

Tekki Lomnicki

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Vision

To shatter barriers between the disabled and non-disabled worlds through the transformative power of personal story.

Performance

1989-Present

Solo Performance

(1994 & 1995) *When Heck Was a Puppy: The Living Testimonies of Folk Artist Edna Mae Brice*; (1995) *Archetype* in *Activities of Daily Living* for Remains Theater; (1996) *Thanksgiving in Honor Thy Mother*; (1996) *Alchemy* at Blue Rider Theater; (1997) *Tall Tales and Small Miracles* at Live Bait Theater and St. Charles Arts & Music Festival; (1999 & 2000) *Paper Doll* and *Let the Dead Rest* in *Genetic Material* at Live Bait Theater; (2001) *Precious and Few* in *2001: A Wedding Odyssey* at Live Bait Theater; (2002) *Wally* in *Sibling Revelry* at Prop Thtr; (2003) *The Quartermaster's Daughter* in *Detours* at Victory Gardens Theater; (2004-2009) *Blurred Vision* at Live Bait Theater, Second City, Acorn Theater, Loyola Hospital and Power of Nursing Leadership Conference; (2006) *Clothing Optional* in *Body Language* at Live Bait Theater; (2007) *Striptease* in *Shrink* at Live Bait Theater; (2008) *Saints and Sinners* in *Potholes on the Path to Enlightenment*; (2009) *Love in the Time of Facebook* at Prop Thtr; (2010) *Mr. Sandman* in *Midsummer Night's Dreamers* at Prop Thtr; (2012) *Memories at Sea* in *Bad Trips* at Prop Thtr; (2013) *How the Cubs Saved My Life* in *Bases Loaded* at Prop Thtr; (2014) *Hungry Heart* in *Food for Thought* at Prop Thtr; (2015) *Baggage Handler* in *Phobias* at Prop Thtr; (2016) *You Damn Kids* in *Classroom Drama* at Prop Thtr.

Theater

(1989) Ruth Horwitz in *Passing On* at Blue Rider Theater; (1993) Created the role of Queen Elizabeth in *Twisted Richard* at Blue Rider Theater; (1998-present) Various roles in Tellin' Tales Theatre's *Six Stories Up* series; FREEDOM out of Order with the Lyric Opera Chicago Voices Program.

Film

(1997) *Parade*, short film written and produced by Susan Nussbaum; (2005) *The Miracle*, award-winning film by Jeffrey Jon Smith (www.themiraclemovie.com).

Artistic Direction • Teaching • Facilitation

- 1996-Present **Artistic Director/Tellin' Tales Theatre**
Produce, write, direct and perform critically acclaimed plays and solo performances for this not-for-profit theater company. Oversee grant writing, manage budgets, plan seasons, hire staff and work with a twelve person board of directors. Facilitate storytelling workshops for corporations, hospitals and schools such as La Rabida and Loyola Hospitals, Lekotek, the Mobius Syndrome Association and the Girl Scouts of America.
- 2017 **Children's Hospital Storytelling Program**
Developed a storytelling program for children recovering from chronic illnesses in Chicago hospitals. In the process of training a teaching staff.
- 2016 **Lyric Opera Chicago Voices Program**
Community lead for this 16-week program. A team of 11 Tellin' Tales writer/actors worked with Lyric professionals to create a musical performed at the Harris Theatre.
- 2015-Present **EveryBODY Has a Story Solo Performance Workshop**
Developed and facilitates a six-week writing/performance workshop exclusively for adults with disabilities that culminates in a three evening show called "Diversity."
- 2012 **Bodies of Work Performance Workshop**
Facilitated a six-week workshop for artists with disabilities in conjunction with Bodies of Work, a network of artists and organizations dedicated to illuminate the disability experience in new and unexpected ways. The workshop culminated in a showcase at Access Living.
- 1997-2008 **Gallery 37/After School Matters Connections Program**
Developed curriculum for and facilitated after-school storytelling and radio drama workshops for Chicago Public school children with and without disabilities.
- 1998-Present **Six Stories Up Mentoring Program/Tellin' Tales Theatre**
Produce, direct, write and perform in this annual program involving Chicago storytellers and middle school children. The cast and crew are made up of people with and without disabilities from all walks of life and neighborhoods. The program culminates in a performance at a professional theater.

- August 2005-2011 **It's All About Me: How to Write Your Own Solo Performance**
Victory Gardens Theater, Prop Theater.
- Spring 1999 **Playwrighting for Teenagers/VSA Chicago**
Developed and taught a ten week workshop involving teens with and without disabilities.
- Winter 1997 **Teen Mothers Mentoring Program/Live Bait Theatre**
Teens from the Madonna St. Joseph Center were mentored by four playwrights/performance artists to express their personal stories.
- Summers
1995-1996 **Magic City Theatre Camps**
Tellin' Tales Theatre, under the direction of Tekki Lomnicki formed this pilot camp for kids with and without disabilities. The seven and eight week camps staffed by local theatre professionals culminated in performances by the children at the Magic City Theatre Festival at the Chicago Children's Museum.
- April 1994 **Artist's Development Workshop/The Access Project/Remains Theater.** Taught this six week workshop for actors and playwrights with disabilities with Susan Nussbaum.

Community Support

- 2000-Present **Inclusion Committee Old St. Mary's Church**
- 2013-2016 **District 6 Vice President of Little People of America**

Honors

- 2016 York Community High School Dukes of Distinction
- 2014 Dan Van Hecke Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to the Disability Community
- 2010 The Grigsby Award for Excellence in Solo Performance
- 2008 3Arts Artist Award Recipient in Theater
- 2008 Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship Finalist in New Performance Forms
- 2004 Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship in New Performance Forms
- 2001 Carol Gill Award for Arts and Advocacy from the Progress Center
- 1998 Gargoyle Award from the Council for Disability Rights
- 1998 Caritas Veritas Award from Dominican University
- 1993 Awarded Regional Artists' Project Grant from the NEA
- 1994 & 1995 Awarded Ragdale Foundation Residencies
- 1994 Named One of the 100 Women Making a Difference in Chicago by Today's Chicago Woman