

**Ken Weitzman**

Assistant Professor of Dramatic Writing  
Department of Theatre Arts, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5350  
kenneth.weitzman@stonybrook.edu

---

Brief bio:

Ken Weitzman's current play, *Halftime with Don*, is slated for an NNPN Rolling World Premiere at three different theatres in 2017. Previous productions include, among others, *The Catch* (The Denver Center Theatre Company), *Fire in the Garden* (Indiana Repertory Theatre), *The As If Body Loop* (Humana Festival), *Arrangements* (Atlantic Theatre Company). His devised work includes, *Memorabilia* (Alliance Theatre), *Hominid* (Out of Hand Theatre/Theatre Emory/Oerol Festival Netherlands), and *Stadium 360* (Out of Hand Theatre).

Plays-in-progress include *Spin Moves* (Victory Gardens Ignition Festival, New Harmony Project), and *licence for seal boy* (American Academy of Dramatic Arts Mainstage Live, Keen Company Playwrights Lab, The Lark's Meeting of the Minds).

National Awards include The L. Arnold Weissberger Award for Playwriting for *Arrangements*, TCG Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award for *The Catch*, the Fratti/Newman Political Play Contest Award for *Fire in the Garden*, and South Coast Repertory's Elizabeth George Commission for an Outstanding Emerging Playwright.

Organizations who have commissioned Ken's work include the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Arena Stage, the Alliance Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Theatre Emory, Out of Hand Theatre, and South Coast Repertory Theatre.

Ken recently finished his terms as a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center of Minneapolis, member of Meeting of the Minds at the Lark Play Development Company, and as part of the Writers' Lab at Keen Company. He was a former Writer-in-Residence for Out of Hand Theatre Company and board member for The New Harmony Project for six years.

Ken's plays have been published by Samuel French, Smith & Krauss, Playscripts, Blackbird and Applause.

Ken received his MFA from University of California, San Diego and has taught at UCSD, Emory University, Indiana University (head of MFA in Playwriting) and, currently, at Stony Brook University.

## Curriculum Vitae

### Education

#### **University of Michigan**

BA, American Cultures and Theatre

#### **University of California, San Diego**

Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting, June 2003.

### Creative activity:

#### Produced full-length work:

##### *Halftime with Don (full-length play)*

##### Productions:

National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. Three productions slated for 2017-8:

- New Jersey Repertory Theatre, June 2017, director, Kent Nichol森
- B Street Theatre, Sacramento, September 2018, director tba.
- Phoenix Theatre, Indianapolis, January, 2018, director Bryan Fonseca

*The Rolling World Premiere is the flagship program of the National New Play Network (NNPN). With a minimum of three productions in a single year, these plays attain the momentum needed to join the repertoire of frequently-produced new American works. Plays that have completed their Rolling World Premieres have received more than 500 subsequent productions and hundreds of citations in their local markets, been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and have won the Steinberg/ATCA, Stavis, Pen Center, and Blackburn Awards.*

##### Workshops and readings:

- National Playwrights Festival, 2015, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, director Giovanna Sardelli
- PlayLabs Play Festival at the Playwrights Center of Minneapolis, 2015, director Jeremy Cohen.
- City Theatre's Momentum Festival, 2014, director Christian Parker
- Premiere Stages Play Festival, 2015, director John Wooten
- Playwrights Horizons, 2015, director Kent Nicholson
- Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, 2015, director Christian Parker
- Theatre Lab Theatre at FAU, Boca Raton Florida, 2016, director Lou Terrell

##### *"Artscenter at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art" (Audio play)*

An original script commissioned by the San Francisco Museum of Modern for their new and groundbreaking audio content. Script uses sports as a lens through which to look at SFMOMA's collection. The script covers the art of Chuck Close, Joan Mitchell, Agnes Martin, Dan Flavin, Frank Stella, Richard Diebenkorn, and Willem de Kooning.

***The Catch*** (full-length play)

Production:

Denver Center Theatre Company, 2011, director Lou Jacob

National Awards:

TCG Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award  
(Also nominated for the Harold and Mimi Steinberg/American Theater Critics Association New Play Award and the William Inge Festival Otis Guernsey New Voices Playwriting Award.)

