball; in collaboration with sculptural artists Bridget Cookson and Skully Gustafson. This poignant farce eyes U.S. history, and our present state of affairs, through the unrelenting lens of a rubber nose.

- Choreography, Sound, Lighting, and Costume Design
- Listed by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for "Best Play" in "10 Best Wisconsin Plays of 2013"

Once Upon a Time **Director/Project Manager** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2013**

In collaboration with the Milwaukee Art Museum, this experimental performance art exhibition creates six interactive experiences, inspired by architecture and staged at sites throughout the museum.

- Including: A 21-string horizontal marionette, a 4-hour Petri dish puppet evolution, a choreography for giant robots, and a living-gallery dance tour through the temporary collection of Thomas Sully portraits

Bacchanalia **Director/Writer** **Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI** **2013**

A theatrical celebration inspired by the stories and rituals surrounding Bacchus, god of wine, fertility, and ecstasy. The Cyclops, Minotaur, Medusa, Thespis, Plato, Nietzsche: This festival in three acts (paired with a sumptuous three course meal) mixes classical mythology with modern philosophy in a tantalizing cornucopia of dance, music, and drama.

- Additional run commissioned and performed at the 19th-century Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum
- Choreography

Hansel & Gretel: A Cautionary Tale	Co-Creator/Writer	Art Town, Reno NV	2013
Family-friendly mask and puppet play adapted from the fable by Hans Christian Andersen, promoting mindfulness and healthy eating habits. Commissioned by the Art Town festival in Reno, NV.			
• Additional tours to Milwaukee Public Schools in partnership with Milwaukee Public Theatre			
Robot Cabaret	Director/Creator	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2013
Set in a future where humanity faces extinction, and devised in accordance with historic records of the Weimar Cabaret, this robot variety show chronicles the next step in the symbiotic relationship between machines and human being. A whodunit spectacle with stand-up, Motown, comedy, hooping and dance.			
• Choreography and Object Design			
Phillip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread , David Ives	Director	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2013
Directed for the "interACT" short play festival. This linguistic and physical marathon follows sound into memory, transposing heartbreak into layered motif, making music in the mind of Phillip Glass.			
Nutcracker Vs. Mouseking	Director/Adapter	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2012
From <i>Nussknacker und Mausekönig</i> by E.T.A. Hoffman, this faithful adaptation tells the rest of the tale behind the ballet: Genocide, revenge, the murderous past of Godpapa Drosselmeyer, and Marie's detection of her toy's true nature. With shadow puppetry and dance, this dark, comic romp tunnels through the annals of innocence to discover maturity in imagination.			
• Scenic and Shadow Design			
Halloween Tree	Director/Adapter	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2012
A group of trick-or-treaters must abandon their candy in search for their missing friend, exhuming the roots of Halloween to face the truth of their rotting mortality. A moving adaptation of the story by Ray Bradbury.			
• Sound and Costume Design			
The Seagull 3D , Anton Chekhov	Director/Adapter	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2012
Presenting <i>The Seagull 3D!</i> Tabloid starlets, star-crossed lovers, avant-garde poets, monsters of metaphysics, soft-shoe show-stoppers, and a precarious house of mattresses! This satire on missing fortune, desperately grasps to transcend form, and escape the flaws that tether humanity. Brought to you by Zombie Chekhov.			
• Scenic and Costume Design			
Paper or Plastic	Director/Creator	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2012
Devised from materials that lose their value with consumer use, this collection of seemingly incongruous forms (clown, aerial acts, burlesque, object manipulation), challenges audiences to contemplate impermanence and the separation of treasure from trash. A collaboration with Milwaukee Area Composers & Artists.			
• Choreography, Scenic and Costume Design			
Standby...	Director/Creator	Accademia dell'arte, Arezzo IT	2011
Participants are lead through a series of constructed environments with brief scenes that stir movement and encourage stillness. This "auto-theatre" performance experience examines the causality between physical space, (un)restricted mobility, and psychological response.			
• Choreography, Scenic and Costume Design			
Reaching Across the Breach	Co-Director	Loose Canon, Milwaukee WI	2009
In collaboration with Repairers of the Breach—a refuge and resource center for homeless adults—this devised performance collects the stories, drama, music, and voice of Milwaukee's displaced community.			
Hamlet, Prince of Denmark , Shakespeare	Director/Adapter	Loose Canon, Milwaukee WI	2008
An experiment placing process above product: Ten actors study the folk legends, Quartos, Folios, and modern copies of Shakespeare's classic revenge tragedy. This silent film melodrama exchanges heinous acts for misdirected slapstick, resulting in a grand finale pie fight royale—and no one left to clean up the mess.			
• Scenic and Costume Design			
Three Sisters , Anton Chekhov	Director/Adapter	Loose Canon, Kenosha, WI	2007
Rummaging through boxes of forgotten mementos, the Sergeyevnas play house with memories to confront the ghosts that have left them homeless. A deconstruction for three women with toy theater and ventriloquism.			
• Scenic, Sound, and Costume Design			
The Merchant of Venice , Shakespeare	Director/Adapter	Loose Canon, Kenosha WI	2006
A gross farce embracing dated comedy. This cutting production puts vice on the block, chopping corporate greed, ethnic stereotypes, racial prejudice, and forgetful flesh in a bloody satire begging for mercy.			

