

Curriculum Vitae

ALEX BENITO RODRIGUEZ

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PROFILE

Alex Benito Rodriguez is an actor, theatre maker, and teaching artist based in Chicago. With a full range of experience and training in theater, film, and teaching, Alex's journey is driven by a profound passion for storytelling and a firm belief in the transformative power of creative collaboration.

Approach to Art: An advocate for curiosity, inquiry, and community, Alex views creativity as a dynamic interplay of ideas and perspectives. He envisions the stage as a space for connection, exploration, and personal and collective growth. Alex's work is a testament to the belief that art, infused with empathy and compassion, serves as a catalyst for deeper engagement with the world.

Artistic Philosophy: With a multidisciplinary approach, Alex delves into each project with a sense of inquiry and an unwavering commitment to communal exploration. His artistic philosophy centers on creating spaces that nurture and empower, posing challenging questions, and seeking new avenues of understanding. For Alex, the joy of creativity lies in its endless possibilities and the shared magic of its expression.

Collaboration and Mentorship: As a sought-after collaborator and mentor, Alex inspires others to embrace their unique artistic visions. In both rehearsal rooms and classrooms, he prioritizes structures that support creative impulses, compassionate listening, personal inquiry, and ensemble-focused processes. His dedication extends to leveraging the power of theater and storytelling for community building, addressing challenging questions, promoting well-being, and contributing to social change and equity.

Enduring Commitment: With a deep belief in the potential of art to shape narratives and influence change, Alex Benito Rodriguez is dedicated to fostering artistic environments that transcend boundaries, inviting individuals to explore, connect, and contribute to a more extraordinary world.

EDUCATION

FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training — MFA in Acting, 2021

- Three-year graduate program with ensemble-focused curriculum
- Hands on professional experience working and acting in a dedicated conservatory theatre season and with Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, FL
- Specialized training in The Demidov Organic Acting Technique, Shakespeare, Movement, Voice, and Motion Picture Acting
- Workshops in Screen Acting, Voice Over, Audition, Stage Combat, Acting Songs, Mime & Devising, Vocal Exploration

The University of Illinois at Chicago — BFA in Acting, 2016

- Four-year conservatory-style training for actors with an ensemble focus
- Workshops and collaboration with award-winning artists from top theaters in Chicago
- Teaching Artist Seminar & Practicum
 - Studied diverse arts education pedagogies.
 - Explored methodologies of arts education organizations.
 - Developed and executed lesson plans in simulated classroom settings.
 - Conducted thorough assessments post-lesson.
 - Participated in teaching residencies with Chicago theater companies.
 - Received valuable feedback from instructors, peers, and residency artists, refining teaching and organizational skills.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Syllabi and lesson plans available upon request

The University of Illinois at Chicago Adjunct Lecturer

Spring 2023 –

BFA Movement 1: Body & Self **Unit 1: Being, Doing, and Receiving**

- Emphasized breath, balance, and heightened awareness.
- Introduced basic movement sequences for warm-up.
- Explored curiosity, impulse, and awareness in acting.
- Guided creation of individual scores of physical actions.
- Encouraged dialogue using a developed physical vocabulary.
- Facilitated partner and ensemble interactions for collaborative learning.

BFA Acting 2: Adaptations

- Identify stories of personal significance and adapt them for the stage.
- Analyze and interpret text through dramatic action.
- Strengthen ensemble and ability to work with others.
- Define and perform given circumstances in a scene.
- Deepen textual analysis through scene scoring.
- Identify dramatic conflict and relationship in written work and activate them in scene work.
- Character development in scene work and actor assignments
- Identify and analyze character objectives and relationships.
 - Pursue objectives through dramatic action.
 - Use various tactics in pursuit of objectives.

BFA Movement 6: Movement Lab

- Articulating personal inquiry
- Developing the discipline to follow an idea past its first incarnation, to meet the unknown or unexpected territory.
- To generate performance material in collective practice.
- Using personal inquiry and self-generated material with ensemble and dramaturgy to create physical scores and sequences.
- Using different provocations and sources to generate and realize a personal practice.
- To remain self-aware through a process of creating performance material with an ensemble.

Mudlark Theater Company — *Latinidades Teaching Artist*

Aug 2022-Jan 2023

- Co-created and facilitated curricula for a theater project in partnership with Northwestern University focused on embodying Latine cultures, narratives, and performance aesthetics.

Project S.T.A.G.E — *Global Water Dances Teaching Artist*

Spring 2023

- Residency with Chicago Public Schools using science, theater, and dance to teach 3rd & 5th grader about water justice. Culminating in a public performance in Chicago parks, part of a larger global event.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater — SLAM Teaching Artist

Sep-Oct 2022

- Stage combat workshop introducing the basics of combat safety and asking, “why do we depict violence on stage?”

Steppenwolf Theatre Company — Teaching Artist

2022 & 2023

- Co-created and facilitated lesson plans for residencies with Chicago Public Schools. Co-teaching workshops centered on SYA's productions using Aesthetic Education pedagogy.

