

# RACHEL GITA KARP

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## Select Original Full-Length Works

2022-Present *Gun Talk*

**Writer and Director** of a participatory personal performance that brings together people from across gun backgrounds, experiences, and views, to find common ground and new ways forward for one of our country's most intractable problems. Currently in development.

*Development:* Marble House Project (VT), Sept 2022; Tofte Lake Center (MN), June 2023; Wildacres (NC), Sept 2023; Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts (NE), Nov-Dec 2023

2021-Present *VIP*

**Writer and Director** of a suite of projects in support of access to abortion in the US, all asking the question: have people getting abortions ever been treated as VIPs and how can we build a country in which they are. The suite has included solo performances, gallery presentations, and a zine.

*Development:* Monson Arts (ME), Nov-Dec 2021; Marble House Project, Sept 2022

*Presentation:* Monson Arts, Dec 2021; Marble House Project, Sept 2022

*Zine included in:* Abortion Stories Interactive Art Festival (NY), May 2022;

Anarchist Book Fair (NY), Sept 2022; 20/20 Photo Festival (PA), Sept 2022; As I Sit Waiting at Russ-Sutton Gallery (NY), Oct-Nov 2022

*Finalist:* Creative Capital Award 2022

2021

### *Temporary Occupant*

**Writer and Director** of an invitation for a personal inauguration following the presidential one, for one person at a time. Collaborated with Frank Oliva, Jacob Russell, Mextly Couzin, Kate Eberstadt, Isaiah Howell, Djuna Knight, Ethan Dubin.

*Presentation:* Clubbed Thumb Winterworks at The Connelly (NY), Jan

2019-2021

### *Packing and Cracking*

**Writer and Director** of an interactive, game-based event against gerrymandering. Project provided a national overview of the practice in the US and then focused on one state at a time; focuses included North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Project was presented in-person in a single space, in-person on a bus, and online. Created with Joseph Amodei and Joshua Kery.

*Development:* The Drama League's First Stage Residency (NY), Aug 2019;

Anonymous Ensemble's Avant Gardens Residency (NY), Jan-July 2020

*Presentations:* The Drama League, Aug 2019; Carnegie Mellon University (PA), Oct 2019; SFX Festival at the Wild Project (NY), Jan 2020; LaGuardia Performing Arts Center (NY), April 2020; Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Sept 2020; UNC-Chapel Hill Process Series, Oct 2020; Arena Academy (online), March 2021; Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics, Oct 2021

*Funding:* Center for Artistic Activism, Network of Ensemble Theaters, Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry

*Broadcast* on the People's Channel, local North Carolina public television, Oct-Nov 2020

- 2019 ***Robotic Futures***  
**Co-Writer and Director** of a performance on the future of robots in the home and their personal and political implications. Created with Michal Luria.  
*Presentation:* Carnegie Mellon University, May 2019  
*Funding:* Carnegie Mellon University's Computer Science CS+X Grant  
*Publication:* "Robotic Futures: Learning about Personally-Owned Agents through Performance," *ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference*, July 2020, Honorable Mention
- 2018-Present ***It's in the Bag***  
**Writer and Director** of a time-bending look at the lost lineage of women who've run for US President—and the misogyny that's prevented them from winning.  
*Development:* Barn Art's Hamilton Residency (ME), July 2018; Irondale (NY), Aug 2019; Town Stages Creative Residency (NY), March-June 2020; Margaret Chase Smith Library (ME), Dec 2021  
*Presentation:* Carnegie Mellon University, Feb 2019  
 Had been scheduled to be presented through the Valdez Theatre Conference (AK) in June 2020 but was canceled due to COVID-19  
*Funding:* Margaret Chase Smith Foundation
- 2017-Present ***How to Put On a Sock***  
**Writer and Director** of an interactive sex ed tour of US policy and practice.  
*Development:* The Drama League's Beatrice Terry Residency, Sept 2020-May 2022  
*Presentation:* Carnegie Mellon University, November 2017; The Drama League, May 2022  
*Featured in the 2019 Prague Quadrennial*
- 2015-2016 ***Let's Make A Lil' Human That Looks Like You And Me***  
**Writer and Director** of a collision of science, sex, and classic Eastern European theater to probe the correlation of human population stagnation and humanoid robotic development—and the political systems that try to control them both.  
*Development:* Mabou Mines Resident Artist Program (NY), Dec 2015-June 2016  
*Presentation:* Clemente Soto Velez Center (NY), June 2016
- 2015-2016 ***#liberated***  
**Co-Writer and Co-Director** of a play about reclaiming porn to fight its ubiquitous misogyny. Created and produced by The Living Room (founding member), a feminist theater collective.  
*Presentations:* Ars Nova's ANT Fest (NY), June 2015; IRT (NY), June 2016  
*Award:* New York Innovation Award for Outstanding Set Design
- 2012 ***The Free Life II***  
**Co-Writer and Co-Director** of a play about Pamela Brown, who died trying to cross the Atlantic Ocean by hot air balloon, and after whom Actors Theatre of Louisville's mainstage theater is named. Created with the Actors Theatre of Louisville 2012-2013 Acting Apprentice Company. Directed with Kate Eminger.  
*Presentation:* Actors Theatre of Louisville (KY), Oct

