

# MYRA PLATT

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Founding Co-Artistic Director of Book-It Repertory Theatre, Founder Book-It's Arts and Education Touring Program. Highly skilled, professional theater artist, director, adapter/writer, producer, actor. Extensive experience in teaching performing arts techniques for all ages and all purposes, from children to professionals. Professional visual artist/painter. Accomplished pianist, composer. Passionate about theater, music, performing, literary arts, fine arts, and arts education.

## AWARDS

2015 Gregory Nominee for Outstanding Director *Little Bee*.  
2014 Gregory Nominee for Outstanding Director *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*.  
2014 Gregory Winner Outstanding Production  
2013 Gregory Nominee Outstanding Production/ Director for *The Financial Lives of the Poets*.  
2012 Washington State's Governor's Arts Award.  
2010 Seattle's Mayor's Arts Award.  
2010 Paul G. Allen Family Foundation Founders Award (with Jane Jones).  
2010 Woman of Influence from Puget Sound Business Journal.  
2010 Seattle Times "Unsung Hero and Uncommon Genius" (with Jane Jones).  
2000 Honorable Mention Backstage West Los Angeles Garland Awards performance in *The Awakening*.

## WORK HISTORY

### Founding Co-Artistic Director

**Book-It Repertory Theatre** –Seattle, WA 1988-2020 - Producer, Director, Adapter, Teaching Artist, Actor, Composer, Board member. Founding member of *Book-It: A Performing Arts Company*. Elected by the company to be the first Artistic Director. Renamed the company *Book-It Repertory Theatre*. Founder Jane Jones joined me in a co-artistic directorship. Together we led the company and established Book-It's vision and mission of *transforming great literature into great theater through simple and sensitive production and inspiring audiences to read*. 1996 I founded Book-It All Over - Book-It's Arts and Education Touring Program – a leading educational touring program in the Northwest Region currently serving up to 65,000 students and teachers annually. By 2018, Book-It's operations grew to a nearly \$2 million budget. Book-It is celebrated as an award-winning organization, featuring the renowned narrative theater technique known as The Book-It Style®, and produced over 120 world-premiere stage adaptations of literature. As Founding Co-Artistic Director, I was responsible for articulating and implementing the overall vision of the organization in furthering Book-It's mission and servicing Seattle and the greater community of the Pacific Northwest. Oversee all artistic programming, education programming, season and strategic planning, budgeting, fundraising, stewarding donors and authors, partnering with community organizations, hiring artists, directing and/or adapting each year, serving on the board.

## **Director** (*partial listing*)

Howls Moving Castle (Musical), Behold the Dreamers, The Brothers K: Parts One and Two, The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, The Financial Lives of the Poets, Little Bee, The River Why, Night Flight: An Operetta, Persuasion, Plainsong, Red Ranger Came Calling (A Musical Adaptation), The House of the Spirits, Cry the Beloved Country, Giant, Sweet Thursday, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Cowboys Are My Weakness.

## **Adapter/Playwright** (*partial listing*)

Stage Adaptations: Howls Moving Castle, Behold the Dreamers, The Brothers K: Parts One and Two, Little Bee, The Financial Lives of the Poets, The River Why, Night Flight: An Operetta, Red Ranger Came Calling (A Musical Adaptation with Edd Key), The House of the Spirits, Cry the Beloved Country, Giant, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Cowboys Are My Weakness, Roman Fever, A Telephone Call and A Child's Christmas in Wales.

## **Educator/Instructor/Teaching Artist**

### **Book-It Repertory Theatre** – Seattle, WA

Teaching Artist 1990 – 2019 in elementary, middle and high schools across Washington State.  
Taught students the Book-It Style, acting and basic theater techniques.

### **University of Washington School of Drama** – Seattle,

Guest Lecturer - Drama 456 Topics in Theater for Youth, WA 2008, 2014-2017, 2019 -  
Exploring rehearsal and performance techniques of theater for young audiences; basic principles and techniques for using drama in the classroom; and creating original work for young audiences.  
Guest Lecturer - PATP/Book-It Novel Workshop and acting session Jan/Feb 2013  
Guest Director – Rough Magic, 2011, Dorothy Parker, 2018

### **Cornish College for the Arts**, Seattle, WA: 2009

Guest Director/Adapter – original, new operetta Antoine de St. Exupery's *Night Flight*

### **The University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ: 2004

Guest Lecturer - Theater workshop on guidelines for performing literature as theater, the Book-It Style®, public speaking and use narrative language as creative problem solving.

### **Tennessee Arts Academy**, Nashville, TN: July 2014

Faculty – Professional Development for High School Drama teachers from around the country.

### **Pierce College Theater**, WA: April 2011

Guest Lecturer - Book-It Style workshop, theater and writing students.

### **Centrum**, Port Townsend, WA: 1995-1998

Faculty – Performing Arts Summer Camp for Middle School.

### **Bainbridge Performing Arts Center**, Bainbridge Island, WA: 1992-1996

Faculty - Theater Arts Camp Elementary School.

### **Mother's Place Preschool**, Seattle, WA: 1988-1990 -Faculty - Drama teacher

### **Childrens' Awareness Theatre**, Colo Spgs, CO: 1985-1987 - Performer/Teaching Artist grades K-12.

### **Fountain Valley School**, CO: 1985-1987 - Adjunct Faculty - theater arts grades 9-12.

## **Performer** *(partial listing)*

**Member Actors Equity Association** since 1997

**Book-It Repertory Theatre:** Prairie Nocturne, The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears, Howards End, The Awakening, I Am of Ireland, What We Talk About When We talk About Love, Winesburg Ohio, Eudora, Better Be Ready, The Yellow Wallpaper

**Seattle Repertory Theatre:** World Premiere - The Cider House Rules (dir. Tom Hulce and Jane Jones)

**Mark Taper Forum,** Los Angeles, CA: The Cider House Rules (dir. Tom Hulce and Jane Jones)

**Intiman Theatre:** The Dying Gaul (dir. Bart Sher), The Chairs (dir. Kate Whoriskey)

**New City Theatre:** King Lear (dir. John Kazanjian)

## **Composer**

**Book-It Repertory Theatre:** Prairie Nocturne, Night Flight: An Operetta (with Joshua Kohl), Red Ranger Came Calling: A Musical (with Edd Key), The Awakening, Owen Meany's Christmas Pageant, Ethan Frome, A Child's Christmas in Wales, I Am of Ireland,

## **EDUCATION**

**Pasqualini/Smith Studios** 1988-1990: Mark Jenkins, Robin Lynn Smith, Joseph Chaiken

**Circle in the Square, New York City** 1986 - Graduate Studies: Alan Langdon, Terese Hayden

**Northwestern University,** Evanston, IL 1984 – B. S. (Speech) -- Performance Studies/Interpretation of Literature: Frank Galati, Bud Beyer, Carol Stern, Dwight Conquergood, Lila Heston

**Fountain Valley School,** Colo. Springs, CO: 1980 Froelicher Award, Inducted into Arts Guild 2015