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTING

<i>Twelfth Night</i> , Shakespeare	Asst. Director, Alec Wild	Great River Shakespeare, Winona MN	2006
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> , Shakespeare	Asst. Director, Paul Barnes	Great River Shakespeare, Winona MN	2006
<i>Tartuffe</i> , Molière	Asst. Director, David Frank	American Players Theatre, Spring Green WI	2005
<i>Macbeth</i> , Shakespeare	Asst. Director, Kate Buckley	American Players Theatre, Spring Green WI	2005
<i>Blue/Orange</i> , Joe Penhall	Directing Intern, Casey Stangl	The Guthrie, Minneapolis MN	2004
<i>The American Dream</i> , Edward Albee	Director (Intern Company)	Florida Studio Theatre, Sarasota FL	2003
<i>Trojan Women</i> , Euripides	Asst. Director, Dean Yohnk	University of Wisconsin Parkside, Kenosha WI	2005
<i>Iphigenia at Aulis</i> , Euripides	Asst. Director, Dean Yohnk	University of Wisconsin Parkside, Kenosha WI	2005
<i>My Fair Lady</i> , Lerner and Loewe	Asst. Director, Jamie Cheatham	University of Wisconsin Parkside, Kenosha WI	2005
<i>Look Homeward Angel</i> , Ketti Frings	Asst. Director, Dean Yohnk	University of Wisconsin Parkside, Kenosha WI	2004
<i>WASP</i> , Steve Martin	Director	University of Wisconsin Parkside, Kenosha WI	2004

FILM

<i>Coulrophobia</i>	Short Film	Producer	Milwaukee, WI	2013
<i>The Good the Bad and the Saucy</i>	24 hour Film Festival	Producer	Milwaukee, WI	2013
<i>The Nerves of Us</i>	Documentary	Producer	London, UK	2011-2012

TEACHING

Physical Performance II	University of Wisconsin Milwaukee	2017(Present)
Opera Laboratory	University of Wisconsin Parkside	2016
Clowning, Bouffon, Commedia Dell'arte	Quasimondo, Milwaukee WI	2012–Present
Physical Theatre, Masks, Circus Arts	Milwaukee Public Theatre WI	2013
Physical Theatre, Circus Arts, Devising	San Francisco Arts Education CA	2013
Acting I & II, Physical Theatre, Mask-Making	First Stage, Milwaukee WI	2012
Physical Theatre Studies (Teaching Assistantship)	Accademia Dell'Arte, Arezzo Italy	2011
Acting Shakespeare, First Folio	Loose Canon Theatre, Milwaukee WI	2009

EDUCATION / TRAINING

M.F.A. in Physical Theatre Accademia Dell'Arte Arezzo, Italy 2009–2012

Courses: Commedia dell'arte (Marcello Bartoli), Clowning & Mask Performance (Torbjörn Alström), Grotowski Technique (Brian Burroughs), Modern and Folk Dance (Gianni Bruschi), Contact Improvisation Circus, & Feldenkrais Method (Claudia Schnürer), Composition & Music Theory, Alexander Technique (Dory Sibley), Roy Hart Technique (Kevin Crawford), Cabaret (Paul Keenan), Aesthetics of Comedy (Scott McGehee), Improvisation

- Research thesis examining history and technique of *bouffon* performance

B.A. in Theatre Arts University of Wisconsin Parkside Kenosha WI, USA 2002–2007

Concentrations in Directing/Stage Management and Acting, Minor in Arts Management, Certificate in Film Studies
Courses: Directing, Playwriting, Lighting Design, Set Design, Makeup Design, Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, African American Theatre, Musical Theatre, Meisner Method, Suzuki, Shakespeare, Stage Combat, Non-Profit Marketing, Accounting, Conflict Resolution, 2D Design, Jazz History, Film History, Film Studies

- Participated in work-study program as costume shop and scene shop assistant
- Awarded "Best Actor" for 2005/2006 season, KCACTF nominee, and performed in 14 university productions

Suzuki Toga Summer Camp Suzuki Company of Toga Toga, Japan 2017

Intensive study in the training, techniques, and works of Tadashi Suzuki and the Suzuki Company of Toga.

Semimaru Butoh Workshop Sankai Juku Company Asahi, Japan 2017

Butoh workshop with Semimaru and the Sankai Juku dance company culminating in a public performance

Indian Theatre Study Kottayam Kathakali Festival Kerala, India 2015

Study and observation of Classical Indian Dance, Kathakali, and Shadow Puppetry

Odin Week International Workshop Odin Teatret Holstebro, Denmark 2013

Workshop studying the works, techniques, and pedagogy of Eugenio Barba and the Odin Teatret Ensemble

Master Class with Andy Crook Teatro Piccolo Milan, Italy 2011

Physical Theatre training intensive, devising an original performance inspired by Cervantes' *Don Quixote*

Balinese Theatrical Arts Certificate Tri Pusaka Cakti Arts Foundation Batuan, Bali 2011

Courses: Topeng Mask Dance w/ Master Djimat, Mask-Making, Wayang Kulit (Puppet) Manipulation & Construction

Mime and Modern Masks Certificate **Berliner Schule für Schauspiel** **Berlin, Germany** **2011**

Courses: Pantomime and Modern Masks with Burkhardt Seideman

• Devised *Des Doktor Faustens Hollenreise*, inspired by Goethe's *Faust*

Art of Mask in Commedia Dell'Arte Certificate **Museo Inter. della Maschera** **Abano Terme, Italy** **2010**

Leather and Papier-mâché Mask Design/Construction with Donato Sartori and Mask-Acting w/ Fabio Mangolini

Circus Arts & Clowning Certificate **FLIC Scuola di Circo** **Turin, Italy** **2010**

Courses: Equilibrium (Unicycle, Rola Bola, Walking Ladder, Walking Globe, Tightrope), Juggling, Gymnastics, Acro-Dance, Object Manipulation, Aerials (Static Trapeze, Silks, Lyra), Circus History & Clowning with Raymond Peyramaure

The O'Neil Theater Semester **Moscow Art Theatre School** **Moscow, Russia** **2006**

Courses: Stanislavski Approach with Igor Zolotovitskiy, Michael Chekhov Technique, Meyerhold & Biomechanics, Devising, Costume Design, Russian Theatre History with Anatoly Smeliansky, Russian Folk Dance, Ballet, Voice

Literary Internship **Florida Studio Theatre** **Sarasota FL, USA** **2003**

Duties: Critique & selection for New Play Festival, Dramaturgy, new work Development, Outreach Coordination

REFERENCES

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