

# Rogelio Martinez

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Rogelio Martinez is an award-winning playwright whose plays have been workshopped and produced in theaters across the country and abroad. His play, *Born In East Berlin*, was first performed at the Stasi Museum, Berlin in both English and German. The play had its world premiere at the San Francisco Playhouse in February 2020.

More recently, Martinez worked on *The Seven Deadly Sins* project for Miami New Drama. It was the largest theatrical production allowed by equity during the pandemic. The project was created and directed by Michel Hausman. It won the Drama League Award - Outstanding Interactive or Socially-Distanced Theater.

In 2021, Martinez worked on a new television project for Tom Fontana, based on the book, *Year of Dangerous Days*.

Martinez is writing a new play for En Garde Arts that will be produced this summer: *Downtown Stories, Dreams from New York's Oldest Streets*. Recently, Syracuse Stage commissioned Martinez to write a new play tentatively titled *Havana Syndrome*. In addition, Miami New Drama has commissioned Martinez to write a new play about Elian Gonzalez. The play will have its premiere in Fall 2022.

Martinez's play, *Blind Date*, was produced at the Goodman Theatre under the direction of Tony nominee Robert Falls. The production had a cast of over 20 actors. Tony Award winning actress Deanna Dunagan played Nancy Reagan. Her performance received a Joseph Jefferson Award nomination. *Blind Date* was awarded an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. This is the second time Martinez's work has received an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. *Blind Date* was one of only two plays that year awarded a Citation of Excellence by the Laurents / Hatcher Foundation.

Martinez is a recipient of a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship. Martinez is also the winner of a Princess Grace Award, and a Mid-Career Fellowship at the Lark Theater Company. In the past, he has received grants and awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, NEA/ TCG, and the James Hammerstein Award among others.

After being awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation New Science and Technology Initiative Grant by the Denver Center, Martinez went on to write *When Tang Met Laika*, a post Cold War space exploration play; which was subsequently produced by the Denver Center. This inspired Martinez to bring the Cold War itself on stage and write a three play cycle exploring the time period.

The first play in his Cold War trilogy is *Ping Pong*. The play is about U.S.-Chinese relations during the Nixon administration. It was presented at the Public Theatre as part of their Public Studio program and later published by Broadway Play Publishing.

*Born in East Berlin*, the second play, tackled the impact a Springsteen concert had on East Germans just prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The play was workshopped at the Atlantic Theater Company and has since been translated into Hungarian, Romanian, and German.

The trilogy's conclusion is *Blind Date*. It was originally commissioned by the Denver Center Theater Company.

Martinez has been workshopped and commissioned by various theaters across the country including the Public Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory, Atlantic Theater Company, Arden Theater, Asolo Repertory, and Ojai Theater Company, and many more.

Martinez's plays include *Illuminating Veronica, Arrivals and Departures*, and *All Eyes and Ears* (all published by Broadway Play Publishing). This year Broadway Play Publishing will publish *Born in East Berlin, Blind Date*, and *I Regret She's Made of Sugar* (Princess Grace Winner).

For several years, Martinez was a member of the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writer's Group at Primary Stages. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists.

As an advocate of the arts and an educator, Martinez has spoken before the Albany State legislature. He has worked with and mentored writers of all ages including high school kids. He teaches graduate level playwriting at Columbia University and until recently, Goddard College. Martinez teaches undergraduate playwriting at NYU. In the summer of 2016, Martinez travelled to Portugal where he taught a two-week playwriting workshop. Martinez has translated the work of both Mexican and Cuban playwrights.

Martinez has been a guest editor for Clockworks Magazine. He was an actor on the film *Exiles in New York*, which played at the A.F.I Film Festival, South by South West, The Santa Barbara Film Festival and The Latin American International Film Festival in Havana, Cuba. In addition, Martinez has written for children's television.

Martinez was born in Sancti-Spiritus, Cuba and came to this country on the Mariel boatlift in 1980.

