

**GARY M. ENGLISH**  
**Stage Directing and Design - Theatre and Human Rights**

Department of Drama  
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**Faculty and Administrative Appointments:**

Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Drama, awarded by the University of Connecticut, Spring 2005. Associate Faculty, Human Rights Institute, 2006 to present. Current teaching includes: Theater and Human Rights, Stage Directing (Theory and practice) Greek Drama, Acting, Dramatic Literature including Modern and Contemporary Drama.

Visiting Professor of Media Studies, Al Quds/Bard College, Al Quds University, Abu Dis, Palestine, Jan. 2017 - June 2018. Head of Media Studies, 2017 - 2018. Taught courses in Media and Performance theory, Theatre and Human Rights, Politics of Dramatic Form, Acting and Devised Theatre. Led expansion of facilities including design and execution of new Media Lab, and led degree certification efforts for Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education.

Head, Department of Dramatic Arts. School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut, January 1993 to June 1999, August 2000-2009. Provided administrative oversight and guidance to 21 full and part-time faculty, nine permanent production and management staff, serving over 100 undergraduates and 40 graduate students, and operating the Connecticut Repertory Theater. Articulated educational and artistic vision of the Department and Connecticut Repertory Theater.

Interim Dean, School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut, July 1999 to July 2000  
Provided leadership and oversight to professional school with 55 full-time and over 80 part-time faculty in three academic departments: Art and Art History, Dramatic Arts and Music. The School of Fine Arts has four additional constituent units: The Benton Museum of Art, Von Der Mehden Recital Hall, Connecticut Repertory Theater, and Jorgensen Auditorium, a presenting venue bringing internationally-known artists to the university.

Professor of Theater Studies, Department of Dramatic Arts, University of Connecticut, Sept. 1992 to Present.

- Director of Scene Design Studies, Associate Professor, 1988-1992.
- Assistant Professor of Stage Design, Dept. of Drama, Carnegie Mellon University, 1982-1988.
- Freelance stage designer, New York City, 1980 – 1982.
- Assistant Professor of Theater, SUNY Geneseo, 1977 – 1980.

## Artistic Direction:

### Artistic Director, The Freedom Theatre, West Bank Palestine, May 2012 – June 2013.

Led rebuilding of artistic infrastructure of The Freedom Theatre, including establishment of production scheduling, project development and program initiatives in student recruitment, artistic team building and long-range planning. Directed artistic activity including the building of several new productions, and touring initiatives throughout the West Bank and abroad.

Led efforts in collaborations with Italian Consulate, Institute Français, the University of São Paulo, Brazil, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and various West Bank Arts institutions, including Ashtar Theatre in Ramallah, Al Harrah in Beit Jala and YES Theatre, in Hebron.

### Artistic Director, Connecticut Repertory Theater, 1992 to 2009.

- Founded Connecticut Repertory Theater in 1993 as Professional Theater in Residence at the University of Connecticut.
- Directed artistic operations and produced over 90 CRT productions, from 1993-2009. Negotiated year-round Equity contract defining CRT as year-round professional theater.
- Began new play development project including workshops and commissions with Migdalia Cruz and Susan Booth. Created CRT Playwrights Lab, summer 1998, to workshop new plays in partnership with other theaters (Long Wharf, Goodman, Steppenwolf, and the Pioneer Theater Company in Salt Lake City.