- 2012 *Actually, Actually*  
**Co-Writer and Director** of a play about *l'esprit de l'escalier*, also known as staircase wit: the phenomenon of thinking of an action too late to enact it. Created with the Actors Theatre of Louisville 2012-2013 Acting Apprentice Company.  
*Presentation:* Actors Theatre of Louisville, Sept
- 2012 *and Related Compounds*  
**Writer and Director** of a play with music about family, chemistry, and the bonds that hold us.  
*Presentation:* Dixon Place (NY), May
- 2011 *Home*  
**Co-Writer and Co-Director** of a devised play about old New York. Created and directed with Garrett Blair.  
*Presentation:* Theater for the New City's Dream Up Festival (NY), Aug

## Fellowships and Residencies

- 2023 Kimmel Harding Nelson Arts Center, Resident Artist  
 2023 Wildacres, Resident Artist  
 2023 Tofte Lake Center, National Emerging Artist Program Resident  
 2022 Marble House Project, Resident Artist  
 2021 Margaret Chase Smith Library Ada E. Leeke Research Fellow  
 2020-2022 The Drama League, Beatrice Terry Resident  
 2020-2021 Clubbed Thumb, Directing Fellow  
 2020 The Orchard Project (online), Liveness Lab Resident  
 2020 Anonymous Ensemble, Avant Gardens Resident  
 2020 Town Stages, Creative Fellow  
 2019 Irondale, Resident  
 2019 The Drama League, First Stage Resident  
 2018 Barn Arts Collective, Hamilton Resident  
 2018 Organizing for Action (OFA), Community Engagement Fellow  
 2015-2016 Mabou Mines, Artist Resident  
 2014 SPACE on Ryder Farm (NY), Creative Resident  
 2013-2015 The Flea Theater (NY), Resident Director

## Grants

- 2021 New York City Artist Corps Grant  
 2021 Brooklyn Arts Council, Community Arts Grant  
 2020 Center for Artistic Activism, Unstoppable Voters Project Grant  
 2020 Network of Ensemble Theaters, Remote Minigrant  
 2018-2019 Carnegie Mellon University, Computer Science CS+X Grant  
 2017 Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry Microgrant  
 2017 Carnegie Mellon University, GuSH Research Grant

## Teaching

- 2022 Guest Lecturer, University of Houston (TX)  
 2021 Guest Lecturer, Vassar College (NY)  
 2021 Guest Lecturer, Chatham University (PA)

- 2020 Guest Lecturer, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2020 "Practicum Performance," Adjunct Lecturer, Barnard College
- 2016-2019 "Acting for Non-Majors," Instructor of Record, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 "Acting for Non-Majors: Political Performance," Instructor of Record, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2016 "Future Stages," Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2019 Carnegie Mellon University Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation, Future Faculty Program Graduate

