

Derek Spencer

Director, Teaching Artist

EDUCATION

School of the Art Institute of Chicago – *Masters of Fine Arts in Studio Art, Performance*
Expected 2025, Chicago, IL

University of Chicago – *Bachelors of Arts in Philosophy; Bachelors of Arts in Public Policy*
2010-2014, Chicago, IL

THEATER DIRECTED

Field of Flesh devised by ensemble	Leisure.	2024	Chicago
Losers by Derek Spencer & Soren Royer-McHugh	Ceaseless Fun	2022	LA
FURY devised by ensemble	Ball State University	2022	Muncie, IN
Everyone Agrees it's about to Explode devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2020	LA
The Rose Theater Presents... devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2018	LA
The Stars devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2018	LA
They Who Saw the Deep devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2018	LA
Agnosia devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2018	LA
Why I Want to Fuck Ronald Reagan devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2017	LA
Grandpa Johnson is DEAD! devised by ensemble	Ceaseless Fun	2016	LA
The Re-Gift of Life by David Clifford Turner	Tiny Rhino	2016	LA
Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite by Derek Spencer	Montserrat DTLA	2016	LA
The Battle of Phillippi by Derek Spencer	Montserrat DTLA	2016	LA
A Crackup at the Race Riots devised by ensemble	University Theater	2014	Chicago

FILMS DIRECTED

Rat City	Experimental narrative short	2024	Chicago
Personally I Find It Rude to Be Boring	Experimental narrative short	2024	LA
Dakota	Documentary short	2019	LA

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Foundation OBRAS (Portugal) – June 2024 Residency

Plyspace Residency Program – Spring 2022 Resident Fellow

Directors Lab West – 2020/23 Lab Participant

Foundation for Contemporary Arts – 2019 Grant Recipient (*Everyone Agrees it's about to Explode*)

2018 Hollywood Fringe Golden Key Award – Nominated for *The Stars*

UChicago Careers in Journalism, Arts, and Media Apprenticeship Grant – 2014 Recipient

TEACHING

Teacher - Leysin American School; Film & Literature (Summer, 2024)

Instructor of Record - School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Advanced Survey of Modern to Contemporary Art and Architecture (Spring, 2024)

Teaching Assistant - School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Theater is NOT Not Performance (Fall, 2024), Site Practices (Spring, 2024), Introduction to Performance (Fall, 2023)

Teaching Guest Artist – Ball State University; Classes: Movement Studio 3, Senior Capstone Immersive Learning, Scenic Design & Technology (Spring, 2022)

WORKSHOPS & TALKS

Artist Talk - Foundation OBRAS - 2024

Odyssey Festival – Stevenson High School – 2024

Artist Talk – Ball State University/Plyspace – 2022

Soft Focus – Monthly at Thyme Arts – 2019; 2021

Immersive 101 Panel – Hollywood Fringe Festival – 2019

Feedforward/Feedback: Fostering Connectivity in Immersive Performance – League of Immersive and Experiential Artists – 2019

Company Workshop – Ceaseless Fun – 2019

Ensemble Devising Workshop – Thyme Arts – 2018

Dissecting the Devising Process – League of Immersive and Experiential Artists – 2018

ARTS LEADERSHIP

Ceaseless Fun – Founding Artistic Director

Los Angeles, CA – 2016-present

The League of Experiential and Immersive Artists (LEIA) – Founding Board Member

Los Angeles, CA – 2017-2021

THEATER COLLABORATIONS

Cages by CJ Baran and Benjamin Romans	Immersive Consultant	Woolf and the Wondershow	2019	LA
Re-lease devised by ensemble	Associate Director	Dir. Meredith Treinen	2019	LA
Grief devised by ensemble	Associate Director	Dir. Meredith Treinen	2017	LA
Batty Old Biddies by Marty Siegel	Sound Designer	Athenaeum Theater	2015	Chicago
The Antitheatrical Prejudice devised by ensemble	Ensemble Member/ Sound Designer	Scarlett Kim & Co./ Rhino Fest	2015	Chicago
Twain's World	Assistant Stage Manager	First Floor Theater	2014	Chicago
Godspell by Stephen Schwartz	Pit Orchestra (electric bass)	University Theater	2014	Chicago
HamletMachine by Heiner Müller	<i>Gertrude-Hamlet</i>	University Theater	2013	Chicago
The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare	<i>Duke</i>	University Theater	2013	Chicago

FILM COLLABORATIONS

Soft Air short film	Assistant Director	Dir. Chelsea Swan	2023	Chicago
Everyone Agrees it's about to Explode short film	Editor/Executive Producer	Dir. Nic Murphy	2021	LA
Scare Me Most music video	Performance Director	Dir. Jasmine Osean Thomas	2020	LA
Kombucha Growler music video	Principle	Dir. Stephen Marsiano	2020	LA

WRITING

We Found Love – short play commissioned by Futureramen – 2017

On Baldness - Ceaseless Fun 001: Solar Anus – 2016

The Manifesto of Futurism – short play commissioned by Tiny Rhino – 2016

Flower Office – VideoVideoZine – 2016

I listened to an album each day for a year. Here's what I learned about culture and taste. – Vox – 2016

Ceaseless Fun – Zine – 2015

Untitled – Ketazine – 2015

Manic Pixie Slaughterhouse – Apocrypha & Abstractions – 2015

PRESS

Last Supper - Chicago Reader - 2024

Field of Flesh - Your Chicago Guide - 2024

Putting the FUN in Dysfunctional Family - Chicago Stage and Screen - 2024

Surreality Abounds in Field of Flesh - Third Coast Review - 2024

Review Rundown - No Proscenium - 2024

Immersive Theater Life: Interview with Writer/Director Derek Spencer - Do New - 2019

The Stars - FringeReview - 2018

The Stars Shine Bright in a Year to Remember from Ceaseless Fun - Haunting - 2018

Hollywood Fringe Fest 2018: Week One Reviews - My Haunt Life - 2018

Ceaseless Fun Takes Immersive Theater Out for a Poetic Spin - Hollywood in Toto - 2018

Catching Up From Life - My Haunt Life - 2018

Hollywood Fringe 2018: The NoPro Diary - No Proscenium - 2018

'They Who Saw the Deep' is Like Being Lost in the Weirdest Dream You Can Possibly Imagine - We Like LA - 2018

Sometimes The Abyss Looks Back: They Who Saw The Deep - No Proscenium - 2018

Ceaseless Fun's They Who Saw the Deep Redefines an Epic - Haunting - 2018

Ceaseless Fun: They Who Saw the Deep - Media Geeks - 2018

Stash House, Agnosia, Sleep No More, and Then She Fell - My Haunt Life - 2018

Agnosia Reflects on the Divinity of Darkness - Haunting - 2018

Agnosia by Ceaseless Fun - Immersive Junkie - 2018

Grief As Fractal Art: 'Agnosia' - No Proscenium - 2018

NoPro Podcast Episode 123: Derek Spencer of Ceaseless Fun - No Proscenium - 2017

Crash Course: A Reagan Obsessed Fever Dream Explodes In LA - No Proscenium - 2017