

Elizabeth Dinkova

Theater and film director | artistic director | teacher
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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Directing, Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT 2014-17
B.A Double Major in Theater & Psychology, Reed College, Portland, OR 2009-13

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN INSTITUTIONAL POSITIONS

Artistic Director, Spooky Action Theater, Washington, DC 2023-now
Associate Artistic Director, 7 Stages Theatre, Atlanta, GA 2021-22
Artistic Leadership Fellow, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA 2017-18
Yale Summer Cabaret Artistic Director, Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT Jan-Sept 2016
Artistic Apprentice, The Studio Theatre, Washington, DC 2013-14

DIRECTING

Theatre Productions:

The Berlin Diaries* (upcoming), Theater J, Washington, DC June 2025
(Written by Andrea Stolowitz)

Professor Woland's Black Magic Rock Show* (upcoming), Spooky Action Theater March 2025
(Music & lyrics by Michael and Andrea Pemberton, book by Jesse Rasmussen)

Salome, Heartbeat Opera, NYC, NY Feb 2025
(Opera by Richard Strauss; NY Times Critic's Pick)

Frontières Sans Frontières, Spooky Action Theater, Washington, DC April 2024
(written by Phillip Howze)

Hamlet, Shakespeare in the Woods, Manchester, VT Aug 2023
(adapted by Elizabeth Dinkova from William Shakespeare)

Sonnets for an Old Century, Spooky Action Theater, Washington, DC June 2023
(written by José Rivera)

BULGARIA! REVOLT! , Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT <i>(Book & lyrics by Miranda Rose Hall, music by Michael Costagliola)</i>	March 2023
The Treachery of Images* , Dean Productions, Los Angeles, CA <i>(audio premiere; written by Andrew Biss)</i>	Nov 2022
Coriolanus , Shakespeare in the Woods, Manchester, VT <i>(adapted by Elizabeth Dinkova from William Shakespeare)</i>	Aug 2022
Circus of the Self* , 7 Stages, Atlanta, GA <i>(written and performed by Lucy Eden)</i>	Nov 2021
The Revolutionary* , Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada <i>(theatre-film hybrid, devised by Elizabeth Dinkova & company)</i>	Nov 2021
Before the End* , Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada <i>(virtual production, inspired by "Three Sisters," created by Elizabeth Dinkova & company)</i>	May 2021
Rage* , Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT <i>(adapted by Elizabeth Dinkova from Stephen King)</i>	Feb 2020
Orfeo ed Euridice* , Bel Cantanti Opera, Silver Spring, MD <i>(opera by Christoph Willibald Gluck)</i>	April 2019
The Congresswomen* , Queens College CUNY, NYC, NY <i>(adapted by Elizabeth Dinkova & co from Aristophanes, music by Stew)</i>	Feb 2019
Book of Thoughts* , Samovila Theater, Atlanta, GA <i>(interdisciplinary performance based on Kremena Kirolova's writing)</i>	Dec 2018
The Seagull* , Serenbe Playhouse, Serenbe, GA <i>(adapted by Elizabeth Dinkova from Anton Chekhov, with music by Anais Azul)</i>	Sept 2018
Dinosaur! , Alliance Theatre TVY (Theatre for the Very Young), Atlanta, GA <i>(conceived by Nicole Livieratos)</i>	Jan 2018
If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhfucka* , Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT <i>(by Tori Sampson)</i>	May 2017
Débâcles , Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(North American premiere; written by Marion Aubert, translated by E. Butler & K. Jannarone)</i>	Feb 2017
Bulgaria! Revolt! , Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT	Dec 2016

*World premiere or first production

(musical co-created with Miranda Rose Hall and Michael Costagliola)