## Directing - Select Plays

- 2021 *Exits* by Jason Gray Platt, New Georges (NY), September
- 2020 *Town Hall* by Caridad Svich, Columbia/Barnard Theatre Department, March
- 2017 *Motherland* by Cecilia Corrigan, The Brick Theater (NY), June-July
- 2017 *Giant Slalom* by Jess Honovich, Carnegie Mellon University, April
- 2016 *Oil and Watercolor* by Seanan Waugh, Carnegie Mellon University, Oct
- 2015 *Chasing Shadows* by Ben Hoover, Columbia University School of the Arts, March
- 2015 *True Stories of MTA Employees* by Dan O'Neil, Tiny Rhino (NY), March
- 2015 *Roadside Motel* by Donald Prescod, SERIALS at The Flea Theater, Jan
- 2014 *Red & Purple* by Conor Eifler, Sam French Off-Off Broadway Play Festival, Aug
- 2015 *Sonder* by Sofya Weitz, Communal Spaces Garden Festival (NY), Sept
- 2014-2015 *Agnosophobia* by Jason Gray Platt, The Flea Theater, Nov 2014 & Jan 2015
- 2013 *Odile's Ordeal* by Lucas Hnath, Drama Book Shop (NY), Dec
- 2013 *Halfway* by Emily Schwend, Actors Theatre of Louisville Tens, Jan
- 2012 *Pretty Pictures are Everything* by Jon Cottle, Incubator Arts Project (NY), June
- 2011 *Band Practice* by Eva Peskin, Incubator Arts Project, July

## Directing - Select Workshops and Readings

- 2023 *Gardens @ Glenshead* by kanishk pandey, Clubbed Thumb, June
- 2023 *Devils + Circles* by kanishk pandey, The Brick, March
- 2019 *Buffalo Bill* by Meghan Kennedy, PlayPenn (PA), July
- 2015 *10 out of 12* by Anne Washburn, The Flea Theater, Feb
- 2014 *Next Time You Fall* by Sam Chanse, Ma-Yi/The Flea Theater, Jan

## Associate and Assistant Directing

- 2022 *Ocean Filibuster* by Pearl Damour, directed by Katie Pearl, American Repertory Theater (MA), February-March 2022. Tour to the Mitchell Center (TX), March 2022.
- 2020 *Life & Trust* by Jon Ronson, directed by Teddy Bergman, Emursive (NYC). Ended due to COVID-19.
- 2018-2019 *The Waverly Gallery* by Kenneth Lonergan, directed by Lila Neugebauer, Golden Theater, Broadway, Oct 2018-Jan 2019  
  - Awards:* Tony for Best Performance By An Actress In A Play, Drama Desk for Outstanding Revival Of A Play, Drama Desk For Outstanding Actress In A Play
  - Nominations:* Tony for Best Revival Of A Play
- 2017 *Opacity* by Big Art Group, directed by Caden Manson, Fisher Center Bard (NY), March

- 2016 *Signature Plays: The Sandbox* by Edward Albee, *Drowning* by Maria Irene Fornés, and *Funnyhouse of a Negro* by Adrienne Kennedy, directed by Lila Neugebauer, Signature Theatre (NY), June
- 2015 *Empire Travel Agency* by Jason Gray Platt, directed by Teddy Bergman, Woodshed Collective (NY), Aug-Sept
- 2015 *Running Away from the One with the Knife* by Aaron Landsman, directed by Mallory Catlett, The Chocolate Factory (NY), March
- 2014 *The Wayside Motor Inn* by A. R. Gurney, directed by Lila Neugebauer, Signature Theatre, Aug-Oct
- 2014 *The Essential Straight and Narrow* by The Mad Ones, directed by Lila Neugebauer, New Ohio (NY), May
- 2013 *City Council Meeting* by Aaron Landsman, Mallory Catlett, and Jim Findlay, directed by Mallory Catlett, HERE Arts Center (NY), May
- 2013 *O Guru Guru Guru, or Why I Don't Want to Go to Yoga Class with You* by Mallery Avidon, directed by Lila Neugebauer, Humana Festival of New American Plays, Actors Theater of Louisville, March-April
- 2013 *Sleep Rock Thy Brain: nightnight* by Lucas Hnath, *Dreamerwake* by Anne Washburn, and *Comfort Inn* by Rinne Groff, directed by Amy Attaway, Humana Festival of New American Plays, Actors Theatre of Louisville, April
- 2012 *Girlfriend*, book by Todd Almond, music by Matthew Sweet, directed by Les Waters, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Feb
- 2012 *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, adapted and directed by Tony Speciale, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Sept
- 2012 *Untitled Feminist Show* by Young Jean Lee, directed by Young Jean Lee, Young Jean Lee's Theater Company and Baryshnikov Arts Center (NY), Jan-Feb
- 2011 *We're Gonna Die* by Young Jean Lee, directed by Paul Lazar, Joe's Pub and 13P (NY), April
- 2011 *How to Build a Forest* by PearlDamour, directed by Katie Pearl, The Kitchen (NY), June

