

BRIAN BYUNGKOO AHN

STAGE DIRECTOR/ TENOR/ PLAYWRIGHT/ THEATRE EDUCATOR

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Theatre Directing
UCLA, School of Theatre, Film and Television, Los Angeles, 2000

B.A. in Theater Directing
Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea, 1996

Diploma in Voice
Konzertor Brno (Brno National Conservatory), Brno, Czech Republic, 2014

Professional Studies Diploma in Opera Vocal Performance
Accademia Musicale "G. Donizetti", Milan, Italy, 2013

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Director on the Board, La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2003 - Present
Serving as an advisor to the Artistic Director and administration staff of the non-for-profit organization.
Approving La MaMa's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions.
Serving on committees of task forces and taking on special assignments such as 30 Million Dollar Capital Campaign and fundraising.

Artistic Director/Co-Founder, Singing Actors Group International, Seoul, Korea, 2013 - Present
A performing Arts company dedicated to music oriented theatre productions. Produced and directed 5 productions at Korea National Theatre, Naru Arts Center, and Spoleto Festival since founded in 2013.

Resident Artist, La MaMa Umbria International, Spoleto, Italy, 1995 - Present
Participating in theatrical productions and workshops as a performer during summer La MaMa Umbria Summer Seasons.
On site staff for La MaMa Umbria Directors' Symposium.

Artistic Assistant, Long Beach Opera, Long Beach Opera, CA, 2000 – 2002
Assisted the Artistic Director, Michael Milenski at Long Beach Opera, and productions.

AWARDS/GRANTS

The Trust for Mutual Understanding Grant
Awarded for the world premier of the opera, *The Doctor* in Czech Republic, 2002

The MAMPIST Award
Samsung Foundation of Culture
Awarded to exceptional young artists for their graduate studies.
Received \$140,000 for graduate study at UCLA, 1996

TEACHING

Adjunct Professor, Theater Department/Acting Department, Seoul Institute of the Arts, Korea, 2012- Present

Directing I

Directing II

Theatre Scene Workshop

Musical Theatre Scene Workshop

Advanced Acting

Intermediate Acting

Basic Acting

Adjunct Professor, School of Theater, Dongguk University, Seoul, Korea: 2012- Present

Musical Theatre Acting I

Musical Theatre Acting II

Advanced Acting

Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of the Arts, Kookmin University, Seoul, Korea, 2012- Present

Musical Ensemble

Directing/Choreography Workshop

Rehearsal Project

Audition Workshop

Directed and oversaw student productions of Sondheim's *Company*, Ahn's *A Joke*, Ahn's *Sleepy*, Ahn's *The Doctor*,

Adjunct Professor, Theatre Department, Kookmin University, Seoul, Korea, 2012

Theatre Workshop

Directed *Joseph and the Amazing Techicolour Dreamcoat*

Adjunct Professor, Musical Theater Department, Howon University, Seoul, Korea, 2013- Present

Musical Scene Workshop I

Musical Scene Workshop II

Musical Production

Guest Artist, School of Music, California State University, Long Beach, CA, 2000-2002

Directed fully staged student productions of *Dido and Aeneas*, *La Calisto*, *Der Scahuspieldirektor*, and *Opera Scene Gala*

Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Music, Chongshin University, Los Angeles, CA, 2002

Opera Workshop

WORKSHOP/MASTERCLASS

William Jewell College, Liberty, MO, 2014

Theater Workshop: Shakespearean Acting Applying Traditional Korean Story Telling, Korean Movement and Asian Aesthetics.

Opera Master Class: Dramatic interpretation and Expression of Songs and Arias in Operas and Musicals.

DIRECTING

The Rite of Autumn: Rituals and Celebrations

Naru Centre for the Arts, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Director/Writer/Production Designer/Co-Producer

7 Musical Vignettes by Brian Byungkoo Ahn and Opera Music Gala featuring 'The Singing Actors Group International'

Brian Ahn's 7 Musical Vignettes

Sungam Arts Centre, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Director/Music Director/Writer/ Production Designer/Co-Producer

7 Musical Vignettes by Brian Byungkoo Ahn featuring 'The Singing Actors Group International'

Voyage: Musical Vignettes*

La MaMa Spoleto Open, Spoleto Due Mondi Festival, Italy, 2013

Director/Writer/Production Designer/Performer/Co-Producer

The world premiere of the series of Musical Vignettes/mini operas with German art songs.

Featuring 'The Cole Laptop Ensemble', US and 'The Singing Actors Group', Korea.

The Marry Widow

Naru Centre for the Arts, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Director

Production of Kim Haknam Opera Company.

Jonah*

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Director/Performer/Co-Production Designer/Co-Producer

New oratorio by JY Choi

Featuring 'The Singing Actors Group'.

