

**Leah Joki**  
**CURRICULAM VITAE**

**EDUCATION:**

University of Montana, Missoula, MT: M.F.A. in Acting (2011-2013)

The Juilliard School, New York, NY: Advanced Diploma; Drama Division (1980-1982)

University of Montana, Missoula, MT: B.F.A. in Theater (1975-1980)

**Acting Coaches:** Michael Kahn, Michael Langham, John Bergman, Dr. James Kriley, Dr. Randy Bolton, Greg Johnson, Jillian Campana, Bernadette Sweeney and Jere Hodgkin.

**Speech and Voice Coaches:** Edith Skinner, Timothy Monich, Robert Williams, Elizabeth Smith and John K. DeBoer

**Movement Coaches:** Anna Sokolow, Tadashi Suzuki, Jane Kazminski and Jillian Campana

**Alexander Coach:** Judith Leibowitz

**\*Stage Fight Coaches:** B.H. Barry, Nells Hennem, Jillian Campana and Chris Duvall

**Directing Coaches:** Roland Meinholtz, Dr. James Kriley, Greg Johnson and Jere Hodgkin

**Playwriting Coaches:** Dr. Randy Bolton, Shem Bitterman and David Cohen

**Writing Coaches:** Rebecca Stanfel and Fred Haeefe

**Improv Coaches:** John Bergman of the Geese Theater, Mindy Sterling of The Groundlings Theatre in Los Angeles, Rebecca Rice from The Center Stage

\*Recipient of the Best Overall Fight Award at The Juilliard School

**EMPLOYMENT:**

2018 – Present: Program Director of No Joke Theater, recipient of California Arts Council funding for Arts in Corrections

2015 - 2018: Arts in Corrections/California Arts Council Mentor/Consultant

2013 – Present: Writing various pieces including *Prison Boxing*.

2011 – 2013: M.F.A. Acting instructor and graduate student

2004 – 2011: Wrote and published memoir: *Juilliard to Jail*.

1994 – 2004: Institutional Artist Facilitator at California State Prison – Los Angeles County, a men's maximum security prison. My duties included:

- Hire and train professional artists to work in prison
- Train staff (including Wardens) how to coexist in a paramilitary environment
- Write grants for artists to augment our programming
- Administrate an annual budget of \$36,000
- Purchase supplies and equipment
- Organize an annual Inmate Art Sale (In 2004 we donated \$10,000 to charity)
- Recruit artists and teachers to work with the program. (We had the largest theater and screenwriting program in CA. Guests included: Noah Wylie, Peter Berg, Samantha Mathis and Esai Morales. Program was featured in the *LA Weekly* and *American Theatre Magazine*.

**1990 – 1992: Institutional Artist Facilitator at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, a men’s medium security prison in Blythe, CA. Similar duties as above. At CVSP I started the first Playwriting Competition in the CA prisons**

**1985 – 1990: Company manager/Ensemble member of theater group at Artsreach at UCLA Extension. As company manager my duties included:**

- **Teach improvisational theater in juvenile and adult prisons**
- **Tour *Think Again Jackson* in twenty state prisons**
- **Audition and train new recruits**
- **Organize staff meetings**
- **Coordinate teachings sessions between artists, Artsreach and contracted prisons**

## **WRITING:**

***Juilliard to Jail***, a memoir of my eighteen-year career in prison. The film rights have been optioned to and are being developed into a feature film by Joe Manganiello and his production company 359inc.

***Prison Boxing***, a one-woman show about prison. It premiered at the Skylight Theatre Company in Los Angeles in April 2015 for a seven week run. It has been performed at the University of San Francisco, California State University San Marcos, the Crystal Theater and the Downtown Dance Collective in Montana.

***The Poppovichs***, a full length play. Selected and produced by The Downtown Dance Collective in association with the Montana Playwrights Network for their first Premiere Project.

***Hairball***, a humorous one-act play about a woman’s inner angst. It premiered at the Crystal Theater in Missoula, MT in October 2014.

***Sheets***, a full-length play about the aftermath of a teenage boy’s unsuccessful suicide attempt. A staged-reading was held at the Montana Repertory Theater’s Colony 2017.

***A Bad Play***, a one-act play about the aftermath of seeing “a bad play.” Produced at the Roxy Theater by 3<sup>rd</sup> Ear Productions and at Carroll College by the Montana Playwrights Network.

***Bananagrams***, a one-act play about an unwanted family member. Produced at the Verge Theater, in Bozeman, MT by the Montana Playwrights Network, 2017.

***Time Will Tell***, a devised play based on the writings of formerly incarcerated citizens. It was produced by the Poetic Justice Project and performed in dozens of cities in California including Alcatraz, 2016.

***The Year of Baldwin***, a one-act play about the year Alec Baldwin could be president.

***A Gust of Wind***, a one-act play about a disabled woman and her mother’s new relationship. A staged-reading was held at the Montana Repertory Theater’s Colony 2016.

*The Big Picture*, a play about an inmates' journey of drug addiction and incarceration.

*Think Again Jackson*, a devised piece about a parolee written in collaboration with Artsreach at UCLA Theater Group. It was performed at the following prisons; San Quentin, Folsom, Soledad, Susanville, CIM in Chino, RJD in San Diego, DVI in Tracy, and the women's prison in Stockton.

*The Monologue Book*, written by inmates under my supervision at CVSP.

*Who? What? Why? Where? When and How?* a multi-media performance piece about modern-day prison life funded by a grant from the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

*Playing For Change: Burton and Florence James and the Seattle Repertory Playhouse*, a book review for the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, University of Washington Press, 2014.

*Kayacking 101*, *Southsound Life Styles*, Catalyst Publishing Inc.

*A Romantic Getaway*, *Southsound Life Styles*, Catalyst Publishing Inc.