Regional Awards:

Henry Award for The Best New Play in Denver.  
Westword "best of" award for Best Premiere of a Play.

Workshops and readings:

Denver Center's Colorado New Play Summit, 2010, Dir. Michael Garces  
Atlantic Theater Company, 2009, Dir. Christian Parker  
Hartford Stage's Brand:NEW Festival, 2009, Dir. Lou Jacob  
New Harmony Project play development conference, 2009, self-directed

***Fire in the Garden*** (full-length play)

Production:

Indiana Repertory Theatre, 2011, Director Larissa Kokernot

National Award:

Co-winner of the Mario Fratti-Frederick Newman Political Playwriting Contest.

Workshops and readings:

Castillo Theatre, 2009, Director Woody King Jr.  
Waldron Arts Center as part of ArtsWeek: Political Theatre Festival,  
Bloomington, IN, 2009, self-directed  
Geva Theatre, 2008, Director Skip Greer  
Alliance Theatre, 2007, self-directed  
P73 Productions (off-Broadway producing company) Summer Residency at  
Yale University, 2007, self-directed

***Hominid*** (full-length play)

*(Created with the ensemble Out of Hand Theater Company. Commissioned by Theatre Emory to create a play based on the work of internationally-renowned primatologist, Frans De Waal, and the Yerkes Primate Center)*

Productions:

Theatre Emory/Out of Hand Theater Company, 2009, Director Ariel De Man  
The Lunatics Theatre Company (*Netherlands*) 2010, at the following venues:

Oerol International Festival - Terschelling, Netherlands  
Detmold European Street Theatre Festival - Detmold, Germany  
Amersfoort Theater Teras - Amersfoort, Netherlands  
Luna Lab - Utrecht, Netherlands  
University of Illinois, 2011, Director Ariel De Man

Play profiled on NPR (Studio 360) and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

***The As If Body Loop***

*Commissioned by Arena Stage*

Productions:

The 2007 Humana Festival of New American Plays, Director Susan Booth

Awards:

The McDonald Playwriting Award for the best new play in San Diego  
Finalist for the Princess Grace Award (national new play award)

Publication:

Playscripts, Inc.

Workshops and readings:

New York Stage & Film, 2006, Director Wendy Goldberg  
Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 2006, Director Ed Sobel  
Black Dahlia Theatre, 2006, Director Larissa Kokernot  
Playwrights Horizons, 2006, Director Wendy Goldberg  
Arena Stage, 2005, Director Rebecca Bayla Taichman

***Arrangements (full-length play)***

National Award:

Winner of the 2003 L. Arnold Weissberger Award for Playwriting

Productions:

Atlantic Theater Company, 2005, Dir. Christian Parker.  
Pavement Group, 2008, Dir. Megan Beals

Publication:

Samuel French

Workshops and readings:

Mark Taper Forum's New Work Festival, 2002. Director Mark Rucker  
Arena Stage, 2003, Director Tom Prewitt  
Florida Stage, 2002, Director Des Gallant  
Atlantic Theater Company, 2003, Director Christian Parker  
Cherry Lane Alternative, 2003, Director Suzanne Agins  
Williamstown Theatre Festival, 2004, Director Suzanne Agins

***Stadium 360*** (full-length play)  
(created with the ensemble Out of Hand Theater Company)

Productions:

Out of Hand Theater Company, 2009, Director Adam Fristoe

***Memorabilia*** (Collision Project 2007)

(A commission from the Alliance Theatre to devise a young-adult play in collaboration with a company of Atlanta high school students.)

Presentation:

Alliance Theatre Company, 2008, Director Rosemary Newcott

Productions

Atlanta high schools tour, 2009, Director Rosemary Newcott

***Richard Aiken*** (full-length play, a free adaptation of *Tartuffe*)

Workshop production:

Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre, Directors/Playwrights Lab, 2004, Dir. Suzanne Agins

**Produced one-act plays:**

***Covenant (or Bagels and Butchery)***

(A commission in response to the Pew Research Center study titled "A Portrait of Jewish Americans" -- a major report about the changing Jewish identity in America.)

