

# Robin Witt

## Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor of Directing UNC Charlotte | Department of Theatre | College of Arts + Architecture  
9201 University City Blvd. | Charlotte NC 28223 704-687-0232 | rwitt5@uncc.edu

### EDUCATION

- Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Master of Fine Arts in Directing, 2006  
Thesis: *Actors and Directors: A Meaningful Collision* (an examination of the vital and often turbulent relationship between actors and directors). Advisory Committee: Anna D. Shapiro, Todd Rosenthal, Craig Kinzer
- New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York City, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting
- National Cathedral School, Washington DC, High School Diploma

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Associate Professor of Directing, UNC Charlotte, 2010-present
- Lecturer in Communication Arts, North Park University, Chicago, IL, Fall 2009
- Workshop Director, The Theatre School/DePaul University, Chicago, IL, Spring 2009
- Guest Lecturer in Theatre, Northeastern Illinois University, 2008-2010
- Faculty, adjunct, Dominican University, River Forest, IL, Spring 2008
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Directing, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, Fall 2007
- Teaching Assistant in Theatre, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2003-2006
- Adjunct in Theatre Education, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, 2002-2004, 2008
- Guest Teaching Artist, includes: Loyola University, Chicago IL, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL, College of DuPage, DuPage County, IL, 1990-1999

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Theatre Director, various venues, Chicago, IL, 2007-present
- Education Director, Everyman Theatre, Baltimore, MD, 2002-2003
- Actor, various venues, Chicago, 1987-2001
- Staff, Creative Directions, Evanston, IL, 1994-2000
- Associate Artist, Ensemble Member, Education and Outreach Director, Center Theatre and the Training Center, Chicago, IL, 1990-1999
- Arts Education Consultant, includes: Illinois Alliance for Arts Education; Illinois State Board of Education; Maryland State Board of Education; Kraft Foundation; and Numerous School Districts in Illinois, 1989-2003

### THEATRE DIRECTOR, PROFESSIONAL

- Upcoming: *Linda* by Penelope Skinner, Midwest Premiere, Steep Theatre Company, July 2018
- Upcoming: *A Doll's House, Part 2*, Steppenwolf Theatre, January 2019
- Upcoming: *A Number*, Writers Theatre, March 2019
- Upcoming: *For Services Rendered* by Somerset Maugham (1932), US Premiere, Griffin Theatre Company, May 2019
- *Lela & Co* by Cordelia Lynn, US Premiere, Steep Theatre Company, July 2017
- *Wastwater* by Simon Stephens, US Premiere, Steep Theatre Company, July 2016
- *London Wall* by John Van Druten, Griffin Theatre Company, January 2016
- *Brilliant Adventures* by Alistair McDowall, US Premiere, Steep Theatre Company, July 2015
- *The Commons of Pensacola* by Amanda Peet, Northlight, September 2014
- *Men Should Weep* by Ena Lamont Stewart, Griffin Theatre Company, June 2014
- *Motortown* by Simon Stephens, US Premiere, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, October 2013
- *Juliet: A Dialogue About Love*, sacrificial playground, Edinburgh, Scotland, August 2013
- *Flare Path* by Terence Rattigan, Griffin Theatre at Theatre Wit, Chicago, IL, January, 2013

- *The American Plan* by Richard Greenberg, The Artistic Home at Stage 773, Chicago, IL, 2012
- *Love and Money* by Dennis Kelly, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2012
- *Pornography* by Simon Stephens, US Premiere, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2011
- *The New Electric Ballroom* by Enda Walsh, A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2011
- *The Walworth Farce*, by Edna Walsh, A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2010
- *Harper Regan* by Simon Stephens, US Premiere, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2010
- *Parlour Song* by Jez Butterworth, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2009
- *Stage Door*, by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman, Stage Reading, Griffin Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2009
- *Not A Game for Boys*, by Simon Block, A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008
- *Breathing Corpses*, by Laura Wade, US Premiere, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008

