

Seth Panitch
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EDUCATION University of Washington- Professional Actors Training Program
M.F.A. in Acting, May 1993

Circle in the Square Theatre School, NYC, NY
Certificate, Summer 1990

Occidental College, Los Angeles, California
B.A. Theater, May 1990
Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL **Professor of Theatre (Acting)**
EXPERIENCE **Director of MFA, Undergraduate Acting Programs**
Department of Theatre and Dance
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

8/05 to present: Director of MFA / BA Acting Programs:

Teach MFA and BA courses in: Advanced Acting, Acting Shakespeare, Period Styles (Moliere, Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov, Coward, Wilde, Mamet) Acting for the Camera, Comedic Styles, Directing, Careers in Professional Theatre, Rehearsal Process, Stage Movement (Tai Chi, Laban, Animal Work, Physical Stage Actions, Physical Characterization), Advanced Stage Movement (Suzuki, Clowning, Mask Work), Showcase Preparation and Stage Combat (Hand to Hand, Rapier and Dagger, Broadsword).

Direct mainstage productions

Faculty Guest Artist (Actor) in productions.

Senator, Faculty Senate (Seven Years, Vice President 2012-2013)

Faculty Senate Steering Committee (Five Years)

Co-Chair Senate Student Life Committee (Six Years)

Chair, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee

Undergraduate Academic Coordinator for Department of Theatre

Co- Chair, MFA/ Senior Showcase in New York City.

Provost Search Committee (University)

Chair or participant in College and Department Faculty Searches.

Administrator, High School Scholarship Auditions.

Academic advisor to both graduate and undergraduate majors.

Advisor/ Coach to participants in the SETC, URTA and UPTA combined auditions.

- 5/15- 7/16 **Director/ Actor/ Playwright, Samuel Beckett Theatre-**
I directing and performed in an Off- Broadway production of my play *Here I Sit, Broken Hearted: A Bathroom Odyssey* at the Samuel Beckett Theatre on 42nd Street. The play featured professional theatre performers from New York, Denver, and Atlanta (two of which were alumni of the UA MFA Acting Program).
- 1/15- 11/15 **Filmmaker, *Service to Man*-** I wrote, directed, produced, and performed in the feature film *Service to Man*, about relations between black and white medical students at Meharry Medical College in 1968. The film starred major Hollywood actors Keith Davis and Lamaan Rucker, other nationally significant performers, and UA performance students. The film has been optioned by Joel Zwick Productions (*Big fat Greek Wedding, Fat Albert*, etc.), and is represented by the Irv Schechter Company- one of the oldest and most respected directing and literary agencies in the country. It was recently awarded the Grand Jury Prize for Best Film at the 20th Annual American Black Film Festival.
- 12/14- 7/14 **Director, Colorado Shakespeare Festival-** I directed a record breaking production of William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for the 56th Season of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, (*Time Magazine's* third rated Shakespeare festival in the country).

- 5/13- 7/13 **Director, Playwright, Teatro Nacionale, Havana, Cuba- Director, Playwright, Harold Clurman Theatre, NYC-**
I directed a production of my play *Alcestis Ascending* both Off Broadway at the Harold Clurman Theatre in New York and in Havana for the Teatro Nacionale at the Raquel Revuelta Theatre, under the auspices of the Cuban Ministry of Culture (CNAE). This marked my fifth professional directing project in Cuba, where I had previously become the first American director to officially direct a Cuban theatre company in decades. According to the *Associated Press*, the New York production marked the first bi-national production there since the revolution. This touring production, well reviewed by the New York and Havana press, employed professional Cuban actors and dancers, as well as MFA acting students from the University of Alabama.
- 6/12- 7/12 **Director/ Playwright/ Actor, 59E59 Theatre, NYC-** Directed and performed in a production of my play *Hell: Paradise Found* Off-Broadway at the Drama Desk Award Winning 59th Street Theatre, July 2012. Well reviewed by *New York Times*, *Backstage*, and numerous other publications.
- 11/11- 9/12 **Filmmaker-** Produced and wrote the documentary *Company HavanaBama: Directing Across the Gulf*, about my experiences directing in Cuba for the National Theatre of Cuba. The film was selected and shown by the 2013 Sidewalk International Moving Picture Festival.
- 11/11- 1/12 **Guest Director, Teatro Nacionale, Havana, Cuba-** Invited to direct a Spanish language professional production of Christopher Durang's *Beyond Therapy* for the Teatro Nacionale at the Teatro Adolfo Llaurado with Cuban artists, under the auspices of the Cuban Ministry of Culture (CNAE).
- 10/11- 2/13 **Guest Editor, METHODS: A Journal of Actor Training-** I served on the Editorial staff of METHODS, a journal being developed by Pace University Press.
- 5/10- 8/10 **Actor, Colorado Shakespeare Festival-** Performed leading and supporting roles in *Measure for Measure* and *The Fantasticks* for the 52nd Anniversary Season of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (*Time Magazine*'s third rated Shakespeare festival in the country).