## **PRODUCTIONS** (selected)

***Seven Deadly Sins*** (Miami New Drama, November 2020)

***Born in East Berlin*** San Francisco Playhouse (February 2020)  
(To be published by Broadway Play Publishing Spring 2022)

***Blind Date*** Goodman Theater (2017)  
(To be published by Broadway Play Publishing Spring 2022)

***Ping Pong*** Public Theatre (2015)  
(Pulitzer Prize entrant; published by Broadway Play Publishing)

***Wanamaker's Pursuit*** Arden Theater Company Production (2011)  
(Edgerton Foundation New Play Award)

***When Tang Met Laika*** Denver Center Theater Company (2010)

***All Eyes and Ears*** INTAR @ Theater Row  
(published by Broadway Play Publishing)

***Fizz: The Totally Fictionalized Story of America's Greatest Blunder***  
(Besch-Solinger Productions at the Ohio Theatre;  
New Theater Miami)

***Illuminating Veronica*** Theater Row  
(published by Broadway Play Publishing)

***Learning Curve*** Besch-Solinger Productions at Theater Row  
(Published by Smith and Krauss Best New Plays of 2005 )

***Union City, New Jersey, Where Are you?*** Ensemble Studio Theater  
(Winner of the James Hammerstein Award)

***Lenin's Omelet: Two Plays.*** Cuban American Repertory Theater

***Arrivals and Departures,*** Oye Repertory Miami

## **WORKSHOPS / READINGS** (selected)

***Comes as You Are*** Miami New Drama, 2020

***Born in East Berlin*** Berlin, Stasi Museum, 2019

***Blind Date*** Colorado New Play Summit, 2017

***Born in East Berlin*** University of Targu Mures, Transylvania, 2016

***Born in East Berlin*** Atlantic Theater Company, 2015

***Cocktail Time in Cuba*** Two River Theater Company, 2015

***Elk Cloner*** Atlantic Theater Company, 2013

***Bicycle Girl*** St. Louis Repertory, 2012

***When Tang Met Laika*** Perry Mansfield New Works Festival

***Symbiotic Love*** Primary Stages, 2012

***Bicycle Girl*** Primary Stages, 2011

***Cocktail Time in Cuba***, Brandeis University in cooperation with Primary Stages, 2010

***Elk Cloner*** Primary Stages, 2008

***Lake Effect Snow*** Primary Stages, 2006

***My First Radical*** Ojai Playwrights Festival, 2005

***Illuminating Veronica*** New York Stage and Film, 2003

***Illuminating Veronica*** Manhattan Theater Club, 2000

***Lost in Translation*** South Coast Repertory Hispanic Playwright's Project, 2002

***Illuminating Veronica*** Latino Theater Initiative (Mark Taper Forum), 1999

***Illuminating Veronica*** South Coast Repertory Pacific Playwright's Project, 1999

*Comrades and Worms* Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 1998  
*Comrades and Worms* Latino Theater Initiative (Mark Taper Forum), 1996  
*Adrift* South Coast Repertory Hispanic Playwrights Project, 1996

## RECENT COMMISSIONS

Syracuse Stage, 2021  
Miami New Drama, 2020 (play to be produced Fall 2022)  
ShadowCatcher Entertainment, 2017  
St. Louis PBS Project (Neurology), 2016  
Denver Center Theater Company, 2015  
Arden Theater Company, 2013  
Ensemble Studio Theater, Alfred P. Sloan Science and Technology Project Commission, 2011  
Denver Center Theater Company, Alfred P. Sloan Science and Technology Project Commission, 2010  
Atlantic Theater Company, 2009

## TRANSLATION WORK

*University of Targu Mures*, Transylvania, 2016  
(*Born in East Berlin* translated into both Hungarian and Romanian)

*Anestesia* by Agnieszka Hernández Díaz, Two River Theater Company, 2015  
(translated from Spanish to English)

*Quetzalcoatl Puddle* by Irela de Viller, Lark's Mexico/ U.S. Exchange, 2009  
(translated from Spanish to English)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, 2018 - present  
MFA Playwriting Department

**New York University, 2018 - present**

Tisch Open Arts Program

Playwriting Practicum

Language and Storytelling

**Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, 2016 - 2018**

Theatre History I & II (2016-2018)

Elements of Design (Fall 2016)

Script Analysis (Spring 2018)

**Teatro Oficina, Guimaraes, 2016**

10 day Playwriting Workshop

**Goddard College, 2009 - 2020**

Low Residency MFA Creative Writing Program

Dramatic Writing

**Montclair State University, 2011 - 2017**

Playwriting (both BFA & MFA)

Special Topics: Theatre (MFA)

**Montclair State University, 2012**

Collaborated with the BFA students to develop and workshop a new play specifically written for them. It was then presented to the general public. The project was inspired by the work done by the Joint Stock Theater Company.

