

# Dr. GORKEM ACAROGLU

+61 415 768 996

www.gorkemacaroglu.com

## Personal Details

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Woodend VIC 3442  
Australia  
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Email:  
gorkem\_a@hotmail.com

## Areas of Expertise

*Immersive performance*

*Cyborg Theatre*

*Digital Performance*

*Documentary Theatre*

*Live art*

*Site Specific performance*

## Awards

2017 Australia Council for  
the Arts Professional  
development award  
2012 Sidney Myer Creative  
Fellowship

2012 Asialink Performing Arts  
Residency

2011 Australia Council for  
the Arts Cultural Leadership  
Award

2004 Australia Council  
Young Leaders Award

2003 NSW Ministry for the Arts  
Artists Fellowship

## Career Statement

A Creative Director of diverse interdisciplinary performance with over 20 years experience in programming, producing, teaching and artistic practice. Specialist expertise in cross-cultural engagement, working with diverse stakeholders. Ability to provide vision and practical expertise to the realization of multiple projects from the ground up. Expertise in the creative direction and curation of site specific and immersive experiential work.

## Academic Qualifications

Deakin University 2010-15  
*Doctor of Philosophy - Technological Actors  
in Cyborg Theatre*

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology 2009  
*Masters Creative Media - Animation &  
Interactive Media*

Victorian College of the Arts 2004  
*Graduate Diploma in Dramatic Art  
(Direction)*

National Institute of Dramatic Art 2003  
*NIDA Playwright's Studio*

University of New South Wales 2002  
*Bachelor of Arts Honors in Theatre, Major In  
Documentary Theatre.*

University of Technology Sydney 2000  
*Master of Media Arts & Production (Film &  
Video)*

University of Western Sydney 1998  
*Bachelor of Applied Science - Community  
Development*

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## **CREATIVE DIRECTOR**

### **Program Producer** Federation Square 2018 – 2019

- Provided creative concept for underground immersive events
- Attracted partnership funds
- Developed programming framework and curatorial vision

### **Creative Director and Manager** Brunswick Mechanics Institute 2013 – 17

- Won a four year tender to transform the venue from a community hall for hire into a contemporary arts space
- Established numerous programs to attract a new caliber of artist and audiences
- Established new methods to utilize the building
- Programmed a diverse range of contemporary artists in a rolling three year program

### **Creative Director** The 24 Hour Experience 2014 and 2015

- Created the concept from ground up – a living documentary of the lesser known perspectives of a place – 24 live works on the hour every hour for 24 hours
- Raised over \$500,000
- Engaged over 150 artists, 24 community partners and 24 venues in Melbourne in 2014 and then a new iteration in Ballarat 2015

### **Artistic Director** Metanoia Theatre Company 2013-17

- Set the vision and creative direction of the company
- Oversaw all projects developed by the company
- Directed numerous works including site specific immersive performance, translations of non-English plays, adaptations from film, contemporary plays, new writing

### **Creative Director** Artlab, Deakin University Motion Capture Lab

- Established partnerships with a robotics lab to create a robot that performed with live actors, responding to voice commands, able to move through space, gesture and speak
- Established partnership with a motion capture studio to create 3D stereoscopic backgrounds and a motion capture operated avatar as a performer with live actors
- Engaged a team of 10 artists to work on the lab
- Created a piece of contemporary performance with live actors, robot and motion capture operated avatar

### **Participatory Arts Program Manager** City of Melbourne, 2013-15

- Managed an annual budget of \$300,000
- Developed and delivered an annual program of participatory arts

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projects across Melbourne CBD

- Engaged numerous artists, community partners and venues
- Projects delivered included:
  - Bureau of Worldly Advice* – working with refugees who provided advice to passersby from Melbourne Town Hall on various subjects both humorous and serious
  - Renegades* – a dance work with super seniors presented in a night club
  - 5 Short Blasts* – an audio work on small boats around docklands
  - Be Prepared* – working with a performance collective and scouts to create a participatory work
  - 1000Cities* – with Pop Up Playground an app based tour around the CBD on the city bikes
  - Gelbolu* – Exhibition exploring the Turkish Australian perspectives of Gallipoli
  - Anachron* – an installation with Cake Industries and Indonesian based Papermoon Puppet Theatre

## **Creative Producer** Melbourne Workers Theatre 2010-12

- Changed the creative vision of the company to extend its life after it was set to close after losing funding
- Focused on creating documentary theatre
- Established a new board
- Created award winning documentary and political theatre works

## **Director** Secrets Service: Arts Consultants 2007

- In collaboration with Willoh S. Weiland
- Consultancy and dramaturgical service to artists

## **Multicultural Arts Coordinator** Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre 1996-98

- Established numerous infrastructure projects in Western Sydney for newly arrived migrant and refugee artists
- Set up an arts centre, radio program, mobile multimedia van, exhibitions, film festivals, concerts, training programs

## **EDUCATOR**

**Lecturer**, Victorian College of the Arts, 2016

Masters of Writing. Writing for Performance: Live Art.