A Joke*

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Director/Book/Lyrics/Co-Production Designer/Co-Producer

New musical theater composed by JY

Featuring 'The Singing Actors Group'

Love and Dream, Painted with Songs*

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Director/Writer/Production Designer/Co-Producer/Music Director

Opera/Musical Theater Gala and 3 New Musical Vignettes

Featuring 'The Singing Actors Group'

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Kookmin Main Theatre, Seoul, Korea, 2012

Director

Kookmin University Theatre Program production

Mozart Opera Highlights

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2012

Director

Korean Chamber Opera Company's 4-hour excerpts from Le nozze di Figaro, Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni, and Zauberlote

Hammyul/Hamlet

La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2011

Director/Co-Writer/Co-Producer

A Korean adaptation of William Shakespeare's Hamlet.

The Doctor

LaMaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2009

Director/Writer

A chamber opera composed by Martin Herman based on Anton Chekhov's short story of the same title.

A Joke

La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2009

Director/Writer

A musical theatre composed by Younghun Lee based on Anton Chekhov's short story of the same title.

Director-composer collaboration of new work development.

B-Alive*

La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2008

Director

A touring dance theatre production with world champion B-Boys and Hip-Hop dancers.

The Doctor*

The Music Now Prague Festival, Czech Republic

Director/Writer/Production Designer

New chamber opera composed by Martin Herman based on Anton Chekhov's short story of the same title.

Director-composer collaboration of new work development.

The Californian production was invited to Prague and Bruno in Czech Republic funded by Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Orlando*

Long Beach Opera-Downtown Opera, CA

Director/Co-Production Designer

Chamber opera composed by Martin Herman. The original story by Virginia Woolf.

Director-composer collaboration of new work development.

Consumer's Paradise*

Long Beach Opera-Downtown Opera, CA

Director/Co-Production Designer

Opera composed by William Houston

Director-composer collaboration of new work development.

Dido & Aeneas

CSULB Opera, Long Beach, CA

Director

Fully-staged student opera production of California State University Opera Program.

Composed by H. Purcell.

Der Schauspieldirektor

CSULB Opera, Long Beach

Director

Fully-staged student opera production of California State University Opera Program.

Composed by W. A. Mozart.

Operatic Scene Highlights

CSULB Opera, Long Beach

Director

Various scenes from La Rondine, Der Rosenkavalie, La Traviata, Dialogue des Carmelites, and Centrillon

Telephone

West Valley Opera Theater, Los Angeles, CA

Director/Production Designer

Opera composed by G.C. Menotti

Coffee Cantata

West Valley Opera Theater, Los Angeles, CA

Director/Production Designer

Fully staged opera style cantata J. S. Bach.

Amahl & the Night Visitors

Opera California, Los Angeles, CA
Director/Production Designer
Full-stage opera production by G. C. Menotti.

La Calisto

CSULB Opera, Long Beach, CA
Director
Fully-staged student opera production of California State University Opera Program.
Composed by F. Cavalli.

Days & Nights*

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Director/Playwright
M.F.A. Thesis Production. Five theatrical adaptations of A. Chekhov's short stories.

The Fishbowl*

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Director
New Play Festival

The Hostage *

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Director
New Play Festival

Antigone

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Director

The Letter & 4 plays by S. Beckett

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Director/Playwright

Hamlet

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Director

Play

The National Theater of Korea, Seoul
Director/ Production Designer
Young Theater Festival

Cavalleria Rusticana

The National Theater of Korea, Seoul
Director/ Production Designer
Young Theater Festival

PLAYWRITING – PRODUCED

Sleepy

Opera Libretto in English and Korean, Composer: Ok Kyun Kang
Music Theatre Graduate Program, Kookimin University, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Voyage: Musical Vignettes*

Play

Naru Centre for the Arts, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Sungam Arts Centre, Seoul, Korea, 2013

La MaMa Spoleto Open, Spoleto Due Mondi Festival, Italy, 2013

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2013

A Joke

Musical Book and Lyrics in English and Korean

Music Theatre Graduate Program, Kookimin University, Seoul, Korea, 2013

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2013

La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2009

Hamyul/Hamlet

Play in Korean

La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2011

The Doctor

Opera book in English and Korean, Libretto in Korean

Music Theatre Graduate Program, Kookimin University, Seoul, Korea, 2013

La MaMa ETC, New York, NY, 2009

The Music Now Prague Festival, Czech Republic, 2002

ACTING

Voyage: Musical Vignettes*

Dir. Brian Byungkoo Ahn

La MaMa Spoleto Open, Spoleto Due Mondi Festival, Italy, 2013

Love and Dream, Painted with Songs*

Dir. Brian Byungkoo Ahn

The National Theatre of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 2013

Il Corvo*

The Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Dir. Ellen Sewart

Played the lead, 'Re Milo' for the opening of the Venice Biennale.

In Monaco e la Figlia del Boia

La MaMa Umbria International, Spoleto, Italy

Dir. Ellen Stewart

Monte Amiata Festival

La Redenzione*

La MaMa Umbria International, Spoleto, Italy

Dir. Ellen Stewart

La MaMa Umbria Festival

Axis Mundi *

La MaMa Umbria International, Spoleto, Italy

Dir. Moreen Fleming

La MaMa Umbria Festival

Jehanne*

La MaMa Umbria International, Spoleto, Italy
Dir. Erika Bilder
La MaMa Umbria Festival

ADVANCED/SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Classical/Operatic Singing

Regina Renzowa
Dr. Natalie Limonick
Thomas Jones
Christian Sebek
Mark Nicolson
Dr. Jerry Doan

Speech /Voice Workshops

Kristin Linklater: Workshops on classical text, poetry and imagery.

