

## **Ken Weitzman**

Playwright, Theatre-maker, Interdisciplinary Communications Projects.

### **Associate Professor of English and Theatre**

Undergraduate Program Director, Department of English  
Stony Brook University.

Affiliated Faculty and Certified Instructor: Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science,  
School of Communications and Journalism.

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### **Education**

#### **University of California, San Diego**

MFA Dramatic Writing, June 2003.

#### **University of Michigan**

BA, American Cultures and Theatre

### **Recent CREATIVE ACTIVITY:**

#### ***Playwright:***

#### ***Fire in the Garden (full-length play)***

##### National Award:

Co-winner of the Mario Fratti-Frederick Newman Political Playwriting Contest

##### Productions:

United Solo International Festival: Screen (with actor Sean Astin), digital production, 2021, Dir. James Glossman

NJ Repertory (with actor Sean Astin), digital production, 2021, Dir. James Glossman  
Warehouse Theatre, digital production, 2021, Dir. Jay Briggs

Indiana Repertory Theatre, 2011, Dir. Larissa Kokernot.

#### ***Seal Boy (full-length play)***

##### National Awards

Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company's 2019-2020 Generations competition.

National New Play Network National Showcase – finalist. September 2020.

##### Productions:

American Academy of Dramatic Arts Mainstage Live, dir. Jessica Holt, 2018

Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, (TBA - rescheduled due to Covid-19).

##### Residency and public presentation:

Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company, Jan. 2020, dir. Stephen Weitz.

##### Public readings:

Keen Company, PWC Core Writers workshop, Lark Play Development Center.

#### ***Halftime with Don (full-length play)***

##### Productions: National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere.

- New Jersey Repertory Theatre, June/July 2017, director Kent Nicholson
- Phoenix Theatre, Indianapolis, January 2018, director Bryan Fonseca
- B Street Theatre, Sacramento, December 2018, director Buck Busfield

Publication: Broadway Play Publishing, May 2021

***Spin Moves (full-length play)***

International Award:

Finalist Risk Theatre Modern Tragedy Competition. Finalist. Fall, 2020.

National Award

Finalist, TCG Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, 2019

Workshops and readings:

Ignition Festival, Victory Gardens Theatre, Theatre Lab at FAU,  
New Harmony Project, Arena Stage, Bay Area Playwrights Festival,  
Summer Play Festival.

***“Artscenter At The San Francisco Museum Of Modern Art” (site-specific audio play)***

*An original script commissioned by the San Francisco Museum of Modern for their new and groundbreaking audio content. Script uses sports as a lens through which to look at SFMOMA’s collection. The script covers the art of Chuck Close, Joan Mitchell, Agnes Martin, Dan Flavin, Frank Stella, Richard Diebenkorn, and Willem de Kooning. Produced by Marianne McCune.*

**American Academy of Dramatic Art, NYC.**

*Commissioned to write 12 short films for the Conservatory Showcase, Fall 2019*

**INTERDISCIPLINARY CREATIVE ACTIVITY:**

***The Theatre of Well-being***

*Created and produced an interactive event that theatricalized the latest research from the psychology of well-being via experiential, immersive theatre.*

**Productions:**

University: SBU, Spring ‘22

Professional: Berkeley, California, upcoming Fall ‘23.

**Writing residency:**

The New Harmony Project (*A national arts organization whose mission is to nurture writers in the development of scripts and new works that interrogate the complexity of hope.*) Spring 2020

***Science on Stage (role: Playwright and Artistic Producer)***

*Play commissions pairing professional playwrights with Stony Brook University scientists for conversations after which the playwright writes a one-act play about the science or life of the scientist.*

**Production:**

University: Livestream performance October 2020, scripts housed on Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science website.

Upcoming: Science on Stage Part Two (three new commissions and playwright/scientist collaborators), 2023.

**Grants:**

Provost's CASSH Seed Grant Program, Stony Brook University, 2022-3 (Part 2)

Kavli Foundation via Alan Alda Center for Communication Science, 2021 (Part 1)

***Hominid (playwright)***

*(Commissioned by Theatre Emory to create a play based on the work of internationally-renowned primatologist, Frans De Waal, and the Yerkes Primate Center. Created with the ensemble Out of Hand Theater Company. )*

**Productions:**

Theatre Emory/Out of Hand Theater Company, 2009, Director Ariel De Man  
The Lunatics Theatre Company (*Netherlands*) 2010, at the following venues:  
Oerol International Festival - Terschelling, Netherlands  
Detmold European Street Theatre Festival - Detmold, Germany  
Amersfoort Theater Teras - Amersfoort, Netherlands  
Luna Lab - Utrecht, Netherlands  
University of Illinois, 2011, Director Ariel De Man

Play profiled on NPR (Studio 360) and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

***OTHER PLAYS, PRODUCTIONS, AND AWARDS for original scripted plays:***

**List of plays:**

Full lengths: *The Catch, Arrangements, Fire in the Garden, Spin Moves, The As If Body Loop, Halftime with Don, The Water Warrior/Reclamation, Hominid, Get Thorpe, Memorabilia, Stadium 360, Sacrifice, Richard Aiken (freely adapted from Tartuffe), Artscenter at SFMOMA (GPS-based audio play), Coney Island Wedding.*

Shorts: *Covenant; or bagels and butchery, I Hate Lacrosse, Mountaineer, Welcome to the Life, Nude in Front of the Garden, The Pujols Plan, Zoom Call, March 20, 2020, Rocket Club, Reunion Tour, A Walk With a Funder in the Valley of Death.*

***National awards (partial list):***

City Theatre's National 10-minute play contest (*Covenant*),  
TCG Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award (*The Catch*),  
Mario Fratti-Frederick Newman Political Playwriting Contest (*Fire in the Garden*),  
L. Arnold Weissberger Award for Playwriting (*Arrangements*),  
The Elizabeth George Commission for an Outstanding Emerging Playwright (*Coney Island Wedding*).

***Productions (partial list):***

Denver Center Theatre Company (*The Catch*),  
Indiana Repertory Theatre (*Fire in the Garden*),  
Out of Hand Theatre Company (*Hominid*),  
Oerol International Festival - Terschelling, Netherlands (*Hominid*),  
Humana Festival of New American Plays (*The As If Body Loop*),  
Atlantic Theatre Company (*Arrangements*),  
Alliance Theatre (*Memorabilia*),  
City Theatre (*Covenant*).  
NJ Rep, Phoenix Theatre, Theatre B (*Halftime with Don*)

***Workshops and public readings (partial list):***

Denver Center, Hartford Stage, New Harmony Project, Castillo Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Atlantic Theatre Company, Steppenwolf, Playwrights Horizons, Arena Stage, P73/Yale University, New York Stage and Film, Cherry Lane Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Theatre Lab, Florida Stage, PlayLabs at PWC.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Playscripts (*The As If Body Loop*),

Broadway Play Publishing (*Halftime with Don*),  
Samuel French (*Arrangements*),  
Smith and Kraus Best Short Plays 2021 (*Covenant*),  
Smith and Kraus (*Mountaineer*),  
Applause: *Monologues from the Edge* (various),  
Applause: *Contemporary Monologues for a New Theatre* (various),  
Blackbird VCU (*Covenant, Nude in Front of the Garden, Mountaineer*)

## **TEACHING**

### **Stony Brook University**

*Associate Professor of English, Theatre, and Writing and Rhetoric. (Fall 2014-present)*

*Undergraduate Program Director, Department of English, 2020 – present).*

*Affiliated Faculty/Certified Instructor: Alan Alda Center for Communication Science, School of Communication and Journalism.*

### **Honors and awards as SBU:**

Humanities Faculty Fellowship, 2024.

Provost's CASSH Seed Grant Program recipient, 2022-23.

Selected for Provost's Emerging Leaders Program, 2022-23

Career Center Partnership Award, 2021-22

Stony Brook University College of Arts and Sciences Godfrey Teaching  
Excellence Award, 2016

Selected as an honorary member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. Asked to  
deliver keynote address at new inductee ceremony, 2016.

### **Courses taught:**

EGL 582, Drama Workshop (using dramatic writing exercises to enrich interdisciplinary  
learning across the grades 7-12 curriculum).

EGL 505, Studies in Genre (Contemporary American Plays)

EGL328, Documentary Theatre Creation

EGL 301, Authors, Periods, Topics, or Genres, with Intensive Writing (social change and  
contemporary theatre)

EGL 303, Genre or Media (Dramatic Literature - Documentary Theatre)

EGL/THR 325, Screenwriting

EGL 387/THR 326/WRET 302, Playwriting

EGL 284, Public Humanities

WRT 302, Advanced Playwriting

THR 351, Topics in Performance

THR 484, Student New Works Festival

THR 401, Senior Seminar

THR 207, The Theatre of Baseball

THR 214, Theatre in New York,

THR 104, Text Analysis,

THR 101, Introduction to Theatre,

WRT 102, Intermediate Writing Workshop, WRET 102

### **Teaching for the Alda Center for Communication Science:**

Certified Instructor: Communicating Science One-Day STEM Workshop

Podcasting for Scientists (*Co-developed curriculum and piloted class*)

Storytelling (*Developed curriculum and piloted workshop*)

Writing for Your Audience (*Developed curriculum and piloted workshop*)

Climate Change (*wrote and co-produced video for curriculum*)

*Delivered the above classes/workshops for scientists at research labs and government agencies, and for faculty and graduate students at a variety of universities.*

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

### **Head of Graduate Dramatic Writing Program (2008-2014)**

*Assistant Professor of Dramatic Writing, Department of Theatre and Drama*

*Designed new curriculum, recruited students, started, curated, and co-produced a new play festival, "At First Sight", featuring MFA Playwrights' work in full productions.*

#### **Graduate courses taught:**

Beyond boundaries. Stretching the aesthetic.  
Revising the full-length play.  
New Play Process; theory and practice of new full-length play creation.  
Creating a Professional Profile.  
Writing for Television.  
Teaching Playwriting to Undergraduates.  
New Musicals Workshop .  
Adaptation.

