

TOM BENTLEY-FISHER

3127 Dieppe Street
Saskatoon Canada S7M 3S3
Web: tombentley.net

Tel: 306 384-1338 (371-3127)
Email: tombentley99@hotmail.com
tom@tantpertant.ca

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR -TANT PER TANT, CANADA/BARCELONA 2007– 2013

Tant per Tant is an international theatre company dedicated to the translation, exchange and production of Canadian and Catalan plays. Productions include the English World premiere of “Buffalos” by Pau Miro, and the English workshop productions of “Oooo”, by Gerard Vázquez, “Temptation”, by Carle Batle. Tant per Tant recently produced the Catalan and Canadian Connections, a three year touring project exchanging plays between the two countries and featuring the Catalan translations of Canadian plays such as “It is Solved by Walking”, by Catherine Banks. Upcoming activity includes directing “Burning Vision” by Marie Clements in Barcelona.

CREATOR/DIRECTOR, ILIADA – Q-ARS TEATRE, BARCELONA 2009–2010

This all-female version of The Iliad was 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 July 2010 for the Merida Classical Festival in Teatre Romano, a Roman theatre build in 100 B.C. and designated as a UNESCO world heritage site.

PRODUCER – GLOBAL AGE PROJECT, AURORA THEATRE, BERKELEY 2005–08

International discovery and developmental festival 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.

SAN FRANCISCO 2002–2008

Artistic Director of Theatre Release (2006-2008) - plays directed include “Chekhov Squared”, “The Taming of the Shrew”, and “The Maids”, by Jean Genet. Freelance work with Bay area companies such as San Francisco Playwrights Foundation, Axis Dance Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, and Subterranean Shakespeare. Activity also included running and directing my own theatre training studio for professional actors, 2002-2008.

CANADA 1998–2001

Directing includes “The Girl Who Was Saved by Jazz”, by Donald Kerr, for the Saskatoon Symphony, two seasons at Rosthern Arts Centre as director and musical director of productions,

and writer and director of “New York Is Big but This is Biggar”, a musical commissioned by the Canadian Millennium Project.

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

Established the theatre’s focus as the discovery, development and production of original Saskatchewan and Canadian plays, developing a strong reputation for innovative and socially responsive work.

Produced twelve full seasons of original plays.

Directed over 40 productions. (A complete list of the plays is 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 rural communities.

FOUNDER/PRODUCER - SASKATOON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL 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

Awarded a Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan to develop and produce projects incorporating less traditional forms of development and production.

ADDITIONAL WORK IN SASKATCHEWAN

SASKATCHEWAN PLAYWRIGHT’S FESTIVAL - Director of ongoing workshops in new play development, plus six years as a director at their annual Spring Festival of New Plays. Most recently (2010) working with Catherine Banks on “It is Solved by Walking”.

ARTS STRATEGY TASK FORCE - Member of a Provincial Task Force that conducted an intensive one-year examination of the future for the Arts in Saskatchewan.

FESTIVAL SASKATOON – Producer for Performing, Visual and Literary Summer Arts Festival, in conjunction with the 1989 Jeux Canada Games.

FREELANCE - Teacher, dramaturge and adjudicator for schools and organizations throughout the province. Directed productions for Saskatoon Opera Society, Native Survival School, and the Fringe Circuit.

SELECTED DIRECTING

TWENTY FIFTH STREET THEATRE, CANADA, 1985-98 – Directed over forty original productions, including early work by Paula Vogel, Howard Korder, Dianne Warren, Greg Nelson, Connie Gault, Joanna Glass, and Anne Szumigalski.

TORONTO THEATRE ENSEMBLE, 1980-83 – Artistic Director of artist run company, producing in the Adelaide Court Theatre. Plays directed include THE THREEPENNY OPERA (Brecht), THE GLASS MENAGERIE (Williams), SPRING AWAKENING (Wedekind) and THE BIG SCENE (Schnitzler).

ARBOR THEATRE, ONTARIO, 1983-84 – 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, 1981-84 – Associate Director. Director of main-stage and touring productions. Two of the plays directed were nominated for the Dora Award 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, 1983 - EXILE (Ric Wellwood). Premiere. THE HAPPY PRINCE (opera by Malcolm Williamson). Canadian Premiere.

CITADEL THEATRE, EDMONTON, 1985 - EXPOSURES (William Chadwick). Premiere.

GLOBAL VILLAGE, TORONTO – OUTCRY (Tennessee Williams). Canadian Premiere.

SASKATOON SYMPHONY'S FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSIC – THE GIRL WHO WAS SAVED BY JAZZ (Don Kerr and Angie Tysseland)

EQUITY SHOWCASE, HARBOURFRONT, TORONTO – LA RONDE (Arthur Schnitzler)

SASKATCHEWAN NATIVE THEATRE – FAMILY VIOLATORS WILL BE TOWED AWAY (a collective)

RYERSON THEATRE DEPARTMENT – Guest Director. YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU (Kaufman & Hart)

STATION ARTS CENTRE, ROSTHERN - Director and Musical Director of summer productions, 1998 and 1999. SPIRIT WRESTLER (Greg Nelson) and SASKATOON PIE (Geoffrey Ursell)

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

In the year 2000, Tom Bentley spent six months in Biggar, Saskatchewan, writing and directing a new musical, *NEW YORK IS BIG BUT THIS IS BIGGAR*. The project brought professional theatre artists into the community to create a piece about living in small town Canada. The musical played to sold-out audiences from all across Western Canada. It was funded by the Canadian Millennium Project.

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 & 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 a sessional lecturer for a total of seven terms.

STUDIO AND MASTER CLASSES 1998-2013 – Character Transformation - developed from the work of Laban and Yat Malmgren, founder of Drama Centre, London. Taught throughout Canada, the U.S., England and Europe.

WRITING - SHORT STORIES/FICTION

Complete list of published short stories, articles and writing awards available on website, tombentley.net. Work includes *BLIND MAN'S DRUM*, a collection of short stories published by Thistle-down Press, a finalist for Best Fiction, Saskatchewan Book Awards, and *WARS AND RUMOURS OF WARS*, a finalist for the National Magazine Award in Humour.

Play commissions include *NEW YORK IS BIG BUT THIS IS BIGGAR*, a musical produced at the Majestic Theatre in Saskatchewan during the summer of 2000, *FRIENDS*, produced by Theatre Direct and published by Red Deer Press, and *ILIADA*, adapted from Alessandro Baricco's version of the Iliad.

ACTING

Tom Bentley began his theatre career as an actor in London, England, where he worked regularly for BBC RADIO and performed in the WEST END. In Canada, he 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. He has also worked in film and television. (A complete list of roles and projects available on request.)

FILM

Contracted as co/screenwriter and director of feature film, THE UNKNOTTED TONGUE, being developed and produced by Karma Film and Lasa Media Arts.

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

Tom Bentley-Fisher is a member of Canadian Actors Equity and Socan.

As a writer, he uses the name Tom Bentley.