### Selected Directing Assignments::

<i>Antigone</i> , a new adaptation based on the play by Sophocles, CRT.	2021
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> , by Frank Galati, CRT	2018
<i>Antigone's Notebook</i> , devised ensemble piece, Al Quds University, Abu Dis, West Bank Palestine	2017
<i>Olives and Blood</i> , by Michael Bradford, CRT	2014
<i>The Island</i> , by Athol Fugard John Kani and Winston Ntshona, The Freedom Theatre, Jenin Camp	2013
Subsequent international tours: U.S., Sweden, Norway, Brazil, India and France.	2013 - 2015
<i>On The Razzle</i> , By Tom Stoppard, Clarence Brown Theater, Knoxville, Tennessee	2013
<i>Side By Side By Sondheim</i> , By Stephen Sondheim, Berkshire Theatre Festival	2005
<i>The Miracle Worker</i> , by William Gibson, Berkshire Theatre Festival	2004
<i>American Primitive</i> , By William Gibson, Berkshire Theatre Festival	2003

### At Connecticut Repertory Theater

<i>Death and the Maiden</i> , by Ariel Dorfman	2023
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> , by Frank Galati	2018
<i>The Life of Galileo</i> , by Bertolt Brecht	2011
<i>A Man For All Seasons</i> , by Robert Bolt	2008
<i>Pentecost</i> , by David Edgar	2007
<i>Jonah's Dream</i> , A world premiere by William Gibson	2006
<i>Julius Caesar</i> , by William Shakespeare	2005
<i>A Cry of Players</i> , by William Gibson	2004
<i>Sweeney Todd</i> , Stephen Sondheim with Robert DuSold, 2003	
<i>Candide</i> , music by Leonard Bernstein, with Dale Hensley, Christopher Eid, Pam	2001

Winslow, Jan Neuberger

<b><i>Wings, The Musical</i></b> by Jeffrey Lunden/Arthur Perlman, (based on Arthur Kopit play) with Florence Lacey	2001
<b><i>Our Country's Good</i></b> , by Timberlake Watermaker	2001
<b><i>West Side Story</i></b> , with Dan Cooney and Cindy Marchionda	2000
<b><i>A Little Night Music</i></b> , with Florence Lacey	1999
<b><i>Man of La Mancha</i></b> , with Howard Pinhasik and Deborah Tranelli (received <u>Connecticut Critics' Circle Award for Best Production of a Musical</u> , 1997-98 season. <u>Nominated for Best Director.</u> )	1997

### **Selected Professional Design Assignments:**

**REGIONAL REPERTORY THEATRE** Scenic and costume design for over 90 productions:  
**Peterborough Players**, *Man of La Mancha*, directed by Charles Morey, August, 2024.  
**San Francisco Playhouse**, *Red Velvet*, by Lolita Shakrapati, Scenery and Projections, 2016.  
**Milwaukee Repertory Theater**  
**Berkshire Theatre Festival** (four productions)  
**Studio Arena Theater**, Buffalo (two productions)  
**Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park**  
**Repertory Theatre of St. Louis** (two productions)  
**Pioneer Theater Company**, Salt Lake City (twenty-three productions)  
**Pittsburgh Public Theater** (seven productions)  
**Merrimack Repertory Theater**, Lowell, Massachusetts (eighteen productions)  
**American Stage Festival**, Milford, New Hampshire (six productions)  
**George St. Playhouse**, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
**North Shore Music Theater**, Beverly, Massachusetts (five productions)  
**Brunswick Music Theater**, now Maine State Theatre (six productions)

### **West Bank Theatre Selected Professional Activities:**

- Artistic Associate and Consultant, The Freedom Theatre, Jenin Camp, 2013 to present.
- Guest Faculty, PARC, Instructor in scenography, Al Harrah Theatre, Beit Jala, summer, 2015.
- Guest Faculty, Acting, Freedom Theatre, September – December 2014.
- Designer, for *The Station*, and *Beit Jasmine*, Ashtar Theatre, Ramallah, 2011, 2012.