#### **THEATRE DIRECTOR, STAGED READING**

- Upcoming: *For Services Rendered* by Somerset Maugham, Griffin Theatre Company at The Den, Chicago, IL, April 2018
- *White Gloves*, Stage Reading, Northlight Theatre and the Chicago Historical Museum, Chicago, IL, February, 2013
- *Blindsided*, by Simon Stephens, Stage Reading, Steep Theatre, Chicago IL, in cooperation with Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, UK, 2012
- *Plaza Hotel Ballroom*, by Alice Austen, Stage Reading, Pine Box Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2011
- *Reality*, by Gyrid Axe Øvsteng, Nordic Play Festival, Akavit Theatre, Stage Reading, North Park University, 2010
- *Stage Door*, by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman, Griffin Theatre at The Theatre Building, Chicago, IL, 2010
- *Corpses* by Lucas Neff, Stage Reading, Steep Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2010
- *Plaza Hotel Ballroom*, by Alice Austen, Stage Reading, Chicago Dramatists, Chicago, IL, 2010
- *Don't Look Now*, by Nell Leyshon, Remy Bumpo Theatre, Stage Reading, Chicago, IL, 2008

#### **THEATRE DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC**

- *Women of Trachis*, UNC Charlotte, October 2017
- *The Children's Hour*, UNC Charlotte, March 2017
- *Hamletmachine*, UNC Charlotte, March 2016
- *The Merry Widow*, UNC Charlotte, January 2015
- *4:48 Psychosis*, UNC Charlotte, February 2014
- *Seagull*, by Anton Chekhov, UNC Charlotte Department of Theatre, 2012.
- *Project/Hope*, by Joe Salvatore, UNC Charlotte Department of Theatre, 2012
- *India Song*, by Marguerite Duras, UNC Charlotte Department of Theatre, 2010
- *Wrens*, by Anne McGravie, North Park University, Chicago, IL, 2009
- *Life During Wartime*, by Keith Reddin, The Theatre School/DePaul University, Chicago, IL, 2009
- *A Bright Room Called Day*, by Tony Kushner, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, 2007

#### **THEATRE DIRECTOR, MFA CANDIDATE**

- *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, by Martin McDonagh, Josephine Louis Theatre, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2005-2006
- *The Glory of Living*, by Rebecca Gilman, The Wallis Theatre, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2004-2005
- *The Maids*, by Jean Genet, Classroom Project, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2003-2004

## PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Comparative Drama Conference, Paper, “John Van Druten’s *London Wall*: Sexism Writ Large Then and Now” Orlando, FL, April 2017, **Peer Reviewed**
- Comparative Drama Conference, Paper, “Beyond Blasted: 21st Century Brit Noir in a Chicago Storefront Theatre Setting,” Baltimore, MD, April 2016, **Peer Reviewed**
- Mid-America Theatre Conference, Presentation, “Inspired by Glaswegian Deprivation: Griffin Theatre Company’s 2014 Production of Ena Lamont Stewart’s ‘Men Should Weep,’” Kansas City MO, March 2015, **Peer Reviewed**
- American Society for Theatre Research, Presentation of Working Paper, “The Trauma of War a Few Feet Away: A Storefront ‘Motortown’ and the Metaphor of Torture,” Baltimore MD, November 2014, **Peer Reviewed**
- Co-presenter (with Kristin Leahy, Kendra Thulin, Victoria Delorio, Jenny Kokai), "How we Imagine Together: The Pedagogy of Collaboration Classes with Actors, Directors, Dramaturgs, Designers, and Production." Association of Theatre in Higher Education, 2013, **Peer Reviewed**
- Co-presenter (with Assistant Professor Anita Easterling), “Designing and Directing Using the Storefront Theatre Model in the University Setting.” SETC, Louisville, Kentucky, March 2013, **Peer Reviewed**
- Co-presenter (with Dr. Susan B. Harden, UNC Charlotte Crossroads Coordinator), “Student and Community Voices: Interview Theatre as Outreach and Engagement.” National Outreach Scholarship Conference, Michigan State University, October 2-4, 2011, **Peer Reviewed**

## BOOK CHAPTERS

### Published:

- Harden, S.B. & Witt, R. (December 2017). Interview theatre and the Dream Act: Activism through raising community voices. . In S. Wong & A.M. Foerster Luu (Eds.), “Teachers as Allies: Transformative Practices for Teaching DREAMers and Undocumented Students.” Teachers College Press.

## RESEARCH GRANTS, AWARDS, and SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### Grants

- Faculty Research Grant (in support of *Wastwater*), UNCC Charlotte, 2016-2017: \$6500
- Faculty Research Grant, the office of Research and Development, UNC at Charlotte (in support of Griffin Theatre Production *Men Should Weep*), \$3500 (2014)
- Northern Illinois University Faculty Research Grant: Professor Patricia Skarbinski and Professor Brandon Wardell, principle investigators, in support of *Juliet: A Dialogue About Love*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, \$10,000 (my stipend--\$1500) (2013)
- International Travel Grant, Office of International Programs, UNC at Charlotte, in support of travel to The Dublin Theatre Festival, \$300 (2013)
- Diversity Grant, UNC Charlotte (with Professor Jeanmarie Higgins), “Sacrificial Poets Residency” (2013)
- Chancellor’s Diversity Grant, UNC at Charlotte (With Prof. Anita Easterling), in support of Dr. Neelam Minsingh Chowdhry’s week-long residency at UNCC, \$2000 (2012)
- Diversity Grant, UNC at Charlotte, for Theatre Collaboration Outreach, \$1000 (2011)

### Joseph Jefferson Award Nominations

- 2016, *London Wall*, Best Production (won), Director (won)
- 2015, *Men Should Weep*, Best Production (won), Director (won)
- 2013, *Flare Path*, Best Production, Director
- 2011, *Stage Door*, Best Production, Director

### Special Recognition (selected)

- *Lela & Co*: Best of the Year - 2017, *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times*.
- Feature: Weiss, Hedy. "London Wall probes the lives of working women in 1930s England." *Chicago Sun-Times*. 6 Jan. 2016. *ProQuest*. Web. 4 Apr. 2016.
- Feature: Leggett, Paige. "UNCC theater instructor has made a name for herself in Chicago." *The Charlotte Observer*: 29 Sept. 2015. *ProQuest*. Web. 4 Apr. 2016.
- Feature: Jones, Chris. "'Big acting, small expenditures in the storefronts.'" *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 17 Oct. 2013. Web. 11 Nov. 2013.
- Highly Recommended: Johnson, Lawrence B. "'Motortown' at Steep: Danny comes marching home, but the emotional shelling doesn't stop." *Chicagoontheaisle.com*. *Chicago on the Aisle*, 29 Oct. 2013. Web. 11 Nov. 2013.
- Highly Recommended: Griffith, Keith. "Motortown." *chicagoreader.com*. *Chicago Reader*, 9 Oct. 2013. Web. 11 Nov. 2013.
- Highly Recommended: Jones, C. "Dark and disturbing days, set in Britain's motor city." *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 11 Oct. 2013. Web. 11 Nov. 2013.
- Highly Recommended: Jones, C. "Authentic portrayal of wartime Britain has power all its own." *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 15 Jan. 2013. Web. 10 Aug. 2013.
- Four Star Review: Gordon, E. "The American Plan at the Artistic Home: Nick Horst dazzles in Richard Greenberg's complex Catskills tale." *Timeoutchicago.com*. *Timeout Chicago*, 26 July, 2012. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Special Recognition, Teaching: Gordon, M. "Amendment Aside, This play's all about humanity: UNCC theater production spotlights N.C.'s ongoing debate about marriage" *Charlotteobserver.com*. *The Charlotte Observer*, 27 Apr. 2012. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Highly Recommended: Jones, C. "A trail of debt and broken hearts: 'Love and Money' at Steep Theatre." *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 19 Jan. 2012. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Stage Review (National Magazine): "The week's other openings: Love and Money; Untitled Feminist Show; The North Plan." *Theweek.com*. *The Week*, 3 Feb. 2012. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- What to see in 2012: Jones, C. It's been a hot winter: What to see so far in '12. *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 2 Feb. 2012. Web. 3 Aug. 2012.
- Five Star Review: Vire, K. "'Pornography' at Steep Theatre Company: Simon Stephens obliquely takes on the July2005 suicide bombings in the London Underground in this collection of vignettes, given an outstandingly compassionate staging at Steep." *Timeoutchicago.com*. *Timeout Chicago*, 29 Jul. 2011. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Highly Recommended: Weiss, H. "Simon Stephens' 'Pornography' not what you think." *Chicagosuntimes.com*. *Chicago Sun-Times*. 1 Aug. 2011. Web. 3 Aug. 2012.
- Stage Review (National Magazine): "Pornography." *Theweek.com*. *The Week*, 26 Aug. 2011. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Best of the Year: Adler, T. "Our Favorite Theatre of 2011." *Chicagoreader.com*. *Chicago Reader*, 29 Dec. 2011. Web. 5 Aug. 2012.
- Witt interview with the *Chicago Sun-Times*: Houlihan, M. "Red Orchid glad to nab Irish playwright's 'New Electric Ballroom.'" *Chicagosuntimes.com*. *Chicago Sun-Times*. 19 Jan. 2011. Web. 3 Aug. 2012.
- Critic's Choice: Adler, T. "Family Rituals / Three sisters, one preoccupation in Enda Walsh's play." *Chicagoreader.com*. *Chicago Reader*, 3 Feb. 2011. Web. 5 Aug. 2012.
- Special Recognition: Jones, C. (2010, August 20). Fearless works from female directors. *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 20 Aug. 2010. Web. 4 Aug. 2012.
- Best of the Spring 2010: Jones, C. "'Billy Elliot,' 'Hephaestus' and 'Stage Door:.'" Spring has sprung some great shows. *Chicagotribune.com*. *Chicago Tribune*, 23 Apr. 2010. Web. 3 Aug. 2012.
- Highly Recommended: Jones, C. "'Stage Door' at Griffin Theatre: Stage full of Chicago talent

eloquently proves the point.” *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 15 Apr. 2010. Web. 6 Aug. 2012.

- Stage Review (National Magazine): “‘Stage Door.’” *Theweek.com*. The Week, 7 May. 2010. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Ten Best Performances of the Year (Mechelle Moe): : Jones, C. “BEST OF 2010: In appreciation of Chicago's actors, my 10 favorite performances of 2010.” *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 23 Dec. 2010. Web. 4 Aug. 2012.
- Ten Best Performances of the Year (Kendra Thulin): Jones, C. “BEST OF 2010: : In appreciation of Chicago's actors, my 10 favorite performances of 2010.” *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 23 Dec. 2010. Web. 4 Aug. 2012.
- Witt interview with *Chicago Sun-Times*: Houlihan, M. “‘Stage Door’ finds Witt again on feminine turf.” *Chicagosuntimes.com*. Chicago Sun-Times, 9 Apr. 2010. Web. 4 Aug. 2012.
- Ten Best Productions of 2010: Jones, C. (2010, December 11, 2010). “BEST OF 2010: ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ leads a year of strong productions.” *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 11 Dec. 2010. Web. 6 Aug. 2012.
- Four Star Review: Jones, C. (2010, January 22). ‘Harper Regan’ at Steep Theatre: A four-star telling of the truth about middle age. *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 22 Jan. 2010. Web. 6 Aug. 2012.
- Critic’s Choice: Reid, K. (2009, May 9). “Parlour Song.” *Chicagoreader.com*. Chicago Reader, 9 May. 2009. Web. 6 Aug. 2012.
- Highly Recommended: Weiss, H. (2008, May 15). “You’ll want to play Red Orchid’s ‘Game’.” *Chicagosuntimes.com*. Chicago Sun-Times, 15 May. 2008. Web. 4 Aug. 2012.
- Highly Recommended: Vitello, Barbara. “Block puts the right spin on ‘Game for Boys’.” *Dailyherald.com*. Chicago Daily Herald. 16 May. 2008. Web. 7 Aug. 2012.
- Ten Best Productions of 2008: Beer, J. and Vire, K. (2008, December 16). Ten most wanted: We pick the year’s best plays. *Timeoutchicago.com*. Timeout Chicago, 16 Dec. 2008. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.
- Highly Recommended: Jones, C. (2008, March 3). Steep Theatre earns its buzz. *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 3 Mar. 2008. Web. 7 Aug. 2012.
- Critic’s Choice: Piatt, C. (2008, February 18). “Breathing Corpses.” *Timeoutchicago.com*. Timeout Chicago, 18 Feb. 2008. Web. 8 Aug. 2012.

## TEACHING

### Courses Taught

- UNC Charlotte: Play Analysis; Directing I and Directing II; Theatre Collaboration (Performance Intensive); Dramaturgy I; Special Topics: Interview Theatre; Senior Project; Junior Seminar; “In- yer-face” and beyond: British Theatre from 1995 to today
- Notre Dame: Play Analysis and Dramaturgy
- As an adjunct: Voice and Movement, Theatre History I, Shakespeare’s Women, Contemporary Theatre, Acting and Directing
- Center Theatre and The Training Center: Audition, Meisner I and II, Scene Study, Monologues

### Internal Service (UNCC) University Committees

- Faculty Governance, 2017-2018

### Internal Service (UNCC) College Committees

- Chair, Faculty Council, College of Arts + Architecture, 2012-2013. Faculty Council, College of Arts + Architecture, 2011-2012.

### Department Committees

- Voice Search Committee, 2017-2018

- Department, Reappointment, and Tenure Committee, 2017-2018
- Chair, Acting Faculty Search, 2016
- Acting Search Committee, 2015
- Chair, Curriculum and Assessment Committee, 2011-2015, 2017-2018
- Department Scholarship Coordinator, 2014-2016
- Department Advisory Committee, 2014
- Scenic Design Search Committee, 2014
- Chair, Movement Faculty Search Committee, 2012-2013
- Costume Search Committee, 2010-2012

### **External Service**

#### **Master classes**

- “Storefront Theatre,” Governors School, Meredith College, Raleigh, 15 students, Summer 2015
- Directing Intensive: *Motortown*, 6 students, North Park University, Chicago 2013

#### **Adjudicator**

- Michael Merritt Design Awards, Chicago, May 2015
- Centre Stage Play Festival, Greenville, SC, 2014

#### **Community Service**

- Volunteer, Care for Real, Food Pantry, Chicago IL, 2015-16
- Hind’s Feet Farm workshop, 14 participants (Hinds' Feet *Farm* is dedicated to serving persons living with brain injury.) 2012

#### **Ensemble member: Steep Theatre and Griffin Theatre Company**

- My responsibilities to these two theatres include—but are not limited to—season selection, recruitment of artists, participating in audience engagement events, planning and attending fundraisers, advising the Artistic Director, writing director’s notes, hiring designers, attending company meetings

### **PROFFESIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- SDC: Stage Directors and Choreographers, Member
- AEA: Actors Equity Association
- Steep Theatre, Chicago IL: Ensemble Member
- Griffin Theatre Company, Chicago IL: Ensemble Member