# C.V. MATT RUDKIN

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# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON**

Higher Education Academy Teaching Fellowship D2 Feb-May, 2014

## **UTRECHT UNIVERSITY**

## Summer school for post-graduate researchers in 'Games and Play'. Aug 2014

**THE ACTORS SPACE (BARCELONA)**

Physical Theatre and Clown training July 2002

**CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA**

#### MA Performance Studies ‘97 – ‘98

**ECOLE PHILIPPE GAULIER**

#### Physical theatre training June-Aug. ’95

**NOTTINGHAM. TRENT UNIVERSITY**

#### BA (hons) Creative Arts (1st) ‘88 – ’91

#### Art & Design Foundation Course ‘87 – ‘88

# TEACHING PRACTICE

I have been a Senior Lecturer (0.5) at the University of Brighton since 2002, designing and delivering critical and creative units of study on the Performance and Visual Art BA course. My academic knowledge generally relates to the history of fine art practices and contemporary performance. I have a particular interest in early modernism (Futurism – Dada – Surrealism), postmodern theories of language, and the relation of evolutionary psychology to aesthetics and cultural consumption. My practical knowledge comes from my work in puppetry, devised performance and street theatre, and I have developed a wide range of workshop exercises and theatre games for developing these skills. Since 2006 I have also worked as a Level 4 Co-ordinator, responsible for all aspects of programme design, timetabling, and staff liaison. Since the course closure in 2016 I have taught Faculty Option modules in Puppetry and ‘Flow theory and practice’ and worked as the ‘Student Experience Champions Co-ordinator’ for the School of Media.

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY (CHICKENSHED) External Examiner 2015 – on going

CITY COLLEGE (BRIGHTON) Acting tutor (FE) Jan – Mar. 2016

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON Senior Lecturer 1999 – on going

ITALIA CONTI ACADEMY OF THEATRE ARTSVisiting lecturer June 2006

GOLDSMITHS UNIVERSITY Visiting lecturer Spring 2005

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS Artist in residence Aug-Oct 2004

ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE Visiting lecturer Oct–Dec1999

# THEATRE PRACTICE and RESEARCH

My work in theatre has included employment in puppetry, street theatre, cabaret and devised performance, working as a writer, director and maker. Since 2009 I have created my own work under the company title ‘Inconvenient Spoof’, aiming to combine these skills to create provocative, playful work that straddles the divide between art and entertainment. This work is often informed by my interest in Evolutionary Psychology and has a strong vein of humour. My practical research work was successfully included in the last Research Excellence Framework (2014). I have also developed a strong research interest in ‘Flow’ theory (Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi) as it relates to Artistic practice and pedagogy. The list below includes both employment and self-initiated projects.

**2012 – 2017**

***‘THE ROOM IN THE ELEPHANT’,* Inconvenient Spoof *Deviser / Director / Performer***

A highly self-referential 50-minute indoor show created with Meredith Colchester and Joe Mulcrone: 3 men in a shed decide to make a show about trying to make a show. Performed at The Marlborough Theatre, (Brighton Fringe 2015); Chats Palace, Camden People’s Theatre and Hen and Chickens (London). 2016-17

***‘FAKE HIP GNOSIS’*, Inconvenient Spoof *Deviser / Director / Performer***

A 50-minute, absurdist theatre piece based on extracts fromHypnotic tracks and Self-developmentseminars, created with Meredith Colchester and Joe Mulcrone. Shown at The Marlborough Theatre, Brighton Fringe 2016, and Rialto, 2017.

 ***‘YOU’RE GETTING WARMER’,* Pebble Gorge *Performer***

Appearing as the meteorologist, ‘Dr. Lockheed’ in this semi-scripted Street theatre / Art trail experience for family groups, performed in Norwich, Oxford, Maidenhead, Bournemouth, Reading, Farnham (2015-16).

***‘THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES’*, Puppet State Theatre** ***Guest Performer***

A well-travelled puppet-based show based on the novel by Jean Giorno.Performed by me in Glasgow and York, 2016.

**Puppet Making*,* Emporium Theatre *Puppet Maker***

I created large-scale puppets for the last three Emporium Theatre shows: ‘The Jungle Book’, ‘Peter Pan’, and ‘George’s Marvelous Medicine’, 2015-16.

 ***‘THE WORKS’* and *‘CURIODDITY’,* Jon Hicks *Direction***

I was employed by Jon to work on both these prop-based visual comedy shows. The first was an outdoor Street theatre piece and the second an indoor family show. 2014 - 16

***‘FUNNY PECULIAR’,* Red Herring *Direction***

I was employed to give directorial input for this street theatre tour based on eccentric characters of Brighton, presented at Brighton Fringe 2014.