**Lecturer**, Deakin University, 2016

School of Communications. Genre and Performance.

**Lecturer**, Deakin University, 2008-12

School of Communication and Creative Arts. Theatre and Performance subjects theory and practice.

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## **PRESENTATOR**

**Co-convener**, *Performing Aphasia: Counter Claiming the Transcultural Nation*, 2011 Australasian Drama Studies Conference.

**Presenter**, *Digital Contamination of Dramatic Theatre: Subject Technology in Exception*, 2011 International Symposium of Electronic Arts – Istanbul.

**Panel**, *New Paradigm Anyone? Enriching the Culture by Disrupting it*, 2011 AATE Conference.

**Keynote**, *The Oral The Written and other*, Verbal Media Conference, 2011 Victoria University.

**Convener**, *The C Word: Class in Theatre*, Arts Centre, 2007

## **RESEARCHER**

**Co-editor**, *Digital Performance*, Australasian Drama Studies Journal. 2014

**Paper**, *All the World is a Screen: Exclusion of Projected Media in Dramatic Theatre*, International Symposium of Electronic Arts -Sydney. 2013

**Research assistant** Deakin University, Theatre. 2007

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY THEATRE MAKER**

2018 *Birregurra Arts Ballyhoo* part of Regional Arts Victoria's Small Town Transformations – Creative Director

- A live art event engaging multiple artists and community members, presented as an immersive site specific work

2018 *That's Not a Daffodil* Regional Arts Victoria Tour

- Tour of an adaptation of Elizabeth Honey's children's picture book of the same name

2017 *Wages of Fear* stage adaptation after Georges Arnaud's novel

2017 *The Omission of the Coleman Family* by Claudio Tolcachir, Melbourne International Comedy Festival

2016 *Milk Bars*, Metanoia Theatre

- An immersive site specific venue wide take over exploring the Australian milk bar phenomenon since their demise with the rise of supermarkets

2016 *That's Not a Daffodil* by Elizabeth Honey, Jump Leads Productions

- Creative development, co-script writing and presentation of an adaptation of the children's picture book for young audiences

2016 *Broken River* by Tony Reck, play reading Metanoia Theatre

2015 *The 24 Hour Experience: Ballarat*, Australia Council funded

- In partnership with Ballarat City Council, numerous local organisations and over 150 artists, 24 live works on the hour every hour for 24 hours.

2015 *10Cs*, Metanoia Theatre

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- Site specific immersive work engaging 10 artists exploring the ten commandments

2015 *Cyborg No Exit*, Metanoia Theatre

- Digital performance and adaptation of Jean Paul Satre's *No Exit*

2014 *The 24 Hour Experience: Melbourne*, Inaugural Live Art Festival

- Engaging numerous local organisations and over 150 artists, 24 live works on the hour every hour for 24 hours.

2014 *Fortune* by Raimondo Cortese (from *Roulettes*), Metanoia

2014 *The Colour White*, Westside Circus

- Devised and developed, with writer Michele Lee, a physical theatre documentary exploring the impact of Whiteness on non Caucasians through the media.

2014 *Bobby Gould in Hell* by David Mamet, Metanoia Theatre

2013 *It felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now* by Lucy Kirkwood, Big West Festival

2013 *Robots, Avatars and Ghost*, Deakin Motion.Lab (Artlab - Interarts Australia Council) worked with Deakin University to create a custom made robot in their Robotics Lab, 3D animation & motion capture

2010 *Yet to Ascertain the Nature of the Crime*, Artshouse, MWT (winner Australian Writer's Guild Award)

2009 *Pandora's Eyes* by Gorkem Acaroglu, Theatreworks

- Documentary work developed with women recovering from addiction

2008 *See How the Leaf People Run* by Michele Lee, 45 Downstairs

2008 *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh, Theatreworks

2008 *The Devils Dictionary* by Helen Heritage, 45 Downstairs

2008 *Under Construction* CMYI, Nth Melbourne Town Hall

2008 *Silence* by Hoa Pham, La Mama Theatre

2008 *The Pain and the Itch* by Bruce Norris, Red Stitch Actors Theatre

2008 *Haneef The Interrogation* by Graham Pitts, VIC tour

2007 *The Gentleman had an Axe* by David Astle, Arts Centre

2007 *The Memory Priest* by Gorkem Acaroglu & Willoh S. Weiland, Big West Festival

2007 *Mr Saigon, Ms Hanoi* by Dominic Golding, La Mama Theatre

2007 *4:48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane, Deakin University (Assistant)

2007 *The Epiphany of Ben Hall* by Barry Dickins, NSW regional tour

2007 *Voodoo Vaudeville*, Multicultural Arts Vic, Northcote Townhall

2006 *Plain Air*, La Mama & AMES Noble Park

2006 *The Maya Project* by Amy Dobson, McCulloch Gallery

2006 *Infectious*, Pony Club, Melbourne Fringe Festival.

