Manna-Symone Middlebrooks

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DIRECTING

JaJa's African Hair Braiding by Jocelyn Bioh+	Berkeley Repertory, Chicago Shakespeare Theater Co., La Jolla Playhouse, Center Theater Group
The Tempest by William Shakespeare	Wirtz Center for Performing Arts
Sandblasted by Charly Evon Simpson	Wirtz Center for Performing Arts
The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World by Suzan-Lori Parks^	Wirtz Center for Performing Arts
Precious Little by Madeline George	Wirtz Center for Performing Arts
Self Portrait with Dirty Hair by Jordan Ealy	Keegan Theatre

ASSOCIATE & ASSISTANT DIRECTING (representative work)

JaJa's African Hair Braiding by Jocelyn Bioh+ *	Dir. Whitney White	Manhattan Theatre Club, Arena Stage
The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial… by James Ijames	Dir. Whitney White	Steppenwolf Theatre Co.
The Amen Corner by James Baldwin	Dir. Whitney White	Shakespeare Theatre Company
Henry IV, Part I by William Shakespeare	Dir. Rosa Joshi	The Folger Theatre
Amadeus by Peter Shaffer	Dir. Richard Clifford	The Folger Theatre
BLKS by Aziza Barnes	Dir. Nataki Garrett	Woolly Mammoth
Indecent by Paula Vogel	Dir. Eric Rosen	Arena Stage
Turn Me Loose by Gretchen Law	Dir. Jon Gould Rubin	Arena Stage
Skeleton Crew by Dominique Morisseau	Dir. Patricia McGregor	Studio Theatre
All's Well That Ends Well by William Shakespeare	Dir. Shana Cooper	Chicago Shakespere Theatre Co.

NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT (representative work)

The Fox and the Panther by Tariq Hamami	Mosaic Theater Company
Familial Comforts by Seshat Yonshea Walker	Theater Alliance & Studio Theatre
The Storyteller by Sara Jean Accuardi	Spooky Action Theater
Letters from London by Samah Meghjee	Northwestern MFA Screenwriting
Catholic School Token by Jasmine B. Gunter	Northwestern MFA Theatre Dept.

+broadway world premiere, TONY Award Winner
*Helen Hayes Award Winner
^digital production

UNIVERSITY DIRECTING

Argonautika by Mary Zimmerman	Northwestern University
The Book of Will by Lauren Gunderson	Northwestern University
Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare	Wittenberg University
The Revenger's Tragedy by Thomas Middleton	Northwestern University
Big Love by Charles Mee	Northwestern University

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP (representative work)

Northwestern University; Radio/TV/Film Dept.; Evanston & Chicago, IL
Artistic Producer 2022-2024

- Worked with 25 writers and 4 faculty members to determine workshop goals and produce a reading series
- Scouted and recruited 45 local, professional artists to direct and act in staged readings
- Served as the primary liaison between the university and guest artists, ensuring equitable and prompt payment
- Supervised and mentored 1 casting intern

The Folger Theatre; Washington, DC
Casting Associate 2018-2020

- Facilitated 25 audition sessions and was responsible for all local casting
- Collaborated with directors to creatively generate audition materials and call lists
- Reconstructed and digitized the institutional system for actor and artist tracking
- Represented the Folger Theatre at national and local casting calls and showcases

Studio Theatre; Washington, DC
Resident Assistant Director & Artistic Apprentice 2017-2018

- Collaboratively maintained 5 productions and directed 5 understudy companies
- Generated institutional research material for weekly scouting and literary meetings
- Facilitated 10 talkbacks with audiences and special guests

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Northwestern University; Department of Theatre
Graduate Assistant in Directing & Producing 2020-2024

- Developed and taught THEA-220, Fundamentals of Directing
- Directed 8 productions with professional and student creative teams
- Served as the teaching assistant to 6 graduate and undergraduate-level courses
- Mentored over 150 undergraduate directors, designers, stage managers, producers, and actors in production and coursework

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, MFA in Directing
American University, BA in Theatre Arts and Literature
The British American Drama Academy, Classical Acting Certificate

Additional credits available on request.