**SHANGHAI PUPPETRY FESTIVAL, American School *Workshop Leader***

Working with Rick Conte (Puppet State Theatre) to co-ordinate and lead puppetry workshops for teenagers, over 4 days, leading to final performances. 2014.

***‘BUDDHISM: IS IT JUST FOR LOSERS?’,*** **Inconvenient Spoof** ***Writer / Performer / Director***

Developed from the earlier ‘Pfall’ cabaret piece, I described this ACE funded show as a ‘poststructuralist Zen clown show’. In part inspired by Werner Erhard’s observation that “Understanding is the Booby Prize” the piece concerns the limitations of conceptual thought. Created with Meredith Colchester and Joe Mulcrone (performers), it has been shown at the Nightingale Theatre, Marlborough Theatre & Old Market Theatre (Brighton); Mimetic festival & Camden Peoples Theatre (London) and a cabaret version at Chats Palace, (London)

## ***'HAPPY CLAP TRAP’*, Inconvenient Spoof *Co-coordinator / Compere***

## This alternative arts cabaret appeared quarterly at the Marlborough Theatre (Brighton) and featured graduates and students from the Performance and Visual Arts Course, among others, from 2012 - 2014

***‘LITTLE HONKEY’,* Inconvenient Spoof *Co-writer / Director/ Performer***

Co-written with ex-student, Joe Kenny, this irreverent 60 minute Nativity Pantomime was performed annually for 3 years at the Marlborough Theatre, and featured many performers from *The Happy Clap Trap* cabaret.

 ***‘NAÏVE DANCE MASTERCLASS’,* Inconvenient Spoof *Writer / Performer***

First performed as a cabaret act in 1998, this piece gradually developed into a 50-minute show co-created with Silvia Mercuriali, ACE funding and directorial input from Prof. Liz Aggiss and Petra Massey. Performances include: Old Market theatre & Nightingale Theatre (Brighton) ‘Peraspera’ festival (Bologna), Soho Theatre & Canada Water Cultural Space (London), The Edinburgh Fringe, and London Clown Festival. Cabaret appearance at Duckie (London)

 **‘STILL NIGHT’,** Berlin Nevada ***Guest performer***

Employed to stand in for the absent Gemma Brockis in this audio-visual performance presented in Kochi, (Japan)

***‘THE TERRIBLE SHAMAN’*, Inconvenient Spoof *Director / Performer***

**A** Street Theatre piece commissioned by the Nightingale theatre as part of the ‘Dip Your Toe’ and performed at Milton Keynes and Brighton fringe festivals.

**‘*EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY AND ME’***  ***Writer / Performer***

A performance lecture sharing my interest in Evolutionary Psychology, presented at the ‘Catalyst Club’ Brighton**.**

**‘*THREE THINGERS’* *Writer / Performer***

An audio track commissioned by Xelis de Toro for his ‘*Book of Invisible Bridges’* project and based on his poem ‘Three Things’

**2008 - 2011**

***‘DEAN GIBBONS AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF DEATH’,* Inc. Spoof *Writer / Performer***

A science-based performance lecture that explores the intersection of Evolutionary Psychology, ‘Peak Oil’ theory and the technological Singularity, made in collaboration with Silvia Mercuriali with direction from David Woods (*Ridiculusmus*). The project received two ACE grants and was performed at The Hawth (Crawley), Square Chapel Arts Centre (Halifax), Riverside Theatre (Louth), The Oxford Playhouse (Burton Taylor studio). Camden People’s Theatre, Colchester Arts centre, The Arches (Glasgow), Bristol *Mayfest*, and the Caravan international showcase at the Brighton Festival, and

***‘ELEPHANT SHOW’*** , **Jon Hicks** ***Direction***

A visual comedy cabaret piece by John Hicks.

 ***‘AND THE BRIDS FELL FROM THE SKY’*** , **Il Pixel Rosso** ***Performer / Props maker***

I performed in and created props for this video installation, which appeared in the UK, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Australia and Wales.

***‘WONDERMART’,* Silvia Mercuriali *Co-Writer***

An interactive audio tour that takes place in a Supermarket, made in collaboration with Silvia Mercuriali. Appearances include: BAC ‘Burst’ festival (London), Dublin festival, Edinburgh fringe Festival, *Mois Multi* Festival (Quebec), Colorado Springs; Brisbane Powerhouse and Melbourne Arts House (Australia); Welsh Millennium Centre (Cardiff); and Kampgnagel(German translation).