Movement Workshops

Yoshi Oida: Workshops on movement (Peter Brook's long term collaborator)
Paul Binnerts: Workshops on Real Time Theatre form and Brecht's Epic Theatre.
Nancy Gabor: Workshops on Joe Chaikin's Open Theatre and Stage Presence work (Chaikin's collaborator)
Erika Bilder: Workshops on stage combat.

Dance Workshops

Dr. Emma L. Thomas: Renaissance dance class.
Master Sen-Hei Hah: Workshops on Korean Traditional dance 'Salpuri'.
Master Inhyun Song: Workshops on Korean Traditional mask dance 'Bongsan Mask Dance' by the successor of National Treasure of Korea in Mask Dance.
Moreen Fleming: American Butoh dance.

Acting Workshops

Tom O'Horgan: Acting (Creator of 'Hair')
Andrei Serban: Acting Workshop

Puppetry Workshops

Theodora Skiptares: Puppets and puppet theatre.

ASSISTANTSHIPS/ INTERNSHIPS

La Khovantchina

Bastille Opera National de Paris, France
Dir. Andrei Serban
Directing Apprentice

I Capuletti e i Montecchi

Los Angeles Opera, CA
Internship

Beautiful Country

Cornerstone Theater, Los Angeles, CA
Dir. Chay Yew
Assistant Director

Geranos*

La Mama Umbria International, Spoleto, Italy
Dir. Andrea Pacciotto
Stage Manager

Euridice

Long Beach Opera & The Getty Center, CA
Dir. Isabelle Milenski
Assistant Director

Volo di Notte

Long Beach Opera, CA
Production Assistant

Il Tabarro

Long Beach Opera, CA
Production Assistant

BIBLIOGRAPHY

L.G., “Spoleto – Interessante Sperimentazione al Cantiere Oberdan.” Spoleto City Press, Spoleto, Italy (07/12/2013)

“The classical voices of opera singers mingle boldly with the voices altered by computer, annihilating time and fashions.”
“Past and present meet in a single dimension. The dreamlike journey, whether it is in the arms of the angels, on Mars or the Moon, or in the mind of man, does not matter.”

Jaworowski, Ken, “Hamlet as Eager Korean Prince.” The New York Times, New York, NY. (06/28/2011)

“.....boy, is there intensity!”
“The play is beguiling to watch, a reinterpretation with a dark mind all its own.”
“Hamyul/Hamlet creates a delicious mood of menace.”
“Extended pauses carry great weight here, and the play-within-a-play scene is severe and frightening.”

Stiffler, Scott, “Sound and fury signifying something worth seeing.” The Villager, New York, NY. (07/07/2011)

“Sound and fury signifying something worth seeing.”
“Korean ‘Hamlet’ casts shaman’s spell over Shakespeare’s long shadow.”

Montgomery, Mitch, “Hamyul/Hamlet.” Back Stage, New York, NY. (06/27/2011)

“Ahn's often gracefully marshaled production”

Conway, Mitchell, “Hamyul/Hamlet.” NYTHEATRE.COM, New York, NY. (06/23/2011)

“A highly stylized adaptation of Hamlet.”
“Director Byungkoo Ahn delivers grace amidst formality.”
“The adaptation by Minsoo Ahn and Byungkoo Ahn is a clean, comprehensible cutting.”

Sommers, Micahel, “Shakespeare’s Tragedy Undergoes a Stylized Asian Makeover.” New Jersey Newsroom, NJ. (06/28/2011)

“Shakespeare’s tragedy undergoes a stylized Asian makeover.”
“Writer-director Byungkoo Ahn boldly abridges the tragedy to its stark essentials.”
“This ‘Hamlet’ shows how Shakespeare’s tale can be effectively construed through the theater traditions of other cultures.”

Giardina, Henry, “Hamyul.” Bullett Media, New York, NY. (06/30/2011)

“*Hamyul* is, with its distillation of the big words and winding plot of the original, a strangely organic retelling, a production which seems to have distilled the wisdom of the story without getting rid of all that much excess. More art, less matter.”

Moore, Oscar, "Days and Nights." Talk Entertainment, New York, NY. (09/22/09)

"The silhouetted forest as she sings Memories Are Sadder than Love is a piece of art. As are the songs."
"Very fine production"

Swed, Mark, "Long Beach Opera - Downtown Opera" Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, CA (2001)

"In the end, 'Consumers' Paradise' and 'Orlando' proved small operas wanting to be something grander, Postmodern opera ... is such an extravagant enterprise, it requires substantial experimentation; and there is pleasure to be had in a visit to the laboratory."

Farrell, John, "Consumer's Paradise and Orlando by Downton Opera" Long Beach Press Telegram, Long Beach, CA (2001)

"There is the chance that they were watching an important piece of musical history happen.
these two works, brief, effective, and entertaining, suggest there is plenty to look forward to."