Yavni Bar-Yam puppetry artist, writer, teacher

Education

Master of Arts in Creative Writing, Bar Ilan University: Fiction track, along with twelve weekly hours learning in the University Beit Midrash, *expected graduation*: 2018.

Playwriting coursework and mentorship: Alan Brody (MIT); Joe Kraemer (Columbia/Juilliard) 2007-present.

Human-Centered Design Course, +Acumen/IDEO.org: Seven-week course, May 2014.

Collaboratively designing nutrition ed toy; developing skills in research, ideation and prototyping.

Balinese Mask Carving Intensive, Dell'Arte School of Physical Theater: Full-time month-long training, January 2014.

Training in traditional wooden mask carving as well as masked performance, from local master artists, in Bali, Indonesia.

Psychology coursework, Harvard University and Lesley University: Graduate Coursework in Developmental Psychology, Family Therapy, Abnormal Psychology, *2013*.

BA in Physics, Columbia University: Major in Physics, minor in Mathematics. Graduated Feb 2010.

Teaching

Community Educator, BIMA : At a residential high school summer program, designing and facilitating found object puppetry workshop, serving as a residential life counselor, and running additional Jewish arts programming.

Teaching Assistant, Bar Ilan University: Advancing undergraduate students' creative writing skills by facilitating critical feedback discussions and providing written feedback on work. *Ramat Gan, Israel, Spring, 2018.*

Artist in Residence: Narrative Puppetry, Brandeis Collegiate Institute: Training groups of young adults in puppetry skills, and empowering them to express themselves through the artform. Designing and implementing Jewish arts experiential education activities. *Simmi Valley, CA, Summers* 2016, 2017

Artist in Residence, National Havurah Committee: Empowering participants to express themselves through stories and collaboratively realize those stories in shadow puppetry performances. Planning and executing retreat-wide evening program of communal installation creation. Leading kids' camp puppet making workshop. *Rindge, NH, Summer 2016.*

Classroom teacher: Teaching English, Math, and other subjects to students from diverse backgrounds in schools of various styles, grades 3-9. Including such projects as pen pal letter writing, radio drama, polyhedra construction, and trompe l'oeil street art calculations and painting. *Mitzpe Ramon, Jaffa, and Neve Ilan, Israel, May 2015–present*.

Puppetry teaching artist: Teaching workshops and courses in found-object-puppetry and puppet creation to adults and youth in various settings.

Physics mentor, Osizweni Education and Development Centre: In addition to regular college-level physics teaching and tutoring responsibilities, working with students to develop science demos using acrobatics, juggling, model rocketry, and to create a timeline-of-evolution mural. *Mpumalanga, South Africa, 2010.*

Artistic Work

Theatrical Magic: *Arabian Nights*: Central Square Theater's highly acclaimed production of Dominic Cooke's *Arabian Nights*, employing all manner of storytelling: acting, puppetry, dance, and more. (Performing)

Shadow-and-light puppetry: *Wilderness Dreams*: An original tale to move adults and entertain children, presented as a large-scale shadow-puppet play on the wall of a sukkah. (Writing, designing, performing)

Visual accompaniment to music: Ayre, composed by Osvaldo Golijov: Linking the constituent songs of a song cycle into a story, a rod puppet piece with original design for puppeteering by both mouth and hand, performed with an ensemble of eleven musicians. (Creating, performing)

Belly-dance puppetry: *What Happened to Vashti? or, How the Belly Got Its Dance*: For an evening of belly dance, a risqué, mixed-media puppetry piece featuring a fabric belly-dancing puppet with a novel design employing magnets and a segmented body. (Writing, designing)

Misplaced traditional comedy: *Commedia del Siam*: The traditional masked improvised comedy of Renaissance Italy performed as dinner theater in Bangkok. (Performing)

Contemporary absurdist drama: *Cell*: Stageplay meditation on entrapment, produced by Lama Theater Company at the Kraine Theater, New York City, directed by Noel MacDuffie in April 2016. (Writing)

Relevant theater: *Shrapnel*: Intimate drama on the reverberations of a school shooting, produced in the Boston Theater Marathon at Boston Playwrights' Theater, directed by James Tallach, in May 2012. (Writing)

Technological ghost story: *Dybbukayim*: Contemporary ghost story based on traditional folktales, performed within a telephone video-call with found-object puppetry. (Writing, designing, performing)