# EDRIS COOPER-ANIFOWOSHE

MFA, Theatre Arts/Directing, University of Iowa - August, 1998 [edriscooper@gmail.com](mailto:edriscooper@gmail.com)

# PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & ACHEIVEMENTS:

# 2020 – present Core company, Word for Word Theatre Company

2019-present Mentor, National Institute of Directing and Ensemble Creation 2013-present Artist In Residence, Brava! for Women in the Arts

1993-present Founder, Producing Director, Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience 2001-09 Selection & Script Reading Committee, Bay Area Playwrights Festival

1991-03 Associate Artist, Medea Project; Theater For Incarcerated Women

1991-1993 Artistic Director, Sugar Shack Performance Gallery and Cultural Center 1991-93 Advisory Committee, Yerba Buena Center For the Arts

# SOLO PERFORMANCES (all original works unless otherwise noted)

Adventures of a Black Girl Traveling While Black - Brava Theater Center (2013); Eastside Alliance for the Arts (2013) Black Gold - Man! Festival, Dance Mission; Afro Solo (2012)

Adventures of a Black Girl In Search of Academic Clarity and Inclusion - Afro Solo (1997); Intersection for the Arts ( 2004) Political Gossip (original solo work) Intersection for the Arts (1999, 2003)

Sister, Can I Speak For You? By Phillip Walker - African American Drama Company, SF - national tour (1991-1994) Refugee Venue 9, San Francisco; Idaho State University; Milestones, San Francisco; Intersection for the Arts

# PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING CREDITS

Boys Go to Jupiter 3GTheatre, SF+

The Red Shades : A Trans-rock opera (Adrienne Price) Z Space, SF+

Manifesto (Rotimi Agbabiaka) Brava, SF and OUTfest, Austin, TX

An American Ma(u)l (Robert O’Hara) BACCE/Brava Theater Center, SF

Type/Caste (Rotimi Agbabiaka) Various venues

All of What you Love None of What You Hate (Phillip Howze) San Francisco Playhouse

Colored Museum (George C. Wolfe) African American Shakesspeare, SF

Sweet Maladies (Zakiyyah Alexander) BACCE/Brava Theater Center, SF Love Balm For My SpiritChild (Arielle Julia Brown & co.) Brava Theater Center, San Francisco Our Lady of 121st Street (S.A. Guirgis) American Conservatory Theater, MFA

Just Add Water (Carolyn Meyers and David Hyman) Barbary Coast Amusements, San Francisco In A Daughter’s Eyes, (A. Zell Williams) Brava Theater Center, San Francisco

Blue/Orange (Joe Penhall) Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Intimate Apparel (Lynn Nottage) Water Tower Theatre, Spring 2008

Plaza Suite (Neil Simon) Brown County Playhouse, Nashville, IN

Relativity (Cassandra Medley Southern Rep, New Orleans, LA

Parentheses of Blood (Sony Labou Tansi) Naropa University BFA, Boulder, Co

This Is How It Goes (Neil LaBute) Water Tower Theatre, Dallas Tx

Sugar Bean Sisters (Nathan Sanders) Naropa University MFA program

Yellowman (Dael Orlandersmith) Curious Theatre, Denver

Relativity (Cassandra Medley)\*\* Magic Theatre, San Francisco

The Old Settler (John Henry Redwood)+ Water Tower Theatre, Dallas, TX

Will He Bop, Will He Drop (Robert Alexander)\* BACCE, San Francisco

Urban Zulu Mambo (Regina Taylor)\* Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisco

Having Our Say (Emily Mann) Capital Rep, Albany, NY

Piano Lesson (August Wilson) Trinity Repertory Company, Providence, RI

Hollis Mugley's Only Wish (Keith Adkins)\*\* TheatreWorks, Palo Alto

Stealin' Home (Fred Newman)\* BACIC, Co-production w/Castillo Theatre

Who's Afraid of Solarin? (Femi Osofisan) ACT Conservatory, 2nd year MFA class

A Preface To The Alien Garden (Robert Alexander)\*\* Trinity Repertory Company, Providence, RI On The Hills of Black America (Keith Adkins)\*\* BACCE/Intersection For The Arts, SF

Crying Holy (Wayne Corbitt)\*\* Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco

Late Bus To Mecca (Pearl Cleage)\* BACCE/Theatre Rhinoceros, SF Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse (Billy Graham)\* BACCE/Mission Cultural Center,

# DIRECTED WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT/STAGED READINGS

The Red Shades Z Space+

Facing Our Fears: 10 min. plays on Trayvon, Race & Privilege BACCE/Brava Theater Center Posada Azul (Nathan Yungerberg) Lorraine Hansberry Theater

