

STEPH PAUL

DIRECTOR/ CHOREOGRAPHER

DIRECTING (SELECTED)

Built for This	Lauren Gunderson, Kira Stone	Olney Theatre (workshop)	2024
Sanctuary City	Martyna Majok	Steppenwolf Theatre	2023
How to Defend Yourself	Liliana Padilla	New York Theatre Workshop	2023
	<i>(Co-Director with Rachel Chavkin and Liliana Padilla + Movement Director)</i>		
	<i>(NY Times Best Theater 2023, Vulture Best Theater 2023)</i>		
demons.	Keelay Gipson	New York Stage and Film (reading)	2022
The Royale	Marco Ramirez	Kansas City Repertory Theatre	2022
	<i>(Director + Choreographer)</i>		
Boxing Play	Marisa Carr	Goodman Theatre (Playwrights Unit)	2021
Ofrenda*	Isaac Gomez	Albany Park Theater Project	2018
Learning Curve*	Albany Park Theater Project & Third Rail Projects	Albany Park Theater Project	2016
	<i>(Chicago Tribune Best Theater 2016)</i>		
Feast*	Albany Park Theater Project	Goodman Theatre	2015

CHOREOGRAPHY / MOVEMENT DIRECTION (SELECTED)

<i>Nobody Loves You</i>	<i>Dir. Pam MacKinnon</i>	<i>American Conservatory Theater</i>	2025
<i>What's Eating Gilbert Grape</i>	<i>Dir. Peter Hedges</i>	<i>Manhattan Class Company</i>	2024
Q Brothers Christmas Carol	Dir. JQ, Jax, GQ	St. Louis Shakespeare Festival	2023
The Odyssey	Dir. Shana Cooper	American Repertory Theater (workshop)	2023
My Joy Is Heavy	Dir. Rachel Chavkin	Arena Stage (workshop)	2023
Rent	Dir. Zi Alikhan	Paper Mill Playhouse	2023
Becky Nurse Of Salem	Dir. Rebecca Taichman	Lincoln Center	2022
Where the Mountain Meets the Sea	Dir. Joshua Kahan Brody	Manhattan Theatre Club	2022
The Last Match	Dir. Keira Fromm	Writers Theatre	2021
Where the Mountain Meets the Sea*	Dir. Joshua Kahan Brody	Humana Festival	2020
How to Defend Yourself*	Dir. Marti Lyons	Victory Gardens Theater	2020
How to Defend Yourself*	Dir. Marti Lyons	Humana Festival	2019
Romeo and Juliet	Dir. Barbara Gaines	Chicago Shakespeare Theater	2019
Richard III	Dir. David Muse	Shakespeare Theatre Company	2019
Mansfield Park	Dir. Stuart Carden	Northlight Theatre	2018
Last Stop on Market Street	Dir. Henry Godinez	Chicago Children's Theatre	2018
The Wolves	Dir. Marti Lyons	Studio Theatre	2018
The Royale	Dir. Stuart Carden	City Theatre, Repertory Theatre St. Louis	2017
The Royale	Dir. Jaime Castañeda	American Theatre Company	2015
Water by the Spoonful	Dir. Henry Godinez	Court Theatre	2014

*= world premiere

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THEATER AFFILIATIONS

Usual Suspect, NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP; New York, NY - 2023-Present

Resident Director, ALBANY PARK THEATER PROJECT; Chicago, IL - 2010-2021

- Collaborated in the conceiving, devising, directing, scripting, composing, choreographing, casting and producing of social justice theater that amplifies and illuminates the voices and experiences of immigrant and first-generation communities.
- Founder and Lead Director of *Creator's Collective*, a program in which APTP youth artists create, direct and premiere their own work with the support of adult mentors and a cast of their peers.
- Notable events include:
 - *Amor de Lejos* (Director, 2019), a piece devised from the stories of Chicago day laborers, performed at Urban Institute's *Cultivating Young Artists as Social Changemakers* event, with an introduction by Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, followed by a discussion with panelists working at the intersection of art, culture and social change.
 - *Ofrenda* (Co-Director, 2018), a piece devised from the stories of Chicago immigrants seeking to build home in turbulent times, performed at National Theatre of Scotland's *Exchange*, a performance and educational program that brings together young theatre-makers from across Scotland and beyond to facilitate a national and international exchange of art and ideas.