- 7/09-8/09 **Guest Director, Teatro Nacional, Havana, Cuba-** Directed a Spanish language professional production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Cuban Ministry of Culture. Production rehearsed at the University of Alabama with Cuban artists in residence before transferring to the Teatro Berthold Brecht in Havana, Cuba.
- Summer, 2009 **Director, Texas Shakespeare Festival-** Directed the Texas Shakespeare Production of Moliere's *Tartuffe*. Texas Shakespeare Festival has been a major Shakespeare Festival for 24 seasons, hailed by the *Austin Statesman* as "indisputably the best Shakespeare Festival in Texas."
- Summer, 2009 **Festival Fight Choreographer, Texas Shakespeare Festival-** Served as festival fight choreographer for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Love's Labor's Lost* at the Texas Shakespeare Festival.
- 11/08- 1/09 **Guest Director, Teatro Nacional, Havana, Cuba-** Directed a Spanish language professional production of *The Merchant of Venice* for the Teatro Nacional at the Teatro Adolfo Llauro under the auspices of the Cuban Ministry of Culture (CNAE), becoming the first American director to officially direct a Cuban theatre company in decades. The production employed both professional Cuban actors and my graduate MFA acting students from the University of Alabama.
- Summer, 2008 **Actor, Colorado Shakespeare Festival-** Performed leading and supporting roles in *Love's Labors Lost*, *Macbeth*, and *The Three Musketeers* for the 50th Anniversary Season of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (*Time Magazine's* third rated Shakespeare festival in the country).
- 12/06- 11/12 **Guest Director, El Instituto Superior De Arte, Havana, Cuba-** Directed fifth year graduate actors in their thesis production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and taught multiple Acting workshops over six years to the advanced acting class at *I.S.A.*, which is the highest level of artistic training in Cuba.
- Summer, 2008 **Guest Professor, the University of Colorado-** Taught Shakespeare in Performance for the University of Colorado Department of Theatre while performing as an actor at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.
- 07/06- 12/07 **Filmmaker-** Produced and wrote the documentary "*A Night in the Theatre*" published by Insight Media, the largest purveyor of theatrical media in the world.

Summer, 2006 **Director/ Playwright/ Actor, The Urban Stages Theatre, NYC-** I directed and performed in a production of my play *Dammit, Shakespeare!* Off- Broadway at the Urban Stages Theatre in NYC.

10/03 to present **Screenwriter-** My screenplay *Restoration* was optioned by Affinity Films, Los Angeles, California. *That's Life* optioned by Joel Zwick Productions, Los Angeles California. *Damn Nation* contracted to Erik Bergquist Productions, Los Angeles, California.

03/08 **Presenter, Southeastern Theatre Conference-** Presented the workshop “*A Night in the Theatre,*” a lecture / discussion of my approach to filming and selling a Theatrical documentary.

03/07 **Presenter, Southeastern Theatre Conference-** Presented the workshop “Physicalising the Action,” an improvisational approach to bridging text analysis and scene study at SETC in Atlanta, Ga.

01/99 – 12/04 **Lecturer, Department of Theater, Rio Hondo College-** Los Angeles, California. Taught Acting, Shakespeare, mask work, produced New Play Festival, directed mainstage productions.

01/02 – 12/04 **Lecturer, Department of Theater, Long Beach City College-** Long Beach, California. Taught beginning and intermediate acting, directed departmental productions, and produced Repfest (festival of short plays in repertory).

09/95 – 06/98 **Artistic Director, Poor Yorick Productions-** Theatre company in Los Angeles, California.

04/97 – 05/97 **Guest Director, Rio Hondo College,** Los Angeles, California.

01/97 – 03/97 **Senior Comprehensives Director, Occidental College-** Los Angeles, California.