Productions:

City Theatre (winner of City Theatre's National Short Play Contest), June 2018, director Jessica Farr.

Theatre Brut, NJ Repertory Company, October 2018, director Suzanne Agins

Presentation:

*Pewish* -- "artists responding to the new Jewish identity", Judson Memorial Church, 2014.

Reading:

Sewanee Writers Conference, Guest Artist reading.

Honors:

Winner, City Theatre's National Short Play Contest.

Finalist for Actors Theatre of Louisville's Heideman Award as part of the National 10-minute play contest.

Publication:

Blackbird, Smith and Kraus

***Welcome to the Life and I Hate Lacrosse!***

*Commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville.*

Productions:

Humana Festival of New American Plays, Anthology Project, 2008, Director  
Will McAdams.

Miami University Dept. of Theatre, 2010, Director Andy Gibb

Publication:

Playscripts, Inc.

***The Pujols Plan***

*Commissioned by Milesquare Theatre for inaugural "7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch: short works  
about the American Pastime."*

Production:

Milesquare Theatre, 2012, Dir Charles McCarthy

***Nude in Front of the Garden***

Productions:

Dad's Garage, Atlanta, 2007, Director Lauren Gundarson

Williamstown Theatre Festival After-Hours, 2005, Director Suzanne Agins

Reading:

Sewanee Writers Conference, Guest Artist reading.

Honors:

Finalist for Actors Theatre of Louisville's Heideman Award as part of the  
National 10-minute play contest.

Publication:

Blackbird

***Mountaineer***

Production:

InspiraTO Theatre Festival (Toronto), June 2018.

Theatre Brut Festival of the Arts, New Jersey Repertory Company, October  
2017, director Suzanne Agins

Reading:

Sewanee Writers Conference, Guest Artist reading.

Publication:

Smith & Krauss, Blackbird

**Creative work in process:**

*seal boy* (full-length play)

Workshop:

American Academy of Dramatic Arts Mainstage Live, fully-staged workshop,  
Director Jessica Holt (upcoming, Jan-Feb 2018)

Readings:

Keen Company, 2016, director Mark Armstrong  
PWC Core Writers workshop, 2017, director Jason Ballweber

Developed with:

Keen Company's Writer's Lab  
Lark Play Development Center's "Monthly Meeting of the Minds".

Honors:

Finalist: O'Neill National Playwrights Conference

*Spin Moves* (full-length play)

Workshops and readings:

Ignition Festival, Victory Gardens Theatre, Aug. 2017, Director Devon de Mayo.  
Theatre Lab at FAU, 2016, Director Matt Stabile.  
New Harmony Project, (as Writer-in-Residence), 2016, Director Ken Weitzman  
Arena Stage, 2004, Director Wendy Goldberg.  
Bay Area Playwrights Festival, 2003, Director Larissa Kokernot.  
Summer Play Festival NYC, 2005, Director Suzanne Agins

*Get Thorpe* (full-length play)

Workshops and readings:

Playwrights Week, Lark Play Development Center, 2011, Director Evan  
Yionoulis

*Reclamation* (full-length play)

Workshops and readings:

National Playwrights Festival, 2015, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, 2012,  
director Lisa Peterson.  
Lark Play Development Center, Roundtable, 2012, director Lisa Rothe

***Coney Island Wedding*** (full-length musical)  
*Commissioned by South Coast Repertory.*

National Award:

The Elizabeth George Commission for an Outstanding Emerging Playwright.

**Commissions:**

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
Actors Theatre of Louisville  
Theatre Emory  
Alliance Theatre  
Arena Stage  
South Coast Repertory Theatre  
Stony Brook University  
Milesquare Theatre  
Pew-ish, Schusterman Family Foundation.

**Television:**

***Reclamation*** – an original television pilot (adapted from the play).

In-progress, developed with TV and Screenwriter Karl Gajdusek (executive producer of Stranger Things and Last Resort).

