

Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

edriscooper@gmail.com

Education: MFA, Theatre Arts/Directing, University of Iowa - August 1998

Additional training:

2001 Shakespeare & Company Summer Intensive
1999-01 TCG Career Development for Directors
1997 Arts Theatre, Ibadan Nigeria Directing, Acting, Research

Professional Associations

2021-present Artist-in-Residence, Magic Theatre
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

Teaching Credits

2021-2024 Goddard College, Faculty Advisor, MFA Interdisciplinary Arts
Fall, 2022 Stanford University TAPS, Guest Director
2006-2010 Indiana University, taught acting and directing, undergrad and graduate level
2004-2006 Naropa University, co-creator of BFA in Performance

Solo Performances (original unless author is listed)

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

New play by Ashley Smiley** (2025)	Magic Theatre
Parentheses of Blood (Sony Labou Tansi)	Stanford University, TAPS Guest Director
Boys Go to Jupiter (Danielle Evans)	Word for Word at Z Space, 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 Shakespeare, SF
Sweet Maladies (Zakiyyah Alexander)*	BACCE/Brava Theater Center, SF
Balm For My SpiritChild (Arielle Julia Brown & co.)**	Love Brava Theater Center, San Francisco
Lady of 121 st Street (S.A. Guirgis)	Our ACT 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

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Intimate Apparel (Lynn Nottage)
Plaza Suite (Neil Simon)
Relativity (Cassandra Medley)
Parentheses of Blood (Sony Labou Tansi)
This Is How It Goes (Neil LaBute)
Sugar Bean Sisters (Nathan Sanders)
Yellowman (Dael Orlandersmith)
Relativity (Cassandra Medley)**
The Old Settler (John Henry Redwood)+
Will He Bop, Will He Drop (Robert Alexander)*
Urban Zulu Mambo (Regina Taylor)*
Our Say (Emily Mann)
Piano Lesson (August Wilson)
Hollis Mugley's Only Wish (Keith Adkins)**
Stealin' Home (Fred Newman)*
Who's Afraid of Solarin? (Femi Osofisan)
A Preface To The Alien Garden (Robert Alexander)**
RI On The Hills of Black America (Keith Adkins)**
Crying Holy (Wayne Corbitt)**
Late Bus To Mecca (Pearl Cleage)*
Ghost Stories of the Blacksmith Curse (Billy Graham)

Water Tower Theatre, Spring 2008
Brown County Playhouse, Nashville, IN
Southern Rep, New Orleans, LA
Naropa University BFA, Boulder, Co
Water Tower Theatre, Dallas Tx
Naropa University MFA program
Curious Theatre, Denver
Magic Theatre, San Francisco
Water Tower Theatre, Dallas, TX
BACCE, San Francisco
Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisco
Capital Rep, Albany, NY
Trinity Repertory Company, Providence,
TheatreWorks, Palo Alt
BACIC, Co-production w/Castillo Theatre
ACT Conservatory, 2nd year MFA class
Trinity Repertory Company, Providence,
BACCE/Intersection For The Arts, SF
Theatre Rhinoceros, San Francisco
BACCE, Theater Rhinoc
Mission Cultural Center/BACCE

Directed Workshops and Readings

The Soul Never Dwells in A Dry Place
The Red Shades
Facing Our Fears: 10 min. plays on Trayvon, Race & Privilege
Posada Azul (Nathan Yungerberg)
The Fall of Heaven (Walter Mosley)
The Water Play (Sarah Gubbins)
Tree (Julie Herbert)
Sweet Home (Keith Adkins)
Sketches of Yucca (Keith Adkins)
Will He Bop, Will He Drop? (Robert Alexander)
Hatemachine (Robert Alexander)
-14 aka An American Ma(u)l (Robert O'Hara)
Hatemachine (Robert Alexander)
A Preface To The Alien Garden (Robert Alexander)
The BowWow Club (Levy Lee Simon)
In the Blood (Suzan Lori-Parks)
Swamp Dwellers (Wole Soyinka)

Cutting Ball Theater, SF
Z Space+, SF
BACCE/Brava Theater
Lorraine Hansberry Theater
Lorraine Hansberry Theater
Aurora Theater AP Festival
Bay Area Playwrights Festival (dramaturg)
Bay Area Playwrights Festival
Southern Writers Project, Alabama
Mark Taper Forum, New Works Festival
Bay Area Playwrights Festival
ACT MFA (Asst. Dir.)
Woolly Mammoth, Washington, DC
Iowa Playwrights Festival
42nd Street Workshop, NYC
Magic Theatre, San Francisco
Magic Theatre

Directing Awards

TBA Awards 2015
Rabin Awards 2006
Rabin Awards 2003
Rabin Awards 2003
Backstage West 2001
TheatreWorks Bay Guardian

Best Ensemble, Sweet Maladies, BACCE
Nomination Best Director, This Is How It Goes,
Best Production, The Old Settler, WaterTower Theatre
Nomination, Best Director, The Old Settler, WaterTower Theatre
Dean Goodman Excellence in Theatre Old Settler,
Best of the Bay, 2000 for The Old Settler, TheatreWorks

Selected Acting Credits

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the boiling (spring 2025)	TBD	Magic Theatre
The Tempest	Prospero	San Francisco Shakespeare Festival
Hotel Angulo	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	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

Dramaturgy/Text/Dialect Coach

Richard II	Dramaturgy/Text Coach	Magic Theatre
Nollywood Dreams	Dialect Coach/West African	SF Playhouse
Jerry Garcia in the Mission (Fall, 2025)	New Play Dramaturgy	Magic Theatre

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