CREATIVE ACTIVITY

DIRECTING

***Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers**

2016 *Here I Sit, Broken Hearted,* Samuel Beckett Theatre, NYC

Summer 2016

- 2015 *Service to Man*, Joel Zwick Productions, Los Angeles, CA
*Feature Film, Irv Schechter Co, representation
*Starring Keth David and Lamman Rucker
*Best Film, American Black Film Festival
*Also nominated as Best Director
- 2015 *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Colorado Shakespeare Festival
- 2014 *Twelfth Night*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2013 *Alcestis Ascending*, Teatro Raquel Revuelta, Havana, Cuba
*Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture
- 2013 *Alcestis Ascending*, Harold Clurman Theatre, NYC
*Best Bet, Time Out New York
- 2013 *Seven Guitars*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2013 *Othello*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2012 *Hell: Paradise Found*, 59E59 Theatre, NYC
*Best Bet, Time Out New York
- 2011 *Beyond Therapy*, Teatro Berthold Brecht, Havana, Cuba
*Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture
- 2011 *Animal Crackers*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2011 *Moby-Dick*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2010 *An Enemy of the People*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2010 *Saint Joan*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Also, Fight Choreographer
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2009 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, El Teatro Nacionale, Havana, Cuba
*Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture

- 2009 *Tartuffe*, Texas Shakespeare Festival
*Also, Festival Fight Choreographer
- 2009 *Henry V*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL
*Also, Fight Choreographer
- 2008 *The Merchant of Venice*, El Teatro Nacional, Havana, Cuba
*Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture
- 2008 *The Heiress*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL
- 2008 *Into the Woods*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2007 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, El Instituto Superior De Arte,
Havana, Cuba
- 2007 *The Government Inspector*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL
- 2007 *Romeo and Juliet*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Also, Fight Choreographer
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2006 *Dammit, Shakespeare!*, Urban Stages Theatre, NYC
*Also, remounted at the University of Alabama
- 2006 *Fifth of July*, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
*Meritorious Achievement in Directing, KCACTF
- 2004 *Speed the Plow*, Long Beach City College, Long Beach, Ca.
- 2004 *Taming of the Shrew*, Rio Hondo College, Ca.
- 2004 *Measure for Measure*, The Raw Space, NYC
- 2004 *The Merchant of Venice*, Whittier Theater, Whittier, Ca.
- 2003 *Don Juan in Hell*, Rio Hondo College, Ca.
- 2003 *Beyond Therapy*, Long Beach City College
- 2002 *The Seagull*, Rio Hondo College

2002 *Hamlet*, Rio Hondo College

1999 *My Left Feet*, Theatre Geo, Hollywood, Ca.

Sister Mary Ignatius, Guest Senior Comprehensives Director, Occidental College, L.A., Ca.

1996 *What's Taking Moses So Long?*, The Wooden O Theater, L.A, Ca

ACTING

2016 *Here I Sit, Broken Hearted* (Kilroy), Samuel Beckett Theatre, NYC

2015 *Service to Man* (Dr. Feldman), Feature Film, Joel Zwick Prods, L.A.

2012 *Hell: Paradise Found* (Lucifer), 59E59 Theatre, NYC

2012 *Misalliance* (John Tarlton), Faculty Guest Artist, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Al.

2010 *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo), Colorado Shakespeare Festival

2010 *Measure for Measure* (Provost), Colorado Shakespeare Festival

2009 *Love's Labors Lost* (Don Armado), Colorado Shakespeare Festival

2008 *Macbeth* (Mentieth), Colorado Shakespeare Festival

2008 *The Three Musketeers* (Grimaud), Colorado Shakespeare Festival

2008 *Moon Over Buffalo* (George Hay) Faculty Guest Artist, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Al.

2007 *Blithe Spirit* (Charles) Faculty Guest Artist, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Al.

2006 *Dammit, Shakespeare!* (Richard Burbage) Urban Stages Theatre, N.Y.C.

A Flea in her Ear (Chandebise/ Poche), Faculty Guest Artist, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Al.