## Publications

- 2020 "Robotic Futures: Learning about Personally-Owned Agents through Performance," *ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference*, co-authored with Michal Luria, Judeth Oden Choi, John Zimmerman, Jodi Forlizzi, <https://doi.org/10.1145/3357236.3395488>.
- 2020 "Free the Vaccine," *Columbia Political Review*, <http://www.cpreview.org/blog/2020/7/free-the-vaccine>.  
Featured in *Creativity vs. COVID: Ending the Pandemic for Good* online exhibit, <https://freethevaccine.org/exhibit>.
- 2018 "Mixed Reality Performance," *Currents*, Contemporary Performance Network, <https://contemporaryperformance.com/2018/01/03/5-currents-contemporary-performance-know>.

## Press

### For *Packing and Cracking*

- "Artistic activism group uses creativity to inspire people to vote," *CBS This Morning*, October 31, 2020, <https://c4aa.org/2020/10/cbs-this-morning-on-unstoppable-voters>.
- Byron Woods, "The Dangers of Gerrymandering Get Equal Representation in 'Packing and Cracking,'" *Indy Week*, October 21, 2020, <https://indyweek.com/culture/stage/unc-process-series-packing-and-cracking>.
- Susan Hudson, "Winner takes all," *The Well*, October 30, 2020, <https://thewell.unc.edu/2020/10/30/winner-takes-all>.
- "#Collaboration - Packing and Cracking," *The Drama League*, September 11, 2020, <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7M5STASr3ZdqIVWRlyHAgf..>

### For *How to Put On a Sock*

Rebecca Hodge, "Agency and Knowledge in a Modern *Spring Awakening*," *Theatrical Board*, August 7, 2018, <https://www.thetheatricalboard.com/editorials/rebeccahowtoputonasock>.

### For #liberated

- Ken Kaissar, "#liberated," *Theater is Easy*, June 8, 2016, <http://www.theeasy.com/Reviews/2016/L/liberated.php>. Named a *Theater is Easy Best Bet*.
- Monica Charline Brown, "#liberated," *Theater Pizzazz*, June 7, 2016, <https://www.theaterpizzazz.com/liberated>.
- Michael Block, "Review: How to Make a Feminist Porn," *Theater in the Now*, June 8, 2016, <http://www.theaterinthenow.com/2016/06/review-how-to-make-feminist-porn.html>.
- Lisa Huberman, "Seizing Empowerment through Erotica," *New York Theatre Review*, June 10, <http://newyorktheatrereview.blogspot.com/2016/06/seizing-empowerment-through-erotica.html>.

## Training Programs

- 2012-2013 Actors Theatre of Louisville, Directing Intern, led by Les Waters, July 2012-April 2013
- 2012 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab (NY), led by Anne Cattaneo, July
- 2010 Powerhouse Theater Festival (NY), Directing Apprentice, led by Tomi Tsunoda and Emily Mendelsohn, June-July

## Education

- 2016-2019 Carnegie Mellon University, MFA in Directing  
*Fellowships*: John Wells Directing Fellowship in support of academics, Milton and Cynthia Friedman Fellowship in support of policy work in Washington, D.C.  
*Award*: West Coast Drama Alumni Award
- 2006-2010 Columbia University, Columbia College, BA *magna cum laude* in Drama & Theatre Arts, Specialization in Directing, Departmental Honors

## Artist & Artistic Activist Affiliations

- 2020-Present Center for Artistic Activism, Unstoppable Voters Program Director
- 2020-2022 Draw the Lines PA, Citizen Map Corps Member
- 2020-2021 Free the Vaccine for COVID-19, Lead Project Manager
- 2020-Present New Georges, Affiliated Artist
- 2020-Present The Drama League, Artist Member
- 2019-Present Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Associate Member