### **Publications:**

- *Theatre and Human Rights: The Politics of Dramatic Form*. London: Routledge, 2024.
- *Stories under Occupation and other Plays from Palestine*, co-edited with Samer Al-Saber, Seagull Press/University of Chicago, 2020.
- Book Chapter: "Palestinian Theatre: Alienation, Mediation and Assimilation in Cross Cultural Research and Practice" in *Arab Performance and Politics*. Edited by George Potter, Roaa Ali and Samer Al-Saber, Routledge, 2024.
- Book Chapter: *Hazbara and Mirimia: Satire, Nostalgia and Documentary Theatre as Popular Culture in Palestine*, in *The Routledge Handbook of Popular Culture in the Middle East*. Edited by Caroline Rooney and Anastasia Valassapoulos, forthcoming, 2025.
- Book Chapter: "Artistic Practice and Production at The Freedom Theatre: The Interpenetration of the Personal and Political" in *Theater and the Middle East Between Performance and Politics*. Edited by Babak Rahimi, Anthem Press, 2020.

- Book Chapter: "The Freedom Theatre in the International Realm" in *The Freedom Theatre: Performing Cultural Resistance in Palestine*. Edited by Ola Johansson and Johanna Wallin, LeftWord Books, 2017.
- Essay and Review: *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, "Alive from Palestine: Other Places." 2017.
- Essay, *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, "American Theatre and Palestine." 2016.
- Conference Paper: *The BDS Movement as influenced by Micro-Political Geography and Artistic Activity in Palestine*. American Society of Theatre Research, Washington, D.C., November 2020.
- Conference Paper: *Antigone's Notebook: Mythic Archetypes in Palestinian Theatre and Public life*. American Society of Theatre Research, Washington, D.C., November 2020.
- Conference Paper: *Palestinian Theatre: Alienation, Mediation and Assimilation in Cross Cultural Research and Practice*. American Society of Theatre Research, Washington, D.C. November 2019.
- Conference paper: "Hecuba in Palestine." Middle East Theatre Conference, University of California San Diego, January, 2014.
- Journal Publication: "Dramatics of Conflict: an Interview with James Thompson" *Chance Magazine*, Issue 3, January 2014.
- Festival Program Essay: "The Making of Political Theatre," Euro-nation and Varcenefest, (Political Theatre Festival,) Tormso, Norway, May 2014.
- *The Paper Thin Underpinnings to Peace: Occupation and Intifada in 2014*. Counterpunch, July 2014.

#### **Guest Lectures:**

- *Theatre as Resistance and Social Practice*. Stanford University Department of Drama, 2024.
- *Theatre and Human Rights: The Politics of Dramatic Form*. Gladstein Family Institute for Human Rights: Arts and Human Research Cluster inaugural event. Uconn, April, 2022.
- Workshop and Lectures on Palestinian theatre with Samer Al-Saber, University of Texas, Austin School of Theatre and Dance. 2018.
- Lecture: "The Freedom Theatre, and Artistic Resistance." Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University, April 2013.
- Lecture: "Hecuba in Palestine: Unresolved Trauma and Empathy in an Asymmetrical Conflict" University of Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2013

#### **Selected Professional Activities and Awards:**

- President, University Resident Theater Association, (URTA) Term 2000-2002, and 2002-2004. Vice President, 1996-2000. Board of Directors, July 1994 - 2008..
- Paul Tsongas Award, Fifteenth Anniversary Award for most important contributing artist to the Merrimack Repertory Theater, Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration, September 1993.
- Pittsburgh Drama Critics for Best Design 1986, for two productions, *Sunday in the Park with George*, at Pittsburgh Public Theater, and *The Odyssey*.
- Two nominations for Best Direction, Connecticut Drama Critics Circle, for *Wings*, 2001 *Man of La Mancha*, 1998.
- Best Production of a Musical, Connecticut Drama Critics, for *Man of La Mancha*, 1998.
- Best Production of a Musical, Boston Drama Critics, for *A little Night Music*, 1991.
- Special Faculty Achievement Award: Development of "Humanities Day", School of Fine Arts, Humanities Institute, University of Connecticut 2005.
- Best Scene Design, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Awards, *Red Velvet*, San Francisco Playhouse, 2016.

