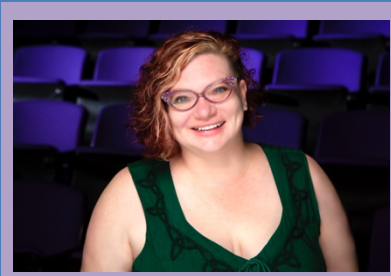


# CLAREANN DESPAIN, PhD

she/they



## RECENT EXPERIENCE

**Artistic Director**, Powerstories Theatre Jan. 2024 - present

**Producing Artistic Director**, Straz Produced  
Straz Center for the Performing Arts Oct. 2022 – Mar. 2023

Oversee the in-house producing for the 4th largest performing arts center south of the Kennedy Center. Program, develop and maintain budgets for, and produce 4 show season. Select, contract, and direct entertainment for center's largest fundraising events.

- *Plaid Tidings* and *Shear Madness* had diverse casts and crews, were critically acclaimed, and brought in over \$500K in ticket sales alone.
- Launched BIPOC/Trans-focused behind-the-scenes assistantships that offered paid professional experience to early career artists from historically marginalized communities.

**Producing Manager**, Straz Produced  
Straz Center for the Performing Arts Sept. 2021 - Oct. 2022

Produced a season of 4 musicals focused on using local talent in professional productions. Oversee \$650K budget, production teams, all aspects of production.

- 20 Theatre Tampa Bay award nominations for 21-22 Season.
- 4 Theatre Tampa Bay awards including Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Production of a Musical.

**Collective Member**, Outcast Theatre Collective  
Various positions including Board Vice President and Secretary Aug. 2018 - Feb. 2022

Outcast began as Fluid Expressions, Inc, a company dedicated to creating at the intersection of art and social justice with a particular focus on theatrical opportunities for historically marginalized communities. In late 2019 three of us rebirthed the company as a collective dedicated to consensus building, transparency, and re-centering an intersectional approach to understanding our relationships with each other and the work.

- Led efforts to formally incorporate company and secure 501(c)3 status.
- Facilitated development of new bylaws when we re-convened as a collective.
- Co-facilitated development of free Theatre of the Oppressed Training.
- Co-facilitated development of online model for Theatre of the Oppressed workshops - this model allowed us to employ marginalized artists throughout the pandemic by offering remote EDI trainings for universities and nonprofits across the United States.
- Developed Community Conversations Program - a talk back format built on discussions between community leaders and members around themes raised by the play and how we might apply them in our communities.
- Created Community Access Program - a program to provide free and reduced priced tickets to every performance to anyone who wanted to see the show.
- Facilitated relationship and secured commitment with Outcast's first private 10K donor (a landmark amount for a small company).
- Co-Directed, with India Davison, Fluid Expressions' inaugural production of *Topdog/Underdog*.
- Conceived and produced the co-production of *Pass Over* with The Studio@620.

+1 813 442 1237

clareann.despain@gmail.com

www.clareanndespain.com

- Award winning director & producer
- Person-first collaborator
- 20 years college teaching
- Theatre of the Oppressed Practitioner
- Intimacy Direction Training with IDC
- Stage Management Background

# DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY, DESIGN

\* denotes world premiere

DIRECTOR: <i>The Underpants</i>	Early Bird Dinner Theatre Producer: Susan Lyons	Mar. 2024
DIRECTOR: <i>Ride the Cyclone</i>	University of South Florida Producer: Jenny Kokai, Theatre USF	Sept. 2023
DIRECTOR: <i>Twelfth Night</i>	St. Petersburg Shakespeare Festival Producer: Greg Thompson	October 2022
DIRECTOR: <i>In the Heights</i>	Spanish Lyric Theatre Producer: JL Rey	July 2022
DIRECTOR: <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Stageworks Theatre Producer: Karla Hartley	March 2022
SCENIC DESIGN: <i>Pass Over</i>	Outcast/Studio at 620 Director: Erica Sutherlin	Feb 2022
DIRECTOR: <i>Dutchman/The Owl Answers</i>	University of South Florida Producer: Fanni Green, Theatre USF	Nov 2021
DIRECTOR: * <i>Dionysus on the Down Low</i>	Outcast Theatre Collective Producer: Outcast Theatre Collective	July 2021
DIRECTOR: * <i>A Conversation with Myself</i> + +Digital Production	Outcast Theatre Collective Producer: Outcast Theatre Collective	July 2021
DIRECTOR: <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> + +converted to online reading due to COVID	Carrollwood Players Theatre Producer: David Fraga	Mar/July 2020
DIRECTOR: <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	Carrollwood Players Theatre Producer: David Fraga	Aug 2019
DIR. (w/ India Davison): <i>Topdog/Underdog</i>	Fluid Expressions, Inc. Producer: Fluid Expressions, Inc	Nov. 2018
DIRECTOR: <i>American Idiot</i>	mad Theatre of Tampa Producer: Cathy Hooten	2018
ASST DIRECTOR: <i>The Tales of Hoffmann</i>	St. Petersburg Opera Director: Karl Hesser	2017
DIRECTOR: <i>Proof</i>	Carrollwood Players Theatre Producer: Jim Johnson	2016
DIRECTOR: <i>Cabaret</i>	mad Theatre of Tampa Producer: Cathy Hooten	2016

DIRECTOR (w/ Suzy DeVore): <i>Hamlet</i>	Hillsborough Community College Producer: Suzy DeVore	2016
DIR.: <i>Rosencrantz &amp; Guildenstern Are Dead</i>	Hillsborough Community College Producer: Suzy DeVore	2016/2015
DIRECTOR: * <i>Fireball</i> * <i>Garageworks</i> , * <i>Another Day in Paradise</i>	Stageworks Producer: Karla Hartley	2014
DIR.: <i>The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told</i>	mad Theatre of Tampa Producer: Cathy Hooten	2014
DIRECTOR/LIGHTING DESIGNER: <i>On the Verge</i>	UCSB Producer: Risa Brainin	2011
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: * <i>Kingdom City</i>	UCSB Director: Risa Brainin	2010
DRAMATURG: * <i>Plumfield, Iraq</i>	UCSB Director: Risa Brainin	2008
DIRECTOR: <i>Summer Shower</i>	UCSB Producer: Risa Brainin	2008
SOUND DESIGNER: * <i>Body Burden</i>	Adobe Theatre Director: Lou Clark	2007
DIR./DRAMATURG: * <i>8 Life Lessons from Mort &amp; Mindy</i>	UCSB New Plays Producer: Naomi Iizuka	2007
DRAMATURG: <i>Angels in America: Millennium Approaches</i>	UCSB Director: Irwin Appel	2007
DIR./SOUND DESIGNER: <i>Below the Belt</i>	SolArts Producer: Kristen Loree	2006
LIGHTING DESIGNER: <i>I Am My Own Wife</i>	The Vortex Director: Lou Clark	2006
DIRECTOR/DRAMATURG: * <i>I Sea</i> KC/ACTF National Playwriting Theater for Youth Awardee	UNM New Plays Festival Producer: Jim Linnell	2005
DIRECTOR: <i>Pale Idiot</i>	University of New Mexico Producer: Eugene Douglas	2004
DIRECTOR/DRAMATURG: * <i>Wonderdog!</i>	UNM Outreach Tour Producer: Susan Pearson	2004
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: <i>Our Town</i>	Albuquerque Little Theater Director: David Richard Jones	2003
DIRECTOR/DRAMATURG: * <i>The Last Job</i>	UNM New Plays Festival Producer: Jim Linnell	2003

## PRODUCING, STAGE MANAGEMENT (select list)

- Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa, FL 2011 - 2021
- Production Stage Manager, Next Generation Ballet: Annual Nutcracker and other ballets
  - Producer, Annual events: Straz Live in the Park; Straz Live on the River Open House
  - Producing General Manager: *Forever Plaid* (2018)
  - Production Stage Manager: *First Date* (2015)
- Hillsborough Community College Ybor Theatre Program, Tampa, FL. 2013 - 2018  
Production Manager
- Working Classroom, Inc., Albuquerque, NM. 1997/2005-06  
Stage Manager: *Yemaya's Belly* (2006), *Once Five Years Pass* (2005), *Bocón* (1997)
- Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. 2000-2001  
Assistant Manager of Technical Services/Stage Manager  
Organization and execution of theatrical performances ranging from National Broadway Tours (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Riverdance*, *Rent*, etc...) to University School of Music events.  
Coordination of local IATSE crews with touring crews. Hiring, scheduling, training, supervision and payroll of student crews. Run technical rehearsals and performances for renters without Stage Managers. Management of daily activities within the auditorium.
- American Conservatory Theater's MFA Program, San Francisco, CA. 2000  
Assistant Stage Manager: *\*-14: An American Ma(u)l*      Writer/Director: Robert O'Hara
- PCPA Theaterfest. Santa Maria, CA. 1998-1999
- Stage Manager: *Cinderella*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *\*The Emperor's New Clothes*
  - ASM: *Arcadia*, *How to Succeed in Business*, *Once Upon a Mattress*
- Nevada Dance Theatre. Las Vegas, NV. 1996- 1997
- Stage Manager: *Dracula/Don Quixote*
  - Assistant Technical Director/ASM: Eastern US Tour

## PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- Best Director, *Murder on the Orient Express* - Creative Loafing Best of the Bay 2022 Staff Pick
- Outstanding Director, *Murder on the Orient Express* - Theatre Tampa Bay Awards 2022
- Outstanding Production of a Musical, *Crowns* - Theatre Tampa Bay Awards 2022 (Producer)
- Outstanding Ensemble of a Musical, *Nunsense A-men!* - Theatre Tampa Bay Awards 2022 (Producer)
- Best Streaming Play, *A Conversation with Myself* - Broadway World Regional Awards 2021 (Director)
- Opening Minds & Hearts Award, Second Place, *A Conversation with Myself* - Powerstories Voices of Truth Festival 2021 (Director)

## PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

- Intimacy Directors and Choreographers: Foundations of Intimacy completed through Level 2.
- Theatre of the Oppressed: “What does democracy look like? Ideological Representations in Contemporary Culture” with Julian Boal.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of South Florida, 2018 – 2021.

- Adjunct Faculty, *Acting I; Special Topics: Expressionism, Surrealism, and the Absurd; Special Topics: Gender and Sexuality in Performance*
- Teaching Assistant, *Theatre & Culture* (Online Class).

### Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City, 2013- 2019.

- Adjunct Faculty, *Script Analysis, Introduction to Theatre, Stagecraft.*
- Production Manager, Director, Mentor for Student Directors & Stage Managers.

### University of California, Santa Barbara, 2007 – 2010.

- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Acting*, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Winter 2010, Spring 2010.
- Teaching Assistant, *Public Speaking*, Winter 2008 & Winter 2009.
- Teaching Assistant, *Play Analysis*, Fall 2007.
- Teaching Associate, *Introduction to Acting*, Summer 2007.

### University of New Mexico, 2004 – 2006.

- Adjunct Faculty, *Theater Appreciation*, Main & Satellite Campuses, 2005 – 2006.
- Teaching Assistant, *Theater Appreciation*, Spring 2005.
- Teaching Assistant, *Theater History: Modern & Contemporary*, Fall 2004.
- Instructor, Children’s Theater Classes, Fall 2003.

## EDUCATION

- **University of California, Santa Barbara, 2006 – 2012.**

Ph.D. in Dramatic Arts, March 2012.

Dissertation: “In the House: Audiences and the Origins of the Theatrical Contract.”

Advisors: Simon Williams, Director; Jody Enders; Leo Cabranes-Grant; Julie Carlson.

- **University of New Mexico, 2003 – 2005; 1994-1998.**

M.A. in Theatre & Dance: Directing Emphasis, with distinction, 2005.

Master’s Thesis: “*Hamletmachine* Machine: Towards Dramatic Schizoanalysis.”

Advisors: Henry Bial, Chair; David Richard Jones; Denise Schulz.

B.A. in Theatre & Dance, *magna cum laude*, 1998.

# ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

## UNIVERSITY AWARDS AND HONORS

- University of California Regents Special Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2006-2011. Five year funding awarded by a central faculty fellowship committee based on departmental nominations.
- Department of Theater & Dance Research Grant, 2009. Funding for a one-month trip to London for archival research during the summer of 2009.
- Consortium for Literature, Theory and Culture Recruitment Award, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2006.
- Office of Graduate Studies Scholarship, University of New Mexico, 2003.
- National Golden Key Honor Society.

## PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

“Shakespeare’s 450<sup>th</sup> Birthday.” Panelist. Hillsborough Community College. April 2014.

“Transforming Rhetorical Scholarship for the Stage: Interrogating Race, Multiculturalism and Media Frames through Trigger Scripting.” Guest Performer. Celebrating COMMunity. National Communication Association 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Orlando, FL. 16 November 2012.

“Best Practices in Archival Research.” Invited Lecture. Department of Theater and Dance, University of California, Santa Barbara. 10 May 2010.

“Spectral Spectacles: On Theater Ghosts, Actors’ Anxieties, and Unacknowledged Labor.” Conference Paper. Anxieties of Overexposure: Enlargements, Contagions, and the Dark. UCLA Center for Performance Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Los Angeles. 1 May 2010.

“Welcome to the Machine: Dramatic Schizoanalysis.” Conference Paper. Graduate Student Conference, Department of Dramatic Art, University of California, Santa Barbara. 11 March 2006.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Adjunct Representative, Campus Learning Council. Hillsborough Community College, Ybor City. 2014 – 2015.

Graduate Student Representative, Search Committee for 3 faculty positions in Theater Studies, Playwriting, and Acting/Directing. University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Theater and Dance.

Curator, Contemporary Staged Reading Series. University of New Mexico, Department of Theatre and Dance.