***Swappin' Paint***

Co-wrote nationally syndicated, one-hour television special on the history of NASCAR. Aired on WABC, 1998.

***Totally Kids' Sports***

Assistant writer for Ace Award-winning half-hour television show. Aired on Nickelodeon, 1993.

***National Basketball Association Entertainment***

Freelance writer for home video projects, 1993-1994.

**Awards, Honors, and Fellowships**

- L. Arnold Weissberger Award Winner
- Core Writer, Playwrights Center of Minneapolis
- Co-winner of the Mario Fratti-Frederick Newman Political Playwriting Contest
- TCG Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award
- Selected for the 2012 and 2015 Eugene O'Neill Theatre National Playwrights Conference.
  - *One of only 5 writers in last decade who've had plays chosen twice for the Conference.*
- Selected as a 2009 and 2016 New Harmony Project Playwright-in-Residence.
- Playwright-in-Residence for Out of Hand Theatre Company, 2009-11.



- Chosen as a founding member of Alliance Theatre's Atlanta Playwrights Lab. 2007-8
- Chosen for the Theresa Rebeck / Dorset Theatre Festival / Lark summer retreat. 2014
- Selected for Page-73 Production's Summer Writer's Fellowship, Yale University, 2007
- Finalist for: the Princess Grace Award, the Heideman Award (four times), and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Playwriting Award.

## **TEACHING**

### **Stony Brook University**

*Assistant Professor of Dramatic Writing, Department of Theatre Arts and the Program in Writing and Rhetoric (Fall 2014-present)*

#### **Honors and awards:**

Stony Brook University College of Arts and Sciences Godfrey Teaching Excellence Award 2016

One of five chosen out of 200 nominated faculty.

Selected as an honorary member of the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Asked to deliver keynote address at new inductee ceremony, 2016.

#### **Courses taught:**

**Playwriting**, THE 326/WRT302/ENG387, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2018

Introduction to principles of playwriting: structure, character, dialogue, and conflict.

**Advanced Playwriting**, WRT302, Spring 2017.

Expansion on principles of playwriting with a focus on writing two longer one-act plays to create a full-length evening of theatre.

**Student New Works Festival**, THE 484, Spring 2017

Advanced work on creation, performance, and production in theatre, culminating in a Student Festival production.

**Introduction to Screenwriting**, THR 326, Fall 2018

Introduction to principles of screenwriting: visual storytelling, structure, action, character, dialogue.

**Senior Seminar**, THR401, Fall 2016

Theatre Arts majors apply their four years of classroom and production work in developing an artistic vision, a plan for their transition to a career beyond college, and a creative project they can take out into the profession.

**Documentary Theatre Writing**, THR 326, Fall 2015

Creating ensemble-generated plays using interview-based, documentary theatre techniques. Taught in collaboration with Distinguished Professor, E. Ann Kaplan.

**The Theatre of Baseball**, Spring 2016, THR207 (*newly created course*)

Looking at the American Pastime through the lens of theatre and performance.

**Text Analysis**, THR104, Fall 2015

A close reading of plays of different periods and styles and a general examination of the elements from which plays are made and performed.

## **Introduction to Theatre, THR101, Spring 2015**

An exploration of theatre, what's unique about it, who works in it, and how it's made.

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

### **Head of Graduate Dramatic Writing Program (2011-2014)**

*Assistant Professor of Dramatic Writing, Department of Theatre and Drama*

*Designed new curriculum, recruited students, started, curated, and co-produced a new play festival, "At First Sight", featuring MFA Playwrights' work in full productions.*

### **Graduate courses taught:**

#### **Graduate Playwriting Seminar (new courses):**

Spring 2013: Beyond boundaries. Stretching the aesthetic.

Fall, 2012: Revising the full-length play.

Spring, 2012: New Play Process; theory and practice of new full-length play creation.

Fall, 2011: Creating a Professional Profile.

#### **Writing for Television (new course):**

Spring, 2013: A writing for television survey, including ½-hr sitcom, hour-long episodic, spec scripts, spec pilots, as well as the practical workings of the industry.

