Ben Gorodetsky – Artistic CV

My name is Ben Gorodetsky and I am a Canadian theatre artist. As a multi-disciplinary artist, I have achieved a strong degree of recognition, both locally and nationally. My work straddles improvisation, acting, writing, dancing, teaching and direction and each of these disciplines has a profound influence on the others. I am the recipient of the 2016 Mayor's Celebration of the Arts Emerging Artist Award. I’m Currently pursuing an MFA in Performance and Interactive Media Arts at Brooklyn College.

As an improviser I have achieved my most visible peaks of success: I served as Associate Artistic Director of Rapid Fire Theatre 2013-2017, have been nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award and have had the opportunity to perform and teach improv in Austria, Slovenia, NYC, LA, Atlanta, Austin, Philadelphia, Detroit, Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and the French island of Reunion (near Madagascar!).

I have written several plays that have been professionally produced in Edmonton, Alberta. These include *Boogie Monster Club* – Snowglobe Festival 2013 (AFA Individual Art Production Grant recipient), *7 Steps to Success* – NextFest 2013, with Mat Simpson and Nikki Shaffeullah (Edmonton Community Foundation Young Edmonton Grant recipient), and *Magnetmonton* – Fringe 2012 (Edmonton Community Foundation Young Edmonton Grant recipient). As well, I am a regular writer and performer in Edmonton's sketch comedy community, contributing writing to *Odd Wednesday*, *The Late Night Cabaret,* and *Dr. Jokes.* Furthermore, *Folk Lordz* are writing and producing a new, comedic webseries, filming in summer 2017. We have received the New Chapter grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, and will be creating the 12-part digital series in collaboration with director Mike Robertson.

As a stage actor I have worked professionally in Edmonton for Northern Light Theatre, Theatre Yes, Catch the Keys, Surreal Soreal Theatre, Roxy Performance Series, and the Canoe Festival. I graduated with distinction from the BFA in Acting at the U of A. As a contemporary dancer I have worked with Mile Zero Dance, The Jen Mesch Dance Conspiracy, and Sub-Arctic Improv and Experimental Arts. Please see attached resume for full details.   In the last few years, however, my work has taken me more and more towards a directorial role. I curate, produce and host the monthly experimental-focused variety show *Dirt Buffet Cabaret* in collaboration with Mile Zero Dance. With Rapid Fire Theatre I direct *Guest of Honour*, a fusion storytelling and improvisation show which has featured, among many others, Edmonton's Mayor Don Iveson. As well, I conceived the directed the improvisation shows *Berzerker Bambinos*, *The Doug Dank Project*, *Wild Years*, and *3-Trio* over the last seven years with Rapid Fire Theatre. Last season I co-created *We're Not Afraid*, the improvised Edward Albee homage with Amy Shostak, as part of the Citadel Theatre's “Made in Edmonton” series.

In the realm of scripted direction I staged and co-wrote the site-specific, short-form work *'ygolohcysP'* at the 2013 Found Festival. My full-length, theatrical direction debut was *One of Us Must Know* by David Walker at the 2016 Expanse festival. This was a new, non-realistic, physical-theatre play that addressed issues of addiction, abuse and co-dependence. This play was remounted for Fringe 2016, and it received wide-spread critical acclaim for my provocative and innovative staging. Finally, I worked as assistant-director on the Northern Light Theatre component of the *The Anxiety Project* in November of 2016.

In August 2016 I was an invited speaker at the Creative Mornings lecture series in Edmonton. I presented on the subject “WEIRD” discussing my work with Dirt Buffet and the provocative alternative-comedy/performance-art style I have cultivated through my career.

My most recent artistic project is a collaboration with photographer Mat Simpson on a multi-media, dance-theatre performance about the Fort McMurray wildfires, entitled *Charred.* This work integrates images of neighbourhoods and environments affected by the fires, using them to light our highly physical performance. My role on the project is co-creator, performer, projection co-designer, co-writer, and producer. We recently premiered the work in June 2017, as one of the headlining mainstage productions at NextFest.

Finally, I am co-producer of *Stories on the Hills,* an Indigenous storytelling gathering and festival that profiles a series of multi-disciplinary performances from diverse artists and celebrates Edmonton/Amiskwaciy Waskahegen's history as a gathering place. *Folk Lordz* presents the festival in partnership with Fort Edmonton park and received support from the Edmonton Community Foundation, Make Something Edmonton, and the Edmonton Arts Council. 2017 was the second year for the festival, with a three day lineup of over 31 diverse artists.  
  