NHSI Cherubs at Northwestern University — Core Faculty

Summer 2022,2023

- Voice & Movement instructor
- Electives: Text Analysis, Shakespeare Bootcamp, Climate Theatre Lab

Asolo Repertory Theatre — Access to the Arts Student Series Teaching Artist

Dec 2020-Jan 2021

Raven Theater — Education Intern

October-November 2016

Walkabout Theater Company — Chicago Children's Theater "Wild Things" Teaching Artist

July 2016

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Florida State University Graduate Assistant (August 2018 - May 2021)

- Box-office associate, understudy, performer, and sound board operator at Asolo Rep.
- Yearlong apprenticeship with conservatory movement professor, Eliza Ladd, involving administrative tasks.

Independent Study & Research Group (Oct 2020 - Spring 2021)

- Participant and research assistant in the ensemble theatre-making process "Work/Play/Work" under Eliza Ladd.
- Explored embodiment, creative play, and community building in the context of complex subjects facing the creative community in the summer of 2020.
- Conducted research, organized archival materials, and created a video presentation for future workshops.

Wender Collective (FKA Walkabout Theater Company)

Board Member (2023)

Co-producer for "interWEBS" (Winter 2020 - Spring 2021).

- Developed and facilitated online projects centered on land, physical space, climate change, and community.
- Led conversations on web design and aesthetic balance.

Ensemble Member (Jan 2017 - Aug 2018)

- Concentration in Laboratory & Devised theater practices with an emphasis on ensemble and physical performance training.
- Co-created theatrical productions performed nationally and internationally.
- Assisted in open trainings and professional workshops.

ACTING CREDITS

Theatre

<i>The Lifespan of a Fact</i>	Jim Fingal	TimeLine Theatre Company / dir. Mechelle Moe
<i>Dory Fantasmagory</i>	Luke/Mr. Nuggy	Young People's Theatre / dir. Randy White
<i>Anna in the Tropics</i>	Cheché u/s	Remy Bumppo Theatre / dir. Laura Acalá Baker
<i>Botticelli in the Fire</i>	Sandro Botticelli	First Floor Theater / dir. Bo Frazier
<i>Our Town</i>	George Gibbs	Asolo Rep Theatre / dir. Desdemona Chiang
<i>The Crucible</i>	Rev. Hale	Asolo Rep Theatre / dir. Michael D. Edwards
<i>Noises Off</i>	Gary/Roger u/s	Asolo Rep Theatre / dir. Don Stephenson
<i>Gruesome Playground Injuries</i>	Doug	FSU Asolo Conservatory / dir. Ashley Teague
<i>A Persephone Pageant</i>	Hades	Walkabout Theater / dir. Jessica Thebus
<i>MINT Musical Improv</i>	Ensemble	MCL Chicago / dir. Rivkah Reyes

Workshops/Readings

<i>Stateville Voices</i>	Various	Goodman Theatre / dir. Spenser Davis
<i>Hongo</i>	Ramón/Dagoberto	A Red Orchid Theater / dir. Ismael Lara
<i>Rust</i>	Pablo	Goodman Theatre / dir. Laura Acalá Baker
<i>Love Object</i>	Jordan	The Story Theater/ dir. Ismael Lara

Virtual Performances

<i>This is a Mortality Play...</i>	Adrien	Urbanite Theatre / dir. Lavina Jadhvani
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Theseus/Titania	Asolo Rep TYA Online / dir. Celine Rosenthal

Film

<i>The Hairy Ape</i>	Henry	Dir. Chandler Wilder
<i>Left to Live</i>	Oscar De Aragon	Dir. Rita Alcuha
<i>Hits n' Clips</i>	Boyfriend	Dir. Emily Walowski

Television

<i>Chicago Fire</i>	Alex	NBC
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MFA Acting FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training

BFA Acting University of Illinois, Chicago

Equity Membership Candidate

Intimacy Captain Certification: Intimacy Coordinators of Color

Talent Agent: Big Mouth Talent

Full Resume: resumes.actorsaccess.com/alexbenitorodriguez

SKILLS

- Project Planning & Organization
- Critical Thinking
- Leadership/Collaboration
- Text Analysis
- Digital Communication Strategies
- Graphic Design
- Facilitating Conversation
- Guiding Groups in Performance Exercises
- Research & Archival Management
- Event Coordination
- Effective Communication
- Teaching & Mentorship
- Ensemble Performance
- Marketing & Promotion
- Time Management
- Adherence to Deadlines
- Adaptability
- Problem Solving
- Creative Concept Development
- Continuous Learning & Adaptation
- Technological Proficiency
- Feedback Integration
- Problem-solving in Theatrical Production
- Coordination of Teaching Residencies
- Multidisciplinary Approach to Creativity
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Community Building
- Project Researching
- Archival Management for Research
- Collaborative Decision Making
- Organizational Efficiency
- Planning and Execution of Educational Programs
- Logistical Management for Theater Productions
- Collaborative Conceptualization of Online Projects
- Web Design & Aesthetic Balance
- Workshop Facilitation
- Video Presentation Creation
- Devising & Performing Theatrical Works
- Facilitation of Professional Workshops

REFERENCES

- Eliza Ladd (theatre artist, movement instructor)
elizalasa@gmail.com
- Gabriel Thomas Pasculli (performance artist, teacher, theater director)
thom.pasculli@gmail.com
- Jonathan Epstein (Acting II Shakespeare Instructor FSU/Asolo Conservatory):
jonathan.epstein@conservatory.fsu.edu