The Fall of Heaven(Walter Mosley) Lorraine Hansberry Theater

2

The Water Play (Sarah Gubbins) Aurora Theater AP Festival

Tree (Julie Herbert) ` Bay Area Playwrights Festival (dramaturg)

Sweet Home (Keith Adkins) Bay Area Playwrights Festival

Sketches of Yucca (Keith Adkins) Southern Writers Project, Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Will He Bop, Will He Drop? (Robert Alexander) Mark Taper Forum, New Works Festival

Hatemachine (Robert Alexander) Bay Area Playwrights Festival

-14 (Asst. Dir. for playwright/director Robert O'Hara) ACT Conservatory, MFA Production Hatemachine (Robert Alexander) Woolly Mammoth, Washington, DC A Preface To The Alien Garden (Robert Alexander) I owa Playwrights Festival

The BowWow Club (Levy Lee Simon) 42nd Street Workshop, NYC

In the Blood (Suzan Lori-Parks) Magic Theatre, San Francisco

Swamp Dwellers (Wole Soyinka) Magic Theatre

# DIRECTING AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

TBA Awards 2015 Best Ensemble, Sweet Maladies, BACCE

Rabin Awards 2006 Nomination Best Director, This Is How It Goes, WaterTower Theatre Rabin Awards 2003 Best Production, The Old Settler, WaterTower Theatre

Rabin Awards 2003 Nomination, Best Director, The Old Settler, WaterTower Theatre

Backstage West 2001 Dean Goodman Excellence in Theatre for Director of The Old Settler, TheatreWorks Bay Guardian Best of the Bay, 2000 for The Old Settler, TheatreWorks

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| **SELECTED ACTING CREDITS** |  | |
| Hotel Angulo (Oct, 2020, ZOOM) | Gene | Campo Santo |
| Side Effects + | Marla | Campo Santo/Sean San Jose+ |
| Pilgrim Street\*\* | Stevie | Campo Santo/Sean San Jose |
| Barbecue\* | Adlean | SF Playhouse/Margo Hall |
| The Lyons | Jeanette | Aurora Theatre//Tom Ross |
| Brave Brood | Maria | Transparent Theatre/Robert O’Hara |
| Medea Project; Theatre for Incarcerated Women | various roles | Various Venues/Rhodessa Jones |
| Pasttime Paradise | Anita | UC Berkeley/Rhodessa Jones |
| Laff-O-Mania | guest artist | U Ibadan, Nigeria/ Solomon Iguanre |
| Andie | Billie | LATC/Shabaka Henley |
| Chain | Rosa | Theatre Rhinoceros/Lester Jones |
| The America Play\* | Mama Lucy | Theatre Artaud/Tony Kelly |
| Devotees In the Garden of Love | Mother Lily | Intersection for the Arts/Paul Codiga |
| Imaginary Invalid | Toinette | Sacramento Theatre Co/Mark Cuddy |
| From the Mississippi Delta | Phelia | STC/.BobDevin.Jones |
| From the Mississippi Delta | Phelia | Downstairs Cabaret Theatre, NY/Jones |
| Jar The Floor | MaDear | Theatre Works, Palo Alto/Harry Elam |
| Shakin’ the Mess Outta Misery | Miss Corrine | Theatre Works, Palo Alto/Tony Haney |
| I Ain’t Yo Uncle | Topsy, Chloe | San Diego Repertory/Daniel Chumley |
| Uncle Tom’s Cabin | Topsy, Chloe | Lorraine Hansberry Theatre/Chumley |
| 5 Women & An Angel | Guardian Angel | LATC, Susan Lacy |
| Wiley & The Hairy Man | Wiley | LATC, Shabaka Henley |
| Michi’s Blood | Mary | Theatre/Theater, Nelson Handel |
| The Lower Depths | Vassillissa | Skid Row Actor’s Workshop |
| Have You Seen Zandile? | Zandile | Balto. Theatre Project,/Gcina Mhlope |
| Rats: A Dream Play | Alice | SF Mime Troupe, Daniel Chumley |
| The Mozamgola Caper | Bongo, Ndele | National and Int’l. tour/Dani Chumley |
| The Mozamgola Caper | Bongo, Ndele | Kennedy Center/Daniel Chumley |
| Wine In the Wilderness | Bernice | Carpetbag Theatre Co./Wilbur Lucas |

ACTING AWARDS

1998 GOLDIE Award, Bay Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery for Acting, awarded by critic Misha Berson 1988 Dramalogue Award for Topsy in San Diego Repertory production of I Ain’t Yo Uncle

\*denotes Bay Area Premiere \*\* denotes World Premiere + postponed due to Covid-19