Adam Geist , Yale Summer Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(North American premiere; by Dea Loher, translated by David Tushingham)</i>	July 2016
Antarctica, Which Is To Say Nowhere* , Yale Summer Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(by Miranda Rose Hall)</i>	June 2016
Othello , Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT <i>(by William Shakespeare)</i>	April 2016
How We Died of Disease-Related Illness , Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(by Miranda Rose Hall)</i>	Feb 2016
Boris Yeltsin , Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(English-language premiere; by Mickael Oliveira, translated by Maria Marques)</i>	June 2016
Best Lesbian Erotica 1995* , Yale Summer Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(by Miranda Rose Hall)</i>	Oct 2015
Leonce and Lena , Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT <i>(written by Georg Buchner, translated by Gavin Whitehead)</i>	March 2015
Facebook in Memoriam* , Source Festival, Washington, DC <i>(devised by Elizabeth Dinkova, Rachel Hynes & Jennifer Restack)</i>	June 2014
Bull , Studio Theatre, Washington, DC <i>(staged reading; written by Mike Bartlett)</i>	May 2014
Intertwined* , Sfumato Theater Festival, Sofia, Bulgaria <i>(by Eli Todorova)</i>	June 2013
King Lear , Reed College, Portland, OR <i>(by William Shakespeare)</i>	May 2013
Female Kingdom , Small Bulgarian Theater, Seattle, WA <i>(by Stanislav Kostov)</i>	Dec 2012
The Suede Jacket* , Reed College, Portland, OR <i>(North American premiere; adapted by Dinkova from Stanislav Stratiev)</i>	Oct 2012
The Portrait of an Idiot as a Younger Idiot* , Reed College, Portland, OR <i>(by Kyle Giller)</i>	April 2011

*World premiere or first production

The Balance* , Reed College, Portland, OR <i>(adapted from Hans Christian Andersen by Dinkova & Jane Doerflinger)</i>	Dec 2010
<u>New Play Workshops:</u>	
The Besotted , Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC <i>(devised by Elizabeth Dinkova, Jesse Rasmussen & company)</i>	Nov 2024
Syrena , Spooky Action Theater, Washington, DC <i>(devised by Elizabeth Dinkova, Jesse Rasmussen & company)</i>	March 2023
22 , Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, GA <i>(written by Erin Consideine)</i>	May 2021
The Gun Show , Synchronicity Theatre, Atlanta, GA <i>(devised by Elizabeth Dinkova & company)</i>	Jan 2020
TIT(us) , 7 Stages, Atlanta, GA <i>(written by Elizabeth Dinkova & Jesse Rasmussen)</i>	Sept 2019
The Uninvited Guest , The Wilma Theatre, Philadelphia, PA <i>(by Jacqueline Goldfinger)</i>	Sept 2019
Consider It Not So Deeply , The Orchard Project, Saratoga Springs, NY <i>(adapted from Ubu Roi and Macbeth by Henry Wishcamper)</i>	June 2018
Road to a Dream , Brave New Works Festival, Emory University, Atlanta, GA <i>(by Mark Vadlez)</i>	Feb 2018
<u>Film Directing:</u>	
TIT(us)* , NYC Indie Theatre Film Festival <i>(visual album, written with Jesse Rasmussen; music by Nicolette Emanuelle & Eugene Russel IV)</i>	March 2021
Cracking Zeus* , Alliance Theatre Streaming Theatre Channel, Atlanta, GA <i>(independent feature, written by Christopher Hampton)</i>	March 2021
The World is Sand* , Spooky Action Theatre, Washington, DC <i>(short film, written by Jacob Zack)</i>	Jan 2021
<u>Assistant Directing:</u>	
Ghost , Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA (associate director) <i>(adapted by Idris Goodwin from Jason Reynolds, directed by Tinashe Kajese-Bolden)</i>	Oct 2019

*World premiere or first production

Nick's Flamingo Grill* , Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA <i>(written by Phillip DePoy, directed by Tinashe Kajese-Bolden)</i>	Sept 2018
Winnie the Pooh , Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA (associate director) <i>(musical based on A. A. Milne's stories, directed by Leora Morris)</i>	June 2018
Candide , Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA <i>(written by Leonard Bernstein, directed by Susan V. Booth)</i>	April 2018
Two One Acts by Pearl Cleage , Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA <i>(written by Pearl Cleage, directed by Timothy Douglas)</i>	March 2018
Shakespeare in Love , Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA <i>(written by Lee Hall, directed by Richard Garner)</i>	Sept 2017
Indecent* , Yale Rep, New Haven, CT <i>(written by Paula Vogel, directed by Rebecca Taichman)</i>	Oct 2015
Cock , The Studio Theatre, Washington, DC <i>(written by Mike Bartlett, directed by David Muse)</i>	June 2014
Water by the Spoonful , The Studio Theatre, Washington, DC <i>(written by Quiara A. Hudes, directed by KJ Sanchez)</i>	March 2014
Tribes , The Studio Theatre, Washington, DC <i>(written by Nina Raine, directed by David Muse)</i>	Jan 2014
Torch Song Trilogy , The Studio Theatre, Washington, DC <i>(written by Harvey Fierstein, directed by Michael Kahn)</i>	Sept 2013
Hamlet , Bulgarian National Theater "Ivan Vazov", Sofia, Bulgaria <i>(translated by Alexander Shurbanov, directed by Javor Gardev)</i>	Jun-Aug 2012