### **Institution Peer Reviews, and Consulting Site Visits:**

- Pennsylvania State University School of Theatre.
- Northwestern University Department of Theatre,
- University of Wisconsin, Department of Theatre.
- Purdue University Department of Theatre.
- Southern Methodist University Department of Theatre
- Louisiana State University, Swine Palace Productions.
- Memphis State University Department of Theatre,
- University of Nebraska, Department of Theatre.
- University of Virginia Department of Theatre.
- Emerson University School of Theatre.

### **Academic/Professional Training:**

- 1970-74 University of Arizona, Department of Dramatic Arts. BFA in Drama, May 1974.
- 1974-77 Northwestern University, Department of Theater. MFA, Stage Design, Jan. 1979.
- 2013 *Working with Traumatized Populations*, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC. Four-day workshop course.
- 2015 *Mediation in Conflict Zones*, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC. Six-week online course.
- 2013 *Drama Therapy for Adolescents*, Creative Alternatives of New York (CANY). Two-day workshop.

### **Grants:**

Numerous grants through the UCONN Research Foundation, School of Fine Arts and Human Rights Institute for research in theater in human rights in Palestine, including travel and field research in theater and politics in the West Bank and the effects of theater within refugee populations, 2011 – 2015.

Numerous grants in new play development through the CRT Playwrights Lab, and partner external grants dating back to 1998 and totaling over \$80,000. External support grants for new play development from several partner institutions, including the Long Wharf Theater, Steppenwolf Theater Co. in Chicago, the Pioneer Theater Co. in Salt Lake City and the Bushnell Center for the Performing arts, The Clarence Brown Theater.

### **FUNDED GRANT LIST AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

#### University of Connecticut funded Research and Teaching Grants:

- *Theatre and Human Rights: The Politics of Dramatic Form*. School of Fine Arts Research Grant, Fall, 2023.
- *Theatre and Human Rights: The Politics of Dramatic Form*. Human Rights Institute Faculty grant competition, Spring, 2021.
- *Stage Direction of the Caretaker*, by Harold Pinter, adapted and translated by Nabil Alraee and Gary M. English, Freedom Theatre, Jenin Refugee Camp, West Bank Palestine. Research Faculty Grant Competition: \$1,500.00, July 2012,
- *Theater and Human Rights: The Arab/Israeli Conflict*. Research and travel grant: UCONN Research Faculty Grant Competition. \$1,500.00, April, 2012.
- *Theater and Human Rights: The Arab/Israeli Conflict*. Research and travel grant: UCONN Research Faculty Grant Competition. \$2,550.00, December, 2011

- *Theater, Public Discourse and Human Rights in The Middle East*. Research and travel grant: UCONN Research Faculty Grant Competition. 1,000.00, June, 2011.
- *Theater, Public Discourse and Human Rights in The Middle East*. Research and travel grant: School of Fine Arts Dean, Faculty Competition. 2,000.00, December, 2011.
- *Theater as Public Discourse in Israel and Palestine*. Study and Travel Grant: Global Education Grant Competition, Division of International Affairs, \$3000.00, July 2010.
- *Shackleton and the Office*, Split Knuckle Theater Ensemble. New play development grant: UCONN Research Faculty Grant Competition. \$6,250.00, June, 2010.
- *The Olive Grove* by Gary English. Workshop development of a New Play in partnership with the Clarence Brown Theater: UCONN Research Faculty Grant Competition. \$4,447.50, January, 2007.
- *The Olive Grove*, by Gary English. Script preparation grant: UCONN Research Faculty Grant competition. \$1,000.00. September, 2006.
- *Eastville*, by Ellen Lewis. New play development grant. UCONN Research Faculty Grant competition. \$6,790.00. World premiere production, June, 2004, CRT.

**Affiliations:**

Full Member United Scenic Artists of America, Local 829.

National Theater Conference, elected, 2001.

Associate Member, Dramatists Guild.

American Society of Theatre Research (ASTR)

International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR)