

Eliot Feenstra

(647) 784 3884 – feen@yorku.ca - Toronto, ON

EDUCATION

York University - MA in Theatre & Performance Studies (expected graduation in June 2018)

Portland State University - MFA in Art & Social Practice (in process; attended 2016 - 2017)

Relevant Coursework: History of Art & Social Practice; Contemporary Art II (Art & Politics); Teaching Visual Culture; Topics in Contemporary Art (Ethics in Social Practice); Community Economic Development; Systems Thinking

The University of Chicago - BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities:

Linguistics, Anthropology & Performance (2006 - 2010)

Relevant Coursework: Staging Terror; Bodies, Space & Motion: Integrating Physical Practice in Performance; Problems in the Study of Sexuality; The Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality; After Great Pain; Ethnographic Methods; Visual Language; Language, Inequality and Symbolic Power

Ford Foundation/Rural Development Initiative Leadership Training - Cave Junction, OR (2015-2016)

Sacred Leadership Training - SOMASpace, Portland, OR (2015-2016)

Theatre of the Oppressed Facilitator Intensive - Mandala Institute, Port Townsend, WA (2014)

Jefferson County Farming Innovation, Education & Leadership Development - Port Townsend, WA (2011)

Other select coursework:

Dreambody Seminars (Giovanni Fusetti, The Process Work Institute)

Intensives (Keith Hennessy, TaborSpace/Portland State University & Synapsis Studio)

Butoh Series (Mizu Desierto, The Headwaters)

Intergenerational & Intermediate Modern Dance (Gina Angelique, dancefarm)

Bouffon Intensive (Nathaniel Justiano)

Theatre for Civic Practice (Michael Rohd, Reed College)

Butoh Intensive (Diego Pinon, Synapsis Studio)

Contact Improvisation Intensive (Karl Frost, Synapsis Studio)

Contemporary Dance Intensive (Sara Shelton Mann, Synapsis Studio)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ARTS & EDUCATION

Facilitator - Oregon Humanities, Portland, OR

Private Tutor - ClubZ Tutoring, Portland, OR

Lead Arts Integration Teacher & Sequential Education Teacher - RiverStars Performing Arts Studio to School Program, Cave Junction, OR

Teacher - SUN Art/Science Nature Camp, Rusk Ranch Nature Center, Cave Junction, OR

Teacher & Youth Advocate - Kairos: 3B, Grants Pass, OR

Director/Founder - UChicago Theatre[24], University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Researcher - McNeill Gesture Lab, Chicago, IL

Teacher - Civic Knowledge Project, Chicago, IL

Lead Organizer - que(e)ry radical/queer/arts Conference, Chicago, IL

SUSTAINABILITY & FARMING

Gardener - Seed Garden Design, Portland, OR
Farmhand - Chinook Bar Ranch, Cave Junction, OR
Farmhand - dancefarm, Cave Junction, OR
Collective Member & Artist Residency Coordinator - Versailles, Hugo, OR
Farmer - FinnRiver Farm & Cidery, Chimacum, WA
Intern - Windward Sustainability Education Research Center, Klickitat, WA

SELECT FACILITATION & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I have designed and implemented over 30 workshops for groups of 10-250 utilizing theatre and dialogue to explore critical social issues in professional, academic, and community settings.

MFA Art In Context, Universität der Künste, Berlin, Germany (2017)
Creek Stories, Assembly 2017, Portland, OR (2017)
What We Make Together, Assembly 2017, Portland, OR (2017)
Teaching Assistant for Philip Cuomo's Movement for Actors class, Portland State University, Portland, OR (2017)
Workshop leader for Harrell Fletcher's Social Practice Workshop, Portland State University, Portland, OR (2016 - 2017)
Rural Panelist at Imagining America 2016 Conference, Milwaukee, WI (2016)
Teaching Assistant/workshop leader for Wayd Drake's Acting I/II/III class at Rogue Community College, Grants Pass, OR (2016)
Facilitation Training, Oregon Humanities, Portland, OR (2017)
"This Place" Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities, various locations in rural Oregon (2016)
Theatre of the Oppressed for Social Change, Stillpoint Dance Studio, Grants Pass, OR (2016)
Theatre of the Oppressed for Social Change, Awakenings Wellness Center, Portland, OR (2016)
Looking at Whiteness, Josephine County Racial Justice Working Group, Grants Pass, OR (2015)
Arts Integration, Lorna Byrne Middle School, Cave Junction, OR (2014 - 2016)
Acting & Movement, Evergreen Elementary School, Cave Junction, OR (2014 - 2016)
Acting & Movement, Illinois Valley High School, Cave Junction, OR (2014 - 2016)
Teaching Assistant for Lindsey Gillette's Acting & Movement class, Lorna Byrne Middle School, Cave Junction, OR (2014 - 2015)
Paradox Pentacle Play Path, Free Cascadia Activist Witchcamp, Wolf Creek, OR (2015)
Teaching Assistant for Marc Weinblatt's, Uprooting Racism workshop, Rogue Community College, Grants Pass, OR (2014)
Teaching Assistant for Marc Weinblatt's Diversity in Education workshop, Woodland Charter School, Murphy, OR (2014)
Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop for Community, Conflict, and Dialogue, Full Bloom Farm, Applegate, OR (2014)
Performing Wild(er)ness, CounterPULSE, San Francisco, CA (2014)
Lead organizer for que(e)ry radical/queer/arts conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (2009)

SELECT PRODUCTIONS

I have performed in over 40 plays in collaboration with the University of Chicago (University Theatre, the Dean's Men, and 24 Hour Play Company), Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and Act One Professional Training Program (Pittsburgh) between 2002 and the present.

24 Hour Play Festival, Cave Junction, OR; Hugo, OR; Pittsburgh, PA; Chicago, IL

Performer, Organizer, Director, Co-Founder, 2006 – present

- Co-founded Illinois Valley Whirlwind Play Festival and University of Chicago [24] companies; produced and performed in over 25 festivals of new works.
- Created accessible performance opportunities for over 800 participants from ages 8 to 65 in both urban and rural environments; curated the production of political/socially engaged new works.

- Applied for and received funding and support from the Josephine County Cultural Coalition (2015), University of Chicago Arts Council (2009), and University of Chicago Uncommon Fund (2008)

Cavetown, RiverStars Performing Arts, Cave Junction, OR

Co-deviser, director & performer - 2015, 2016

- Directed student ensembles in interviewing community members about community issues; devised full-length show in collaboration with professional and student performers

Body Research Project, Bella Bella, BC

Performer/Researcher in “Presence and Pipelines” Film Project, March – June 2014

- Participated in a 2-month touring filmmaking project, funded by Fulbright, in the Great Bear Wilderness to raise awareness about the proposed Enbridge Oil Pipeline project
- Worked in collaboration with local First Nations, environmentalists, and scientists; interviewed community members; researched and prepared reports on cultural practices, potential effects of pipeline, and relevant interests.

GRANTS

Collins Foundation Grant, \$20,000, 2017

Oregon Humanities Public Program Grant, \$6000, 2017

Portland State University Student Educational Travel Grant, \$500, 2016

Josephine County Cultural Coalition Grant, \$1000, 2016

Oregon Community Foundation Studio-to-School Program Grant, \$70,000, 2014-19

Rogue Community College Diversity Council Grant, \$500, 2013

University of Chicago Uncommon Fund Grant, 2009

University of Chicago Arts Council Grant, 2008

University of Chicago Foreign Language Acquisition Grant, \$2000, 2007

PUBLICATIONS

“The Country Grind,” Independently published. 7 issues, Manitoba, Canada: 2012 – present.

Collective member, distributor, and writer for this international rural punk newspaper.

“Remaking Communal Life: Reviving the Joy of Living, Decolonizing the World,” self-published, Hugo, OR: 2013.

“A multimodal approach to coding discourse: Collaboration, distributed cognition, and geometric reasoning.”

Co-authored with Evans, M. A., Ryon, E., & McNeill, D. *International Journal of Computer-Supportive Collaborative Learning* 6 (2), pp. 253-278, 2011.

UChicago DisOrientation Manual, self-published, Chicago, IL: 2010.

Curated and authored the first radical/political orientation guide for University Students; 85pgs.

Que(e)ry Collaborative Queer Zine Project, self-published, 6 issues, Chicago, IL: 2008 – 2010.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Point Foundation Finalist (2017), Pride Foundation Trans*Identified & Oregon Regional Scholarships (2017), PSU Simon Benson Scholarship (2016), Pride Foundation Larry McDonald Scholarship & David M. Crawford Memorial Scholarship (2016), Rural Organizing Project Human Dignity Award (2014), University Scholar (2006 – 2010), The Dean's List at the University of Chicago (2007-2008), National Merit Scholar (2006), Rotary Scholar (2005)

OTHER SKILLS

Skilled in playing accordion, melodica, harmonica, and piano; fermentation and baking bread; silkscreening and block-printing; Microsoft Office, Photoshop, web design. Proficient in German.