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer , Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT	Jan 2020-Dec 2023
Lecturer in Theatre, Film, and Digital Production , UC Riverside, Riverside, CA	Jan 2021-July 2022
Visiting Director & Instructor , Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada	Spring -Fall 2021
Visiting Director , Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT	Spring 2020
Adjunct Instructor , Queens College CUNY, NYC, NY	Spring 2019
Director of Developmental Workshop , Emory University, Atlanta, GA	Feb 2018
Teaching & Research Assistant , Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT	Spring 2015
Director , The Dwight/ Edgewood Project, New Haven, CT	Jun-Jul 2014

*World premiere or first production

Teaching & Research Assistant, Reed College, Portland, OR 2011-13

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND SEMINAR LEADERSHIP

Radical Collaborations: Devised Theater, WT Playwrights, Atlanta, GA March 2020

Artists' Response to Gun Violence (*session leader*), TCG Conference, St. Louis June 2018

Text Analysis - teens, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA May 2018

Fundamentals of acting - understudies, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA 2017-18

Freelance acting coaching 2016-present

Freelance dramaturgy and script development 2016-present

PRODUCING

Agreste, Spooky Action Theater, Washington, DC April 2024
(*written by Newton Moreno; 6 Helen Hayes Award Nominations*)

Cracking Zeus*, an independent feature by Chris Hampton April 2021

Me & White Supremacy Book Circles, Out of Hand Theatre, Atlanta, GA July 2020

Directing Masterclass Series, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA Aug 2017-18

Sanctuary in the Arts: Celebrating Refugees and Their Stories, Alliance Theatre Feb 2018

Yale Summer Cabaret Artistic Director, Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT Jan-Sept 2016

New British Invasion Reading Series, The Studio Theatre, Washington, DC Jan-Jun 2014

DESIGN

TIT*, 7 Stages Theatre, Atlanta, GA Nov 2020
(*costume, mask, and makeup design*)

Knives in Hens, Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT Sept 2015
(*set design*)

PERFORMANCE

Vulture, mob, Phaedra's Love, Yale Summer Cabaret, New Haven, CT Aug 2016
(*written by Sarah Kane, directed by Jesse Rasmussen*)

Chitrangada, Burning Girl, ensemble, MuZeum, Yale Cabaret, New Haven, CT Nov 2014
(*written by Ankur Sharma, directed by Ankur Sharma*)

*World premiere or first production

CREATIVE WRITING & ADAPTATIONS

Syrena (full-length screenplay) charts the journey of Syrena, a woman from the sea. Drawn by the sounds of a sinking vessel carrying refugees in a storm, she rescues a drowning woman and they wash up on the shore of an unnamed coast. The survivors are immediately detained and imprisoned in a women's refugee center. As other detainees are attracted and repulsed by Syrena and her mysterious nature, the power of her presence and her song slowly infiltrate the center and its inhabitants, and the urge for escape builds. Currently in development with Midnight Oil Collective at the Yale Tsai Center for Innovation.

Hamlet Sultana (full-length screenplay) is a screenplay written by Elizabeth Dinkova and Robert Knapp for Bardolatry Productions, inspired by Shakespeare's eponymous play. This adaptation takes place in a fictional Islamic empire in the Indian subcontinent around the 1200-1400s, during the conflict between the Turks and Mughals. Hamlet is the daughter of the deceased Sultan, a highly educated woman sent to study in Herat in Afghanistan, brought back for the change in power; she was not considered a viable ruler by her father because of her gender, but was exalted by her mother as a great potential heir. When her father's ghost appears to her seeking revenge, Hamlet embarks on a journey to dismantle entrenched power hierarchies and bring the truth to light. To be produced in 2023.