#### **Graduate Playwriting Topics (new courses):**

*Teaching Playwriting*, Fall, 2011, Spring 2012:

(guided mentorship and readings on practice and theory of teaching playwriting to undergraduates.)

*New Play Workshop*, Spring 2012: (collaboration with BFA Musical Theatre Students on short plays with music and dance.)

### **Undergraduate courses taught:**

#### **Playwriting I, T453, Fall 2011**

Introduction to principles of playwriting: structure, character, dialogue, conflict.

#### **Playwriting II, T454, Spring 2012**

Writing one-acts; workshop on writing and revising companion one-act plays.

#### **Screenwriting, T458, Fall 2012**

Introduction to the principles of screenwriting and story design.

**Full-time Visiting Assistant Professor, IU Dept. of Theatre and Drama, 2008-2010**

**Playwriting I**, TH453, Fall 2008, '09, '10, Spring 2009, '10.

**Playwriting II**, TH454, Spring 2010

**Documentary Theatre** (Joint Stock method), TH483, Spring 2009, Fall 2010  
(awarded an IU Themester grant)  
Creating ensemble-generated plays using interview-based, documentary theatre techniques.

**Introduction to Screenwriting**, TH458, Fall 2008, '09  
Introduction to the principles of screenwriting and story design.

## **EMORY UNIVERSITY**

**Visiting Instructor, Dept. of Theatre Studies / Dept. of English, 2007-8**

**Intermediate Playwriting**, THEA372/ENG 372, Spring 2007, Fall 2007

**Intermediate Screenwriting**, ENG378/FILM402, Spring 2008  
Analysis and creation of the feature length screenplay.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**

**Faculty Fellow, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, UCSD, Spring 2003-Spring 2005**

*The UC Faculty Fellowship is a two-year University of California teaching and research fellowship (one of only six Fellows chosen campus-wide.) Faculty Fellows are chosen on promise for excellence in both teaching and research.*

**Great Performances on Film**, THGE 11, Spring 2005

Great acting performances in sports films, acting theory, as well as the "performance" of the sport itself and its societal implications. Gave weekly lectures to a 300-student class. Managed three graduate student readers.

**Intermediate Playwriting**, THPW 101, Winter 2005

Included the supervision of four sections and three graduate student Teaching Assistants.

**Introduction to Playwriting**, THPW1, Fall 2003, Fall 2004

Included the supervision of nine sections and four graduate student TAs.

**Writing for Television, the One-Hour Drama**, THPW 105, Spring 2004

Included the supervision of four sections and two graduate student TAs.

**Joint Stock Method**, THPW 108, Winter 2004

Documentary theatre technique/creating devised theatre. Students received upper division credit in playwriting and acting.

**Introduction to Screenwriting**, THPW 104, Summer 2003

**Lecturer/Visiting Instructor, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, 2005-2006**

**Documentary Theatre, Joint Stock Method**, THPW 108/THAC 108, Fall 2005

Documentary theatre technique/creating devised theatre. Students received upper division credit in playwriting and acting.

**Intermediate Playwriting**, THPW 101, Winter 2006

Included supervising four sections and three graduate student Teaching Assistants (TAs).

**Writing for Television (One-Hour Drama)**, THPW 105, Spring 2006

Course emphasized concepts, craft, and the creation of original spec scripts. Supervised four sections and three graduate student TAs.

**Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Theatre and Dance, UCSD, Fall 2000-Spring 2003**

**Honor:**

Teaching Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Undergraduate Instruction awarded by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

*(TAs taught autonomously, working within the syllabus created by the supervising Professor.)*

**Introduction to Television Writing (Sitcom)**, THPW 105, Spring 2003

**Intermediate Playwriting**, THPW 101, Winter 2003.

**Advanced Playwriting Seminar**, THPW 102, Fall 2002

**Introduction to Playwriting**, THPW 1, Fall 2000, Fall 2001, Fall 2002

**Introduction to Theatre**, THGE 1, Spring 2002

**Introduction to Screenwriting**, THPW 104, Spring 2002

**Cult Films**, THGE 124, Winter 2001, 2002, Summer 2001, 2002

**The Films of Woody Allen**, THE 125, Summer 2002, 2003

**GUEST ARTIST, PLAYWRITING WORKSHOPS, AND MASTER CLASSES:**

**Sewanee Writers Conference** – Guest Artist reading.

**Sewanee Writers Conference** – co-lead 2-week workshop with Naomi Iizuka, 2016

**Notre Dame University** – guest artist master class, 2013

**Butler University** – (sponsored by New Harmony Project, master classes co-lead with Mead Hunter and Paul Walsh, master class, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