- 2003 *Hamlet* (Hamlet), Farnsworth Playhouse, Los Angeles, Ca.
- 2002 *Hell: Paradise Found* (Lucifer), The American Place Theater,
Second Space, NYC, New Comics Festival
- 2000 *The Eyes Have It* (Indep. Film, Lead), Benson Productions
Holly Powers (Indep. Film, Featured), Parabolic Productions
- Improvisation* (Ionesco), Dramatic New Arts Theater, L.A., Ca.
- 1998 *Hell: Paradise Found* (Simon), Ventura Court Playhouse, LA, Ca.
- 1997 *Dammit, Shakespeare!* (Burbage), Westbeth Theater Center, NYC.
- 1996 *Dammit, Shakespeare!* (Burbage), Globe Playhouse, L.A., Ca.
- 1995 *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio), Hillside Repertory Theater, L.A., Ca
Charlie's Aunt (Brasset), Hillside Repertory Theater
- Violence and the Sacred* (Paul), Seattle Fringe Festival, Wa.
Doctor Doolittle (Long Arrow), Seattle Children's Theater, Wa.
- 1993 *Julius Caesar* (Lepidus), Utah Shakespearean Festival
King Lear (Herald), Utah Shakespearean Festival
Cyrano de Bergerac (Gascon), Utah Shakespearean Festival
Don Juan in Hell (Don Juan), Penthouse Theater, Seattle, Wa.
Bartholomew Fair (Quarrelous), Meany Theater, Seattle, Wa.
- 1992 *The Imaginary Invalid* (Dr. Diafoirous), Idaho Repertory Theatre
Shadowland (Peck), Idaho Repertory Theatre
Story Theatre (Robber Bridegroom), Idaho Repertory Theatre
A Doll's House (Torvald), Glen Hughes Playhouse, Seattle, Wa.
The Merchant of Venice (Morocco), Glen Hughes Playhouse
- 1991 *Three Sisters* (Tuzenbach), University of Washington,
Professional Actors Training Program, Seattle, Wa.
The Sea (Hatch), University of Washington PATP
La Valse (Paul Claudel), University of Washington PATP
- 1990 *Comedy of Errors* (Balthazar), Hillside Repertory Theater, Ca
The Mikado (Chorus), Hillside Repertory Theater, Ca

DRAMATIC WRITING

***Member of the Dramatists Guild of America**

- 2016 *Here I Sit, Broken Hearted*, a play, performed Off Broadway at the Samuel Beckett Theatre, NYC, June-July 2016.
- 2015 *Service to Man*, a screenplay, filmed on location in Alabama, Summer 2015. Optioned by Joel Zwick Productions, represented by the Irv Schechter Company, Los Angeles.
*Nominated Best Screenplay, American Black Film Festival
- 2013 *Alcestis Ascending*, play, produced by the Cuban Ministry of Culture, performed in Havana at the Teatro Raquel Revuelta, July- August 2013.
- 2013 *Alcestis Ascending*, play, performed Off- Broadway at the Harold Clurman Theatre, NYC, July 2013.
- 2013 *Hell: Paradise Found*, play, produced for New Works Festival, Florida Studio Theatre, Sarasota, Fla.
- 2012 *Hell: Paradise Found*, play, re-written for Off- Broadway production at 59E59Theatre, July 2012.
- 2012 *Dammit, Shakespeare!*, play, translated and produced by the Cuban Ministry of Culture, performed in Havana's Teatro Adolfo Llauro, April, 2012.
- 2012 *Company HavanaBama: Directing Across the Gulf*, a documentary
- 2007 *A Night in the Theatre*, a documentary.
- 2007 *Restoration*, screenplay, optioned by Affinity Films, Ira Besserman, producer.
- 2006 *Dammit, Shakespeare!*, play, re-written for production Off Broadway at Urban Stages Theatre, NYC
- 2006 *That's Life*, screenplay, optioned by Joel Zwick Productions.
- 2005 *Damn Nation*, screenplay, co-written with Erik Bergquist (*The Fast and the Furious*), property of Limelight Productions
- The Hypochondriac*, play, originally produced at The Complex

Theater, Los Angeles, Ca.

- 1998 *Hell: Paradise Found*, play, originally produced at the Ventura Court Theater, Hollywood, Ca.
- 1997 *Dammit, Shakespeare!*, play, originally produced at the Westbeth Theater Center, NYC.
- 1996 *What's Taking Moses So Long?*, play, originally produced at The Wooden O Theater, Los Angeles, Ca.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2015 Bauer Grant Workshop, University of Alabama
- 2009 Grant Writing Workshop, *Cultural Alliance*, Birmingham, Al.
- 2005 “*Story*” *Script Structure Intensive*, Robert McKee, L.A., Ca.
- 2000-2001 *TVI Actor's Studio*, Acting for the Camera, Hollywood, Ca.
- The Actor's Workshop*, Joel Asher Studio, Los Angeles, Ca.
- Classical Clowning/ Character Mask Workshop*, Arne Zaslove, Seattle, Wa.
- 1993 *The Society of American Fight Directors and Choreographers*, certification by David Bouche, Seattle, Washington
- 1990 *Circle in the Square Theater School*, NYC
Acting- Alan Langdon, Jacqueline Brookes
- 1989 *Commedia Intensive*, Thomas Leabhardt, Pomona College, Pasadena, Ca.

GRANTS

- 2013 *CARSCA* Grant, University of Alabama
- Leadership Board Faculty Fellow, University of Alabama
- 2007 Cultural Alliance, Birmingham, Alabama

2006 Research Advisory Committee Grant, University of Alabama

SERVICE

2005- 2016 Faculty Senate/ Vice President
Steering Committee
Arts and Sciences Performance Space Proposal Review Committee
Arts and Sciences Cuba Initiative Committee
Co- Chair Senate Student Life Committee
Provost Search Committee
Arts and Sciences Cuba Initiative Committee
Undergraduate Coordinator, Dept. of Theatre and Dance
Chair, Scholarship Committee
Co- Chair Showcase Committee
Director, Senior Actor Showcase, Theatre Row Theatre, NYC
Active Member- Acting/ Directing Committee; Movement
Committee, *Southeastern Theatre Conference*.
Respondent, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival
Director/ Advisor- "*Paper Moon Players*," Student group that
performs at local Convalescent Hospitals.
Recruiter/ Interviewer for "V.I.P." undergraduate prospective
students, University of Alabama.
Presenter, CARSCA Conference, University of Alabama
Presenter (Stage Combat), *UA Future Teachers Day*- Recruitment
Presenter (directed performance)- Stillman College, outreach
Presenter (directed performance)- Shelton State College, outreach
Co-operative teaching relationships with:
Laurie Arizumi (Nozomi Daiko Drumming Collective)
Adam Schwartz (TCF- Filmed Projects)
Jennifer Caputo (African Drumming Collective)
Participant, Phi Beta Kappa functions, University of Alabama
Active Member- Acting/ Directing Committee; Movement
Committee, *Southeastern Theatre Conference*.
Numerous Search Committees (Chair and Participant)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2016 American Black Film Festival, *Service to Man*
Grand Jury Prize: Best Feature Film
Nominated as Best Director
Nominated as Best Screenplay

- 2016 Official Selection, *Service to Man*
Sidewalk International Film Festival
International Black Film Festival
- 2016 SEC Faculty Achievement Award
- 2014 Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award, University of Alabama
- 2013 “Best Bet,” Time Out New York Magazine, *Alcestis Ascending*
- 2013 Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture. Directing and producing *Alcestis Ascending/ Alcestis Ascende*, which performed Off Broadway at the Harold Clurman Theatre and in Havana at the Grand Opening of the Raquel Revuelta Theatre.
- 2013 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of *Othello*.
- 2012 “Best Bet,” Time Out New York Magazine, *Hell Paradise Found*
- 2012 Invited to join Dramatists Guild of America due to success of Off Broadway production of *Hell: Paradise Found*.
- 2012 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award (OCTA), University of Alabama
- 2012 Official Selection, Sidewalk International Motion Picture Festival. Documentary, *Company HavanaBama: Directing Across the Gulf*
- 2011 Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture. Direction of Christopher Durang’s *Beyond Therapy* at the Teatro Adolfo Llauro, November- December 2011
- 2011 Theatre Arts Educator of the Year, Druid Arts Awards, Alabama
- 2011 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of “*Animal Crackers*”
- 2011 Best Actor. Sidewalk Film Festival- Sidewalk Scramble, Alabama.
- 2011 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of “*Moby Dick*”
- 2010 Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture. Direction of Shakespeare’s

“*Midsummer Night’s Dream*,” for the Teatro Nazionale at the Teatro Berthold Brecht.

- 2010 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of “*Enemy of the People*”
- 2010 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of “*Saint Joan*”
- 2009-2012 Leadership Board Faculty Fellow, University of Alabama
- 2009 Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture. Direction of Shakespeare’s “*Merchant of Venice*,” for the Teatro Nazionale and the Sala Adolfo Llauro.
- 2009 Appointed Associate Member of the *Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers*, the union of professional Stage Directors.
- 2008 Official Commendation, Cuban Ministry of Culture. Lecture / Master Classes on Shakespearean Acting for El Instituto Superior De Arte (ISA), Havana Cuba.
- 2008 Best Production “*Into the Woods*.” The AL Awards, University of Alabama
- 2007 Best Director, “*Romeo and Juliet*.” The AL Awards, University of Alabama and Tuscaloosa
- 2007 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of “*Romeo and Juliet*”
- 2007 Keynote Speaker, Phi Beta Kappa Induction, University of Alabama
- 2006 Best Director, “*Fifth of July*.” The AL Awards, University of Alabama and Tuscaloosa
- 2006 American College Theatre Festival. Special Recognition for Meritorious Achievement: Director of “*Fifth of July*”
- 2004 Finalist, *Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences Screenwriting Festival (29 and Holding)*.
- 2004 Finalist, *Open Door Screenwriting Festival (The Gondolier)*.