The Revolutionary is a theatre-film hybrid written with Fahed Altaji. In Season X of The Revolutionary, a competitive reality show, many passionate revolutionaries enter the arena, but only one can come out on top. Rivalries are formed, romances blossomed; blood, sweat, and tears all shed for the chance to win. But there's more than meets the eye. A reality under the reality. In this show about oppression and rebellion, hope and despair, engagement and apathy, hierarchy and equality, exploitation and liberation, the audience gets to decide the outcome. Devised with the third year acting class and production students at Toronto Metropolitan University (Nov 2021). Directed by Elizabeth Dinkova.

Before the End explores the primordial drive to strive for utopia even as the world around us is falling apart. In this interactive film-theatre experience, conceived by Elizabeth Dinkova and devised with students from Ryerson University, audience members journey through the brightest and darkest corners of human nature, guided by fantasies of a perfect world. This immersion into the life cycles of utopian experiments probes the boundary between culture and cult, individual and community, and creation and destruction. The production premiered at Toronto Metropolitan University (April 2021).

RAGE, a musical adaptation of Stephen King's eponymous novel, in which a writer confronts his responsibility when readers get "inspired" with deadly results, and an act of violence catalyzes emotional revelation among a group of students; book & lyrics by Elizabeth Dinkova, music by Fred Kennedy. The play was workshopped and produced with the students of Quinnipiac University (March 2020) and was a finalist for the RAVE Theater Festival (July 2020, postponed due to COVID-19).

BULGARIA! REVOLT!, is a new folk-rock epic co-created with playwright Miranda Rose Hall and composer Michael Costagliola. A fantasia based on real historical events, this musical begins in 1925, with the jaded Bulgarian poet Geo Milev on the eve of his disappearance; he has written a poem to commemorate a failed peasant revolution and his people's deaths at the hand of the government, but what is a poem good for? When the Devil bursts into his home and tempts him to surrender the poem, the poet and his wife, the idealistic actress Mila, join this mischievous master of ceremonies on a wild ride through a Bulgarian village on the eve of an uprising and an American meat factory on the brink of unionizing to ask: can an artistic act have political significance? Can revolution heal a destitute reality, or

is always doomed to end in bloodshed and corruption? Initially developed and workshopped at the Yale School of Drama (Dec 2016), to be produced at Quinnipiac University (March 2023).

TIT(us), inspired by *Titus Andronicus*, co-written with Jesse Rasmussen. A contemporary musical adaptation about political infighting and finding one's voice in the midst of chaos and divisions. Commissioned, workshopped (Sept 2019), and produced by 7 Sages, Atlanta, GA (as a visual album in Fall 2020 and full production in Fall 2021).

The Gun Show, an interactive experience devised by Elizabeth Dinkova & company, based on interviews with community members and artists about gun culture and legislation, examining views from various ends of the political spectrum to find commonalities. Workshopped at the Alliance Theatre (Dec 2017) and Synchronicity Theatre, Atlanta, GA (Jan 2020).

The Congresswomen, inspired by Aristophanes, a tragicomic musical fantasia about women in power and utopian politics, devised with the students at Queens College; script & lyrics by Elizabeth Dinkova, music by Stew (*Passing Strange*). Produced at Queens College, CUNY (Feb 2019).

The Seagull, a contemporary musical adaptation about the quest to transform the world through art; script & lyrics by Elizabeth Dinkova, music by Anais Azul. Commissioned and produced at Serenbe Playhouse, Serenbe, GA (Sept 2019).

Facebook in Memoriam, devised with Rachel Hynes and Jennifer Restack. An interdisciplinary performance/installation about the digital ghosts that remain when our loved ones pass away. Performed at the Washington, DC Source Festival (June 2014).

The Suede Jacket, adapted from Stanislav Stratiev; an absurdist tragicomedy about personal agency in the midst of socialist bureaucracy (and sheep). Produced at Reed College, Portland, OR (Oct 2013).

The Balance, adapted with Jane Doerflinger from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Story of a Mother*; a play intertwining a mother's fantastical quest to save her child from the clutches of death with an 18th century lunatic asylum patient's journey to process his grief. Produced at Reed College, Portland, OR (Dec 2010).

AWARDS & GRANTS

DC Arts and Humanities Fellowship , Washington, DC	2024
Idea Capital Grant , Idea Capital, Atlanta, GA	2019
Julian Milton Kaufman Prize for Directing , Yale School of Drama, New Haven, CT	2017