**University of West Georgia**, master class, 2007

**National Theatre Institute** at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, masterclass, 2015

**Indiana Repertory Theatre Conservatory**, 3-week workshop for young playwrights, 2010

**Heartland Theatre Company**, contest judge, master class, keynote speaker, 2009

**Horizon Theatre**, mentor and masterclass, 2007

**Actors Express Theatre**, 2-wk workshop for apprentice company, 2006

**Playwrights Project of San Diego**, playwriting workshops for young playwrights, 2002

**La Jolla Playhouse Summer Institute**, 2-wk playwriting workshop for young playwrights, 2001

**Old Globe Theatre**, playwriting workshop for young playwrights, 2001

**Young Playwrights, Inc.**, playwriting workshops and teacher trainings, 1999-2000

## **SERVICE**

### **National:**

The New Harmony Project: Board Member and Chair of Script Selection, Aug. 2009 – 2015. Artistic Director Search Committee (2012, 2017).

Lark Play Development Center, Environmental Justice roundtable, 2016-17

Artistic Council for the Eugene O'Neill's National Playwrights Conference selection process, 2016.

Student Playwrights Workshop, National Theatre Institute, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, 2015

Fratti-Newman Political Play contest script evaluator, 2012.

Lark Play Development Center, Jerome grant proposal evaluator, 2011, 2012.

Advisory Board Member, Bloomington Playwrights Project, June 2009 - 2012.

Board Member, The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington, Aug. 2009 - 2013.

Judge and Visiting Playwright, Midwest Play Competition, Heartland Theatre, May 2009.

### **Stony Brook University**

College of Arts and Sciences AHLSS Visiting Artist Series Committee, 2014-current

Red Carpet Day presenter, 2015, 2016

Admitted Students Day presenter, 2015, 2016

**Stony Brook University, Department of Theatre Arts.**

Curriculum Committee, 2014-present

Production Committee, 2014-present

Promotion, Marketing, Website and Alumni Relations Committee, 2014-present.

**Indiana University Committees, 2011-2014:**

Wells Scholars Program and Scholarship – applicant interviewer.

Theatre and Drama Faculty Search Committee (3 separate searches).

Theatre and Drama Faculty Advisory Committee.

Theatre and Drama Awards Committee.

**OTHER THEATRE POSITIONS**

**Education Director/Literary Manager: Young Playwrights Inc. (YPI): June 1999 - September 2000**

*YPI is the only professional theater company in the United States devoted solely to the work of writers aged eighteen or younger.*

Oversaw and managed YPI's National Playwriting Contest and New York City Playwriting Contest, which included: hiring and overseeing a twenty-person freelance staff of script readers; soliciting and managing over one thousand plays; leading an evaluation committee made up of top New York theatre professionals.

Led Teacher Training Institute - intensive workshops training high school teachers, playwrights, and theatre educators to teach playwriting and to incorporate it into a multidisciplinary curriculum.

Taught playwriting to grades 4-12 in New York City public and private schools.

Marketed, planned, and coordinated all YPI residencies in NYC and regionally.

**The Non-Traditional Casting Project - Dir., Artist Files Online: 1998 – 1999**  
*(Organization now called Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts.)*

*Not-for-profit advocacy organization established to address and seek solutions to the problems of racism and exclusion in theatre, film, and television.*

Managed, edited, and expanded the scope of national online talent bank of artists of color and artists with disabilities.

**Actor**

Voice work for several books on tape, including CASINO (Simon and Schuster) by Nick Pileggi, with Ron Leibman and Joe Grifasi.

Training: Atlantic Theater Company.