**City University of NY, 2007-2009 / 2011**

Playwriting

**Primary Stages Einhorn School of Performing Arts, 2010 - present**

Advanced Playwriting

Rewriting

**INTAR Theater, 2008 - 2010**

Head of the Writer's Workshop

**Lincoln Center Open Stages Program, 2002-2008**

## **AWARDS / AFFILIATIONS** (selected)

**Laurents/ Hatcher Foundation Citation of Excellence for Blind Date**

**Guggenheim Award, 2017**

**Mid-Career Fellowship at the Lark, 2012-2014**

**Member of Dorothy Strelsin Writer's Group, Primary Stages (2006-2012)**

**Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, 2013**

**NEA/ TCG Grant, 2006**

**Princess Grace Award, 2001**

**New Dramatists**

## **PUBLISHED PLAYS**

*Ping Pong*, Broadway Play Publishing, 2016

*All Eyes and Ears*, Broadway Play Publishing, 2010

*Illuminating Veronica*, Broadway Play Publishing, 2008

*Arrivals and Departures*, Broadway Play Publishing, 2008

*The Baseball Plays: 7th Inning Stretch*, 2008

*Plays from South Coast Repertory: Hispanic Playwrights Project Anthology*, 2008

*2010 Colorado New Play Summit*, 2010

*Learning Curve*, Best New Plays by New Playwrights of 2005 (Smith and Kraus)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** (selected)

**Guest Editor Clockworks Magazine**

**Venturous Fellowship, Selection Committee**

**Triple Play/ Theater Communications Group, 2016**

**Lark Theater Company Russia/ U.S. Playwright's Exchange (moderator), 2016**

**Colorado New Play Summit Playwright's Slam, 2016**

**The Dramatists Magazine** (essay on David Mamet's influence on the American Theater), 2015

**The Writer in the World**, contributor, Goddard College, 2014 - present

**Commencement Speaker, Goddard College, 2015**

**Keynote Address, Goddard College, 2014**  
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**Theresa Rebeck Playwright Residency, 2013**  
**Lark's Playwright's Workshop (participant and guest moderator), 2013-2019**  
**Ensemble Studio Theater Resident Playwright at SPACE on Ryder Farm, 2013**  
**New Dramatists Selection Committee, 2006 & 2015**  
**New Dramatists First Round Reader, various years**  
**Albany State Legislature Address on Arts Funding, 2011**

## **FILM & TELEVISION**

*Dominoes (Pilot)*  
*Tom Fontana Project* (Year of Dangerous Days)  
*Edge of Truth, a film* (in development, Talking Wall Pictures)  
*Captain Calavera* Nickelodeon Television, 2020  
*Zoo Wahoo* Netflix, 2019  
*Astroblast* Sprout Children's Television, 2015  
*Yoani* (a film based on the life of Yoani Sanchez) Open View Productions, 2015 (unproduced)  
*Americanos* MTV Films, 2009. (unproduced)  
**Untitled** Got Cay Productions, 2002. (unproduced)

## **ACADEMIC DEGREES**

MFA Playwriting, Columbia University 1996

B.A. Television, Radio and Film; Syracuse University, Newhouse School of Communications, 1993  
(*Remembrance Scholar*)

B.A. English and Textual Studies; Syracuse University, 1993  
(*Magna Cum Laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*)

## **REFERENCES**

David Henry Hwang

Playwright/ Associate Professor of Theatre and Playwriting Concentration Head

[fobhwang@gmail.com](mailto:fobhwang@gmail.com)

John Clinton Eisner

Director, Peacedale Productions, LLC

Founder, The Lark Theatre Co.

Stage Director & Story Consultant

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Michel Hausman

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