**THEATRE ACTING:**

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| **PRODUCTION** | **ROLE** | **COMPANY** | **DIRECTOR** |
| Anxiety | Ben | Curtain Razors / Theatre Yes | Joey Tremblay |
| Code Word: Time | Casey | Theatre Network /  Roxy Performance Series | Beth Dart |
| Hierarchy of the Lost Children | Initiate | Murmur / WorkshopWest | Mark Harris |
| Dead Centre of Town | Samson | Catch the Keys | Beth Dart |
| National Elevator Project Pt. 2 | Perez Hellion & The Chosen | Theatre Yes | Heather Inglis |
| Bitches and Money 1878 | Jack | Northern Light Theatre | Trevor Schmidt |
| 500 Words | Lance | Quest Theatre | Duve Lang & Karen Johnson-Diamond |
| Magnetmonton | Duke & Jellybean | Rapid Fire Theatre | Mike Kennard |
| Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo | Musa | Studio Theatre | Sandra Nicholls |
| The Gooble Portrait | Denver | Surreal Soreal Theatre | Vincent Forcier |

**IMPROV:**

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| --- | --- |
| Rapid Fire Theatre | 2010-2017, Associate Artistic Director, Touring Company, Instructor |
| Last Seen Festival, Atlanta, GA | 2016, Feature Instructor and Performer |
| Upright Citizens Brigade Sunset, LA, CA | 2016, Feature Performer |
| We're Not Afraid | 2016, Rapid Fire Theatre/Citadel Theatre |
| DuoFest, Philadelphia PA | 2016, Feature Instructor and Performer |
| Bad Dog Theatre's Combustion Festival, Toronto ON | 2015, Feature Instructor and Performer |
| Vancouver International Improv Festival | 2013, 2014 & 2015, Featured Instructor and Performer |
| Canadian Comedy Award Nominee (Best Improv Troupe) | 2014, with Rapid Fire Theatre |
| Out of Bounds Comedy Festival, Austin TX | 2014, Feature Performer |

**DANCE:**

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| **PRODUCTION** | **COMPANY** | **CHOREOGRAPHER** |
| GWG Dance | Mile Zero Dance | Lin Snelling & Gerry Morita |
| Charred | Dirt Buffet Theatre | Ben Gorodetsky, Mat Simpson & Gerry Morita |
| RV There Yet? | Mile Zero Dance | Gerry Morita |
| Neutron Stars | Jen Mesch Dance Conspiracy | Jen Mesch |
| Without Borders | Mile Zero Dance | Gerry Morita |

**TV:**

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| **PRODUCTION** | **ROLE** | **COMPANY** | **DIRECTOR** |
| Felt Up | Ben (Principal Voiceover) | Bite TV & Blue Ant Media | Simon Glassman |

**COMMERCIAL:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PRODUCTION** | **ROLE** | **COMPANY** | **DIRECTOR** |
| Lux Steakhouse | Principal Speaking | Katz Media | Curtis Comeau |
| Pro-Serve Training Video | Principal Speaking | Idea Factory | Drew Martin |
| City of Edmonton – Garbage Campaign | Principal Speaking | Sticks & Stones | Colin Waugh |
| Imperial Oil Safety Video | Principal Speaking | Dynacor Media | Terri Dorn |
| City of Edmonton -  Lawn Campaign | Principal Speaking | Sticks & Stones | Colin Waugh |
| Best Bar None | Non-Speaking | Sticks & Stones | Bryce Zimmerman |

**TRAINING:**

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| UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS in ACTING:  **ACTING:** David Ley, Brian Dooley, John Kirkpatrick, Marianne Copithorne, Michael Kennard, Beau Coleman **VOICE:** David Ley, Betty Moulton Doug Mertz **MOVEMENT:** Lin Snelling, Marie Nychka **SINGING:** Kim Mattice-Wanat **STAGE COMBAT:** J-P Fournier, Patrick Howarth **CLOWN:** Michael Kennard **ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE:** Candace Cox **FILM/TV:** Francis Damberger | Sept’ 2010 - April 2013 |
| INTERNATIONAL PHYSICAL THEATRE LAB AND IUGTE CONFERENCE with Sergei Ostrenko at Leitring bei Leibnitz, Astria | December 2015 |

**AWARDS & SPECIAL SKILLS:**

Mayor's Celebration of the Arts - Emerging Artist Award 2016 |Cultural Diversity in the Arts Award 2014, 2015  
Stage Combat | Improvisation |Fluent in Russian | Guitar & Drums | Gymnastics | Slavic, Latino, Arabic Dialects

**Organizational & Artistic Leadership Experience:**Dirt Buffet Cabaret – 2015 to 2017  
(Co-Producer, Curator, Host, Creator of monthly experimental variety show)

Stories on the Hills Co-Producer – 2016, 2017  
(Indigenous storytelling festival at Fort Edmonton Park)

Rapid Fire Theatre – 2011 to 2017  
(Sponsor intern 2011, Promotions Manager 2012, Associate Artistic Director Promotions 2013-Present)  
  
Rapid Fire Theatre Workshop Academy – 2012 to 2017  
(Instructor Levels 1-4b, Curriculum/Learning Outcomes Co-Writer, Originator of Physicality Elective)  
  
Lorax Improv tour producer – 2009 to 2013  
(5 fringe Festivals, 19 independent shows, Media Coordination, Teaching/Workshop Building)  
  
Folk Lordz Tour Producer – 2014 to Present  
(4 Fringe Festivals, Workshop Curriculum Building, Promotion and Media Coordination)  
  
Next Fest – 2013, 2017  
(Producer of *7 steps to Success* and *Charred*)  
  
Freewill Shakespeare Festival – 2013  
(Street Team & Promotions contractor)  
  
Improv Camp Instructor and Counsellor – 2009 to 2011  
(Program planning, Workshop Leading, Conflict Resolution)