#### **Undergraduate courses taught:**

Playwriting I, Playwriting II, Screenwriting, Documentary Theatre

## **EMORY UNIVERSITY**

### **Visiting Instructor, Dept. of Theatre Studies / Dept. of English, 2007-8**

#### **Courses taught:**

Intermediate Playwriting, Intermediate Screenwriting

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**

### **Faculty Fellow, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, UCSD, Spring 2003-Spring 2005**

*The UC Faculty Fellowship is a two-year University of California teaching and research fellowship (one of only six Fellows chosen campus-wide.) Faculty Fellows are chosen on promise for excellence in both teaching and research.*

#### **Courses taught:**

Great Performances on Film, Introduction to Playwriting, Intermediate Playwriting, Writing for Television, Documentary Theatre, Introduction to Screenwriting,

#### **Honor:**

Teaching Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Undergraduate Instruction.

## **GUEST ARTIST, PLAYWRITING WORKSHOPS, AND MASTER CLASSES:**

Stage the Change, Art as a Social Voice, master classes, LIU Post  
Sewanee Writers Conference – Guest Artist reading.  
Sewanee Writers Conference – co-lead 2-week workshop with Naomi Iizuka  
Notre Dame University – guest artist master class  
Butler University – (sponsored by New Harmony Project, master classes)  
University of West Georgia, master class.  
National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, masterclass.  
Indiana Repertory Theatre Conservatory, 3-week workshop for young playwrights.  
Heartland Theatre Company, contest judge, master class, keynote speaker.  
Horizon Theatre, mentor and masterclass.  
Actors Express Theatre, 2-wk workshop for apprentice company.

Playwrights Project of San Diego, playwriting workshops for young playwrights.  
La Jolla Playhouse Institute, 2-wk playwriting workshop for young Playwrights.  
Old Globe Theatre, playwriting workshop for young playwrights.  
Young Playwrights, Inc., playwriting workshops and in-service teacher trainings.

## **SERVICE**

### **National:**

Playwrights Center of Minneapolis– fellowship and script evaluator. 2019 to present.  
The New Harmony Project (national play development organization):  
    Selection Committee, 2018, 2019, 2020.  
The New Harmony Project: Board Member and Chair of Script Selection, Aug. 2009 –  
    2015. Artistic Director Search Committee (2012, 2017).  
Stage the Change, Art as a Social Voice annual Long Island high school conference: guest  
workshop presenter, 2016-2018.  
Lark Play Development Center, Environmental Justice roundtable, 2016-17  
Artistic Council for the Eugene O’Neill’s National Playwrights Conference selection process,  
2016.  
Student Playwrights Workshop, National Theatre Institute, Eugene O’Neill Theater  
    Center, 2015  
Fratti-Newman Political Play contest script evaluator, 2012.  
Lark Play Development Center, Jerome grant proposal evaluator, 2011, 2012.  
Advisory Board Member, Bloomington Playwrights Project, June 2009 - 2012.  
Board Member, The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington, Aug. 2009 - 2013.  
Judge and Visiting Playwright, Midwest Play Competition, Heartland Theatre, May 2009.

### **Stony Brook University**

Undergraduate Program Director, Department of English (Fall 2020-current)  
Guiliano Undergraduate Fellowship Selection Committee (current)  
Honors College, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor – current.  
CAS STEAM Communications Advisory Group, 2019-2020  
Simons Center Art and Science program – Playwriting Contest Committee, 2019-current.  
Faculty Advisor, Creative Writing Club.  
College of Arts and Sciences AHLSS Visiting Artist Series Committee, 2014-2017  
Red Carpet Day presenter, 2015, 2016  
Admitted Students Day presenter, 2015, 2016

### **Stony Brook University, Department of English**

Undergraduate Program Director, Fall 2020 – present.  
Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Fine and Applied Theatre – 2019-20  
English Undergraduate Program Committee, Spring 2020 - present  
Teaching review for Simone Brioni tenure case – 2019

### **Stony Brook University, School of Communications and Journalism**

Chair of Peer Mentor Committee for three junior faculty, current.  
Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Practice, 2018  
Peer mentor committee, Karen Masterson, 2019

### **Stony Brook University, Program in Writing and Rhetoric:**

Tenure and Promotion Committee, current.

### **Stony Brook University, Department of Theatre Arts.**

Student New Works Festival mentor and advisor, 2017 - 2019.  
Curriculum Committee, 2014-2019

Production Committee, 2014-2019

Promotion, Marketing, Website and Alumni Relations Committee, 2014-2019