2006 *The Habib Show*, Theatreworks, Arts Victoria & City of Port Phillip

- A documentary work about the incarceration of Mamdouh Habib

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- following the newly formed terror laws
- 2006 *Still Waiting* by Alexandra Collier, Adelaide Fringe Festival
- 2006 *Object Future*, Western Edge Youth Art, Big West Festival
- 2005 *Silence Between the Tracks* by Anna Barnes, La Mama
- 2005 *Fool for Love* by Sam Shepard, Nominated Best Production  
Green Room Awards
- 2005 *Two Brothers* by Hannie Rayson, director Simon Phillips, MTC  
(Director's Attachment)
- 2005 *The Book the Belle the Beast* director Suzanne Kersten (Visual  
Direction)
- 2004 *Invisible Monsters* by Chuck Palahniuk, La Mama Theatre
- 2004 *Have I None* by Edward Bond, Victorian College of the Arts
- 2004 *Two Hidden Things* Playbox 3D Festival
- 2004 *Caucasian Chalk Circle* director James McCaughy, VCA  
(Assistant)
- 2004 *Midsummer Night's Dream* director John Bolton, VCA (Assistant)
- 2003 *The Round of Pleasure* Best production Istanbul Arts Festival  
(Assistant)
- 2003 *Love, Madness and Poetry* by Gorkem Acaroglu, Seymour  
Centre
- Exploration of the difference between eastern and western ideas of love, utilizing projections as holographic characters interacting with live performers
- 2003 *What's Up?* Shopfront Youth Theatre
- 2002 *The Cow* by Nazim Hikmet, Sidetrack Theatre
- 2002 *Citizen X* director Don Mahmouney, Sidetrack Theatre (Assistant)
- 2002 *Cabramatta Common*, Fairfield Council
- 2001 *Don't Get me Wrong But*, Australia Council funded
- Site specific immersive work in the old Parramatta Mental Hospital Grounds
- 2000 *One Day* short docu/drama (Second place Changing Images  
Film Festival)
- 2000 *The Maids* by Jean Genet, director Basim Kahar, Sydney Art  
Theatre (Assistant)
- 1999 *Non & Parking* two short films, Living Without Violence Exhibition
- 1999 *Mr Paul* by Tankred Dorst, director Bogdan Koca, Sydney Art  
Theatre (Assistant)
- 1999 *Hardcover Hotel*, Sidetrack Studio Theatre

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## **PLAYWRIGHT AND DRAMATURG**

2009 *Exception*, Arts Victoria, (dramaturg Aidan Fennessy), Writer  
2008 *Pandora's Eyes* Based on stories of addiction & recovery, Writer  
2008 *The Big Quiet* (Director Christian Leavesley), La Mama, Writer  
2008 *Bare Life* Development, Storeroom Theatre Workshop, Writer  
2007 *Virtual Mumbai* Melbourne Workers Theatre, (dramaturg John Romeril), Writer  
2007 *Silence* by Hoa Pham, Dramaturg  
2007 *Epiphany of Ben Hall* by Barry Dickins, Dramaturg  
2006 *The Habib Show*, Theatreworks, Arts Victoria, Writer  
2005 *Kiss Me Where You Punch Me* by Michele Lee, Dramaturg  
2005 *Lens* by Willloh S. Weiland, 45 Downstairs, Dramaturg  
2004 *Silence Between the Tracks* by Anna Barnes, Dramaturg  
2003 *Weight*, directed by Lee Lewis NIDA Playwrights Studio, Writer  
2002 *Love, Madness and Poetry* NSW Ministry for the Arts Fellowship and Myer Foundation, Writer  
2002 *The Cow* by Nazim Hikmet, Translator  
2000 Classroom Video, Scriptwriter

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Consultant** *The Here and Now*, Australia Council Arts 2017/18  
**Consultant** Creative Victoria Creative Suburbs 2018  
**Director** Melbourne Theatre Company, Women in Theatre 2017  
**Panelist** Australia Council Theatre Board 2017  
**Participant** Director's Lab, Melbourne Festival 2016  
**Board Member** Theatre Network Australia 2011-16  
**Panelist** Australia Council Inter-Arts Board 2014  
**Resident artist** Arts Centre Melbourne 2011-13  
**Executive** Diversity in Australian Theatre Alliance 2010-12  
**Panelist** Arts Victoria, Theatre 2010  
**Panelist** Green Room Awards Companies 2009-14  
**Associate Artist** Storeroom Theatre 2006  
**Board Member** Melbourne Workers Theatre 2007-09  
**Committee Member** Living Museum of the West 2006-08  
**Artist in Residence** Footscray Arts Centre 2005  
**Committee Member** KAN CAM 2000

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## **REFEREES** (contact details available on request)

1. Sue Natrass AO - Mentor

CEO Arts Centre Melbourne 1989-1996

2. Jane Crawley – director of Arts Melbourne when I was Participatory Arts Program Manager

Director Arts Investment Creative Victoria

3. Dr Raimondo Cortese – Collaborator on The 24 Hour Experience and Yet to Ascertain the Nature of the Crime

Academic, Victorian College of the Arts