

Carly D. Weckstein

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Theatre Director . Intimacy Director . Sex Educator . Community Facilitator

Artist Statement: My passion and experience intersect at the meetings of theatre, community, sex education, mental health and social justice. I believe that in making art, we can use both the process and the product to create new paradigms through which both artists and audiences can find healing and be activated for change. As a director, I gravitate toward stories that shed light on our collective cultural wounds around intimacy and sexuality — whether I'm reclaiming these themes through a feminist lens within classical works, or digging deep into modern masterpieces and brand new stories. I am drawn to stories with charged subject matter, and lead their exploration by making the entire process a brave space in which artists feel supported to create uncomfortable work. Art is meant to challenge us, to push us toward vulnerability and growth — and that never needs to come at the cost of anyone's dignity, integrity, mental health or sense of belonging. I aim to align my process with the healing power of theatre and performance, and the ability of art to allow humans to tap into a deeper, more embodied level of empathy than they can access through intellect alone.

DIRECTING EXPERIENCE:

Transmissions in Advance of the Second Great Dying [Jessica Huang]	2020 The Echo Theatre Company
The Last One [Mercedes Segesvary]	2020 The Vagrancy's Blossoming
The Society Now: Babalon [Original Devised Immersive Theatre]	2019 Drycraeft Los Angeles
Hard Palate [Roger Q. Mason]	2019 Meet Cute LA
Homeward LA [with The Midnight Mission] <i>Monologues + Community Forum on the LA Homelessness Crisis</i>	2018, 2019 Illyrian Players
The Red Letter Project: In the Blood and Fucking A [Suzan-Lori Parks] <i>2 Plays in Rep + Community Forum on Reproductive Rights, Poverty, Mass Incarceration</i>	2017 Illyrian Players & Watts Village

Then Came the Fall [Nahal Navidar]	2016 Ensemble Studio Theatre LA
Hot 'n' Throbbing [Paula Vogel]	2016 Illyrian Players & Watts Village
I Want Her Wet Like Gasoline [Megan Breen]	2015 The Vagrancy's Blossoming
Othello [Shakespeare]	2014 Illyrian Players
Odessa [Tyler McClain] <i>World Premier for The Hollywood Fringe Festival</i>	2014 Illyrian Players
How I Learned to Drive [Paula Vogel]	2014 Illyrian Players
The Taming of the Shrew [Shakespeare]	2013 Illyrian Players
Cloud 9 [Caryl Churchill]	2012 Illyrian Players
Macbeth [Shakespeare]	2012 Illyrian Players
Twelfth Night [Shakespeare]	2011 Illyrian Players

(for Intimacy Direction specific experience, please email to request intimacy resume)

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS:

- UCLA School of Theater, Acting Continuum, B.A. in Theatre Arts 2010
- Directors Lab West 2016, Directing Lab Participant
- Sex Specialist at The Pleasure Chest Stores Sex Education Program 2015-2019 *(teaching inclusive classes on: Consent, Communication, Sexual Empowerment, Sex Toys, BDSM/Kink, Spanking, Bondage, Orgasm, Roleplay, Pleasure Anatomy)*
- Gender Justice LA, Training on Gender Diversity & Inclusion 2016
- Therapeutic Theatre & Ritual with Hector Aristizabal 2017 *(Including Theatre of the Oppressed, Council Circle, Theatre of Witness)*

- IDI Intimacy for the Stage Directors & Choreographer Workshop in Los Angeles with Tonia Sina 2018
- Frantic Assembly Devising Physical Theatre Workshop 2018
- Trauma Resiliency Model Certification with the Trauma Resource Institute 2019
- IDI Theatre Intimacy Workshop in Toronto with Claire Warden, Tonia Sina, Siobhan Richardson, and Rachel Flesher 2019
- Directors Lab West 20th Anniversary Guest Artist 2019
(Teaching: Navigating Intimacy & Consent in the Rehearsal Process)
- IDI Theatre & Film Intimacy Workshop in Los Angeles with Jessica Steinrock 2019
- Art With Impact Workshop Facilitator for Our Bodies Our Minds and Movies for Mental Health 2019-Present *(using theatre and film to help college communities support survivors of sexual violence and destigmatize talking about mental health)*
- Mental Health First Aid Certification 2019
- Anti-Racist Theater Workshop with Nicole Brewer 2020
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction with Insight LA 2020
- TIE Best Practices Intimacy Workshop with Chelsea Pace and Laura Rikard 2020
- Anti-Racism and Allyship in Sex Education with Carlton Perry 2020
- TIE Foundations in Race, Intimacy and Consent Workshop with Kaja Dunn 2020
- Moving Body Arts - Trauma Awareness Through Movement with Ashely McDonald 2021
- TIE Intimacy Coordination for Film with Chelsea Pace and Laura Rikard 2021

TESTIMONIALS

“Carly took time to build a space of trust and security for the artists. Her eagerness to invite questions and to validate concerns or insecurities was reassuring to all that we were in great hands under her guidance.”

- *Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx, Director & Director of Cultural Programing for A Noise Within*

“Carly has an amazing way of working through uncomfortable material by creating a professional and collaborative environment. She holds a space in which actors are able to take the time and attention needed to ensure they feel safe and empowered. She is able to create a common language for us to communicate our needs and boundaries without sterilizing the magic of finding the scene.”

- *Elitia Daniels, Actor & Filmmaker*

“Carly Weckstien is a gift! For years she has been creating rooms where her actors felt safe, comfortable, and free to explore the stories we tell. I first had the pleasure of working with Carly on the world premiere of a play called *Odessa*, it was the first time I was ever directed [in an intimate scene] with the care and comfort of the actors in mind. I've worked with Carly numerous times since then in several capacities and can confirm that whether you're a performer, an audience member, or a collaborator she works as the gold standard for professionalism, safety, and artistry. Her practice has only become more refined over the years and her capacity is limitless.”

- *Bruce A. Lemon Jr., Associate Artistic Director Cornerstone Theater Company & Co-Artistic Director Watts Village Theater Company*

“I had the pleasure of working with Carly for the *Red Letter Project*, and it was one of the more formative artistic experiences of my adult career. There is a deftness, and attentiveness she has for her performers, and the pieces she pours herself into, that brings the hardest of works to life. She moves with an honest understanding that makes it easy to play and create uninhibited work.”

- *A'raelle Flynn-Bolden, Actor & Writer*

“Carly has been one of my favorite directors to work with as a designer. Collaborative, energetic, willing to try weird ideas I had, and it made for one of my favorite shows I've worked on. Her trust in her team is amazing, and her jump in headfirst attitudes inspired us.”

- *James Ferrero, Actor & Designer*