DANCE and MUSIC AFFILIATIONS

Artistic Associate / Choreographer, CHICAGO DANCE CRASH; Chicago, IL - 2015-2023

Dance Instructor / Choreographer, DANCE CENTER EVANSTON; Evanston, IL - 2007-2017

Artistic Director / Co-Founder / Performer, BE THE GROOVE; Chicago, IL - 2006-2017

- Creative leader of Chicago-based rhythm, drum, dance and education ensemble.
- Oversaw ensemble artistic development, performances and educational programming.
- Collaborated with the Director of Business Operations in administrative task maintenance, email correspondence with cast and clients, rehearsal scheduling and booking, season calendar planning, client contract negotiations, budgeting and producing of shows.
- Collaborated with clients to provide custom performances, educational offerings and experiences.
- Notable events include:
 - Red River Revel Festival; Shreveport, LA - 2016, 2017
 - In a week-long festival, performed daily school shows for approximately 1,000 elementary schools students and offered workshops and public performances for adults and young people.
 - International Rhythm Festival, Royal Opera House Muscat; Muscat, Oman - 2015
 - Using no instruments other than the body, performed a series of public performances featuring groups from around the world, including ensembles from Asia, Europe, Africa and North America.

DANCE FOR CAMERA

Growing Concerns Collective, "First You Need a Body" Music Video [dir. McKenzie Chinn], Choreographer - 2021

Chicago Film Works, "Ready for Winter" Blain's Farm & Fleet Commercial* [dir. George Case], Choreographer / Performer - 2018

Haroula Rose, "Good for you" Music Video [dir. Alex Thompson], Choreographer / Performer - 2017

Fuerta Dance Company, "Worthy" Dance Film [dir. Alyson Quigley], Choreographer / Performer - 2017

Dance Center Evanston "Dreams" Dance Film [dir. Alyson Quigley], Choreographer - 2017

*2018 Bronze Telly Winner

TEACHING (selected)

Evanston Dance Ensemble - Moving Forward, Guest Choreographer; Evanston, IL - 2021

Dance Center of Columbia College - DANCE TEAM Virtual Workshop Series (with Erin Kilmurray), Dance Buffet; Chicago, IL - 2020

Free Street Theater - Guest Teacher; Chicago, IL - 2020

National Theatre of Scotland - International Youth Theatre Exchange; Inverness, Scotland - 2018

Ohio State University - Be the Street; Columbus, OH - 2018

University of Chicago - Master Class Dance Series; Chicago, IL - 2018

Common Wealth Theatre - Speakers Corners Collective; Bradford, UK - 2017

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville - Dance Department Guest Teacher; Edwardsville, IL - 2016

Northwestern University - Dance Department Adjunct Lecturer; Evanston, IL - 2012

Chicago National Association of Dance Masters - Master Class Teacher; Chicago, IL - 2010 - 2014

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INTERNATIONAL

NYU Abu Dhabi, The Reality Show [dir. Preston Martin], Traveling Director - 2022

National Theatre of Scotland, Exchange, Albany Park Theater Project Co-Director - 2018

Royal Opera House Muscat, International Rhythm Festival, Be the Groove Artistic Director - 2015

AWARDS / NOMINATIONS

2023 SDCF Callaway Award Finalist, Choreography (*Where the Mountain Meets the Sea*, Manhattan Theatre Club)

2021 Princess Grace Award Winner, Theatre

2020 Helen Hayes Award Nomination, Outstanding Choreography in a Play - Hayes (*Richard III*, Shakespeare Theatre Company)

2019 Helen Hayes Award Winner, Outstanding Choreography in a Play - Hayes (*The Wolves*, Studio Theatre)

2018 St. Louis Theater Circle Award Nomination, Outstanding Choreographer (*The Royale*, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis)

2015 Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination, Artistic Specialization (*The Royale*, American Theater Company)

EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

Communication Studies