***‘SITTING BEAR AND THE MOON’S REFLECTION’,* Inc. Spoof *Writer / Director***

An experimental puppet-based show comprised of several episodes, shown at ‘Puppet Grinder Cabaret’ and Shunt Lounge (London), The Komedia and The Basement (Brighton)

***‘THE FLOPHOUSE’*** , **Circa 69 *Performer***

Playing the role of ‘The Chief’ in a film by Simon Wilkinson created in 6 episodes and presented at the Komedia (Brighton)

**2003- 2007**

***‘INSIDE OUT’*, Fraser Hooper *Co-Deviser / Performer***

A silent clown show for family audiences made with Fraser Hooper - UK tour of indoor venues and Street Arts festivals.

***‘THE QUARTER’,* Mikey Martins *Writer / Co-Deviser / Performer***

A large-scale outdoor performance devised and presented at Atelier 231, Rouen, France.

***‘ORIGINS OF THE ROUTEMASTER’* *Co-Writer / Performer***

A feature-length puppet film created over 2 years In collaboration with Silvia Mercuriali.

***‘THE SHOP’*, Mikey Martins *Writer / Co-Deviser / Performer***

A street theatre show presented at Winchester Hat fair, ‘Watch this Space’ (National Theatre) and Brighton Street Festival.

***‘BEAUTY SPOT’* , Whitstable Biennale *Co-Deviser / Performer***

Made in collaboration with Edwina Ashton, this puppet film project was commissioned for Whitstable Biennale '06.

***‘PUPPET INTERVENTIONS’* *Co-Writer / Director / Performer***

Puppetry sketches made with Rick Conte for EU alcohol-policy conferences presented at Warsaw' ‘05, and Helsinki '06. A related workshop was given at Galway University ’05.

***‘BLUE STOCKING SOCIAL CLUB’,* Sharon Smith *Co-Writer / Performer***

A performance-installation presented at Liverpool Hope University.

***‘THE TWISTED LADDER’,* W.A.A.P.A. *Writer / Director***

An 80-minute devised show made over 8 weeks in residency at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts with students from the Contemporary Theatre Arts degree. The previous summer I had delivered a series of devising workshops and was invited back to create this work presented over a five-night run of public performances.

***‘THE INCREDIBLE BULL CIRCUS’,* Mikey Martins *Co-Writer / Performer***

A street theatre clown show performed over 200 times (2003 - 2007),including appearances at: Winchester Hat Fair, (UK) 'Just for Laughs' festival, (Montreal); ‘Watch this Space' (National Theatre, UK); 'World Buskers festival' (New Zealand); 'Feste de Ville' (France); 'Humourology' (Belgium).

**1991 - 2002**

**‘*NAIVE DANCE MASTERCLASS’* *Writer / Performer***

A 20 minute, text-based solo cabaret piece. Appearances include: aboard *HMS President* as part of the LIFT festival, Hackney Empire and *Shunt Lounge*. (London); the *Komedia* (Brighton); *L’Echangeur (*Paris) Liverpool Hope University; Whitstable Biennale and Winchester Hat Fair.

***‘PFALL’* Deviser / Performer**

A 25 minute text-based solo piece performed at *Shunt Vaults and Chats Palace* (London) and the *Komedia* (Brighton).

***‘GRACE*‘, Rotozaza Performer/Co-Deviser**

An experimental performance piece presented at the *Lion and Unicorn*, Camden over 4 weeks.

**‘*THE BONGO CLUB CABARET’*** , **Out of the Blue**  **Founder / Co-Ordinator / Compere**

A late night Arts Cabaret I ran annually(’94 ‘til 2001) at the Edinburgh Fringe festival. Multiple roles included artistic direction, event programming, marketing, budget management, staff liaison, and performing.

**‘*THE EDINBURGH PUPPET COMPANY’* Performer / Co-Deviser / Maker**

Working on various projects (93‘ til 2001) with this touring theatre company. ranging from 2-month national tours to 2-week community carnival projects.

***‘QUITE VERTICAL’,* Ailie CohenDirector**

 A solo show presented at the CCA (Glasgow).

**‘*ROBOT MAN SPEAKS’* Writer / Performer**

Made in collaboration with Matt Wand (*Stockhausen Walkman*), this solo show was presented at the *National Review of Live Art* , ICA (London)

***‘THE WICCA MAN’,* The Dogs of HeavenMaker / Performer**

Working this Manchester-based outdoor arts company, this large scale piece was presented at Glastonbury festival.

***‘FANCY FANDANGLE’,* Twin Tub CircusCo-deviser / Performer**

Made in collaboration with Simon Will *(Gob Squad*), an absurdist drama presented at *The Green Room,* Manchester