## Resume of Production Work

### ACTING:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Play</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Director</b>
Margrethe	<i>Copenhagen</i>	Downtown Dance Collective	Joshua Kelley
15 people	<i>Prison Boxing</i>	Beverly Hills Playhouse	Linda Grinde
Marty	<i>Circle Mirror</i>	MT Rep Missoula	Sam Williamson
	<i>Transformation</i>		
Jedlikova	<i>Pentecost</i>	U. of Montana	Jere Hodgkin
Perfect Love	<i>The Arabian Nights</i>	U. of Montana	Randy Bolton
Ensemble	<i>The Gathering,</i>	U. of Montana	Bernadette Sweeney
Sylvia	<i>End Days,</i>	MT Rep Missoula	Eric Hersh
Mrs. Kirby	<i>You Can't Take it</i>	U. of Montana	D. Marie Long
	<i>With You!</i>		
Martha	<i>Who's Afraid of</i>	Grandstreet Theatre	Stephen Alexander
	<i>Virginia Woolf?</i>		
Ensemble	<i>Think Again Jackson!</i>	CA Prisons	John Bergman
Gladys	<i>A Lesson From Aloes</i>	Sierra Rep. Theatre	Charlie Fee
Yelena	<i>Uncle Vanya</i>	Off-off Broadway	Del Roi Brown
	(with Kevin Spacey)		

Ensemble	<i>Tennessee Williams: A Celebration</i>	Williamstown, MA	Nikos Psacharopoulos
Lydia	<i>Dimetos</i>	Williamstown, MA	Kay Young
Woman	<i>Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act</i>	Juilliard School	Page Burkholder
Ophelia	<i>Hamlet</i>	Juilliard School	Jerome Butler
Ekaterina	<i>Visions</i>	Juilliard School	Michael Kahn
Ensemble	<i>The Toad of Toad Hall</i>	Juilliard School	John Stix
Jaquenetta	<i>Loves Labors Lost</i>	Juilliard School	Michael Langham
Lynn	<i>New Romance</i>	Juilliard School	John Barnes
Louise/Gypsy	<i>Gypsy</i>	Fort Peck Theatre	Ken Raskoff
Sorel Bliss	<i>Hay Fever</i>	Fort Peck Theatre	Ken Raskoff
Ensemble	<i>Roar of the Greasepaint, Smell of the Crowd</i>	U. of Montana	Peter O'Rourke
Lady MacDuff	<i>Macbeth</i>	U. of Montana	Roland Meinholtz
Ensemble	<i>Benvenuto Cellini</i>	U. of Montana	David Dannenbaum
Charlotte	<i>Female Transport</i>	U. of Montana	Elizabeth Knight
Solange	<i>The Maids*</i>	U. of Montana	Elizabeth Knight
*A bilingual production with performances in French and English			
Gertie	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	U. of Montana	Dr. James Kriley
Joanne	<i>Vanities</i>	U. of Montana	Randy Bolton
Lois Lane	<i>Kiss Me Kate!</i>	Great Falls Showcase	Jack Upshaw
Alais	<i>Lion in Winter</i>	Great Falls Showcase	Ken Raskoff
Lizzie	<i>The Rainmaker</i>	Great Falls Showcase	Jack Upshaw
Ado Annie	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	Great Falls Showcase	Jack Upshaw

## DIRECTING:

<u>Play</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Where</u>
<i>Addiction</i>	Inmates	CA State Prison-LAC
<i>Lost and Found</i>	Inmates	CA State Prison-LAC
<i>Fathers and Sons</i>	Inmates	CA State Prison-LAC
<i>Blythe</i>	Dan McMullan	Poetic Justice Project
<i>Time Will Tell</i>	Leah Joki & Co.	Poetic Justice Project
<i>Life, Death and Numbers</i>	Moirra Keefe	Crystal Theatre
<i>The Big Picture</i>	Leah Joki	CSP-LAC, CA
<i>This is the Rill Speaking</i>	Lanford Wilson	U. of Montana
<i>The Veldt</i>	Ray Bradbury	U. of Montana
<i>*Provisional Sentence</i>	Leah Joki (translator)	U. of Montana
<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Neil Simon	Great Falls Showcase
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Mary Rodgers and Jay Thompson	Fort Peck Theatre
<i>Delirious</i>	John Bunzel	Off-off Broadway
<i>When You Comin' Back Red Ryder?</i>	Mark Medoff	Juilliard School
<i>**Love Abuse</i>	Mary Bloom	Rose Theater, Venice
<i>Indian Wants the Bronx</i>	Israel Horowitz	CVSP, Blythe, CA

**\*Best Director Award at UM**

**\*\*The Los Angeles DRAMALOGUE AWARD for Best Director**

## **WORKSHOPS:**

**Avenal State Prison, Avenal, CA**

**California Correctional Center, Susanville, CA**

**California Institution for Men, Chino, CA**

**California Institution for Women, Chino, CA**

**California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, CA**

**California Medical Facility, Vacaville, CA**

**California State Prison – Corcoran, Corcoran, CA**

**California Rehabilitation Center, Norco, CA**

**Correctional Training Facility, Soledad, CA**

**\*Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, Blythe, CA**

**Deuel Vocational Institution, Tracy, CA**

**Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA**

**High Desert State Prison – Susanville, CA**

**Ironwood State Prison, Blythe, CA**

**\*California State Prison – Los Angeles County, Lancaster, CA**

**R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, San Diego, CA**

**California State Prison – Sacramento, Represa, CA**

**Sierra Conservation Center, Jamestown, CA**

**San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA**

**Wasco State Prison, Wasco, CA**

**Fred C. Nelles School, Whittier, CA**

**\*Institutional Artist Facilitator**