



# Kari Margolis

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## *Curriculum Vitae Overview*

### **PROFILE**

A Playwright, Director, Master Teacher, Performer, Keynote Speaker, Theatre Researcher, Designer and Published Author. Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the award-winning MB ADAPTORS Company founded in NYC in 1984. Creator of the Margolis Method, a comprehensive methodology for training actors and empowered theatre artists for the modern theatre now taught and recognized internationally. Director and lead faculty at Margolis Method Center Int'l in Highland Lake NY. Developed Summer Program, Professional Certification, University Professor Certification and Long Distance Learning Programs. Faculty at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, from 1997 to 2004. Played an integral role in reshaping the BA Theatre Program to have a focus on the actor/creator. Liaison to the student run Xperimental Theatre, developed the syllabus for new acting and directing courses, created six original productions with students and organized Guest Artist visits as well as interaction with the vibrant Twin Cities' arts community. Master Teacher for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for thirteen years. Each year, the Kennedy Center offers a scholarship to one National Irene Ryan Finalist to train at the Margolis Method Center for one month. Leads master classes and in-depth residencies nationally and abroad and works as a freelance director.

### **MB ADAPTORS COMPANY**

Authored and Directed seventeen original productions for the Company that have toured nationally and to Barcelona, Berlin, Singapore and throughout Canada and Mexico. Created several large-scale, site-specific events. MB ADAPTORS productions merge a highly physical approach to acting, state of the art multimedia, original text and song, and the unusual use of everyday objects. Training is an ongoing aspect of the Company, and the ensemble is known for its highly skilled performers, many of whom have trained in Margolis Method for over ten years.

- 1984-87: Artists-in-residence at BACA Downtown Contemporary Art Space.
- 1987-92: Opened studio in Downtown Brooklyn that housed a performance space, school and video and recording studios.
- 1992-2003: Relocated to Minneapolis. Opened performance space and school in the Historic Warehouse District.

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## *Theatre Innovator*

2004 - 2014 Relocated to Highland Lake NY. Opened the Margolis Method Center Int'l. and Company rehearsal/performance space. Have been touring original productions nationally and abroad.

### **ORIGINAL TOURING REPERTORY PRODUCTION / Year of Premiere**

MB ADAPTORS productions have had ensembles of four to thirty performers. Several productions have remained in the repertory for several years touring to multiple sites.

2014 STALK FOOTAGE (presently in development)  
HEAD SHOT (presently in development)  
2012 PULLING STRINGS  
2010 IN SEARCH OF TONTO BLUE  
2008 CYCLOPEDIA  
2005 THE HUMAN SHOW  
2003 SLEEPWALKERS  
2001 AMERICAN SAFARI  
2000 STARRY MESSENGER  
1998 VIDPIRES!  
1997 THE BED EXPERIMENT II  
1995 VANISHING POINT  
1993 CAFÉ PARADISE  
1992 KOPPELVISION and OTHER DIGITAL DEITIES  
1991 THE DILEMMA OF DESMODUS & DYPHILLA  
1989 SUITE SIXTEEN  
1988 DECODANCE  
1987 THE BED EXPERIMENT  
1985 AUTOBAHN

### **SITE-SPECIFIC EVENTS**

2009 360 DEGREES, Roebling Bridge, Minisink Ford, New York  
2001 TWO THOUSAND AND FIVE, Intermedia Arts Gallery, Mpls. MN,  
1999 THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE, Minnesota Science Museum, St Paul, MN  
1991 IN SEARCH OF PLANET EDEN, beach at Coney Island, NYC  
1989 SUITE SIXTEEN, created for the Brooklyn Museum, NYC  
1987 ART ATTACK created for front garden of the Brooklyn Museum, NYC

### **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

**Original theatre productions and research have been recognized with:**

2010/11 McKnight Foundation Support of Production  
2008 McKnight Foundation Support of Production  
2005 Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship  
2004 Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship

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- 2003 McKnight Fellow, Intermedia Arts
- 2002 Creative Capital Foundation National Artist Fellowship
- 2000/2001 Pew/TCG National Theatre Residency Fellowship, created a two-year position of Artist-in-Residence at the The Children's Theatre, Mpls. In this role created production of STARRY MESSENGER
- 1999 Cowles Chair, University of Minnesota
- 1998 State Arts Board, Theatre Fellowship
- 1997 McKnight Fellowship Intermedia Arts
- 1996 Jerome Foundation Travel/Work Grant
- 1993 McKnight National Artist Fellowship
- National Endowment for the Arts, Theater Fellowship
- 1992 National Endowment for the Arts, Theater Fellowship
- 1991 National Endowment for the Arts, Theater Fellowship
- 1990 National Endowment for the Arts, Theater Fellowship
- 1989 "BESSIE", New York Performance Award
- Brooklyn Arts Council, Outstanding Achievement in the Cultural Arts
- 1987 National Endowment for the Arts , Theater Fellowship
- New York Foundation for the Arts Performance Fellowship
- 1985 National Endowment for the Arts, Theater Fellowship

### **MB ADAPTORS GRANTS**

The performance company has received multiple year funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, The NY Department of Cultural Affairs, the Brooklyn Arts Council, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Bush Foundation, Dayton Hudson Foundation, Jerome Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Target Foundation and several family foundations and private donors.

### **MARGOLIS METHOD**

Reflecting over thirty years of research and inspired by the work of such artists as Etienne Decroux, Jerzy Grotowski and Bertolt Brecht, the Method centers on the dramatic force and emotion that emanate from the actor's physicality, uniting instinct and intellectual analysis. The Method is an in-depth study of tangible and practicable exercises that develop an empowered theatre artist with the combined skill sets of actor, director and playwright.

- 2014 Launched new website at [www.margolismethod.org](http://www.margolismethod.org)
- 2004-2014 Established and running Margolis Method Center Int'l in Highland Lake NY reaching an international student base of approximately fifty students per season. Started the Professor Certification Program in 2011.

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- 2001-2004 Accepted full-time faculty position at University of MN.  
Incorporated Margolis Method into core curriculum.
- 1997-2001 Adjunct Faculty University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, taught  
Margolis Method in MFA and BA acting programs
- 1992-2003 Opened and ran school in Minneapolis and worked as guest artist
- 1984-1992 Taught daily classes in NYC studio and Master Classes as guest  
artist (see edited list below)

### MARGOLIS METHOD CENTER INT'L

The Center is a think tank and place of exploration and research. The Center runs several professional training programs and has an international student body of approximately forty students per season. There are now six teaching artists with Professional Certification status which is a four to six year process of in-depth study. Certified artists make up faculty at the Center and teach outside workshops and assist Ms. Margolis at residencies and master classes.

- 2004 - 2014 **SUMMER PROGRAM**, runs June thru August. Workshops are  
Monday thru Friday, five hours per day.
- 2006-2014 **FALL and WINTER PROGRAMS**, are designed each season based  
on the Company's touring schedule and Ms. Margolis' residency and  
directing schedule.
- 2011 **UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**,  
designed for professors interested in incorporating Margolis Method  
exercises and improvisation structures into their existing syllabi. This  
is a sixty hour course.
- 2012 Graduated ten new Level I professors and four Level II professors.  
Level II is a ninety hour course. Launched the **PROFESSOR  
CERTIFICATION WEBSITE**, a private website containing exercises  
covered in the certification course.
- 2014 Eight Professors now working on Level III Certification.

### PRODUCTIONS CREATED and DIRECTED FOR UNIVERSITIES

- 2014 THE AUDITION, in development for Viterbo University
- 2013 A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, Montclair State University, NJ  
THE LOVE ME KNOT, created for Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI
- 2012 INSULA, conceived and directed, developed for Montclair State University.  
Invited to Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.
- 2010 **DEJA VU**, created for Fort Lewis College. Production was invited to Region  
8 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

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- 2004      **HUMAN SHOW** created for University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Production went to Edinburgh Festival and was invited to Region 8 and to the Kennedy Center's National American College Theatre Festival in Washington, DC.
- 1996      **VANISHING POINT**, created for George Mason, University
- 1998-2003      **ON THE EDGE**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Created new works each season, often in collaboration with the MB ADAPTORS Company ensemble.

### MASTER CLASSES AND RESIDENCIES / EDITED LIST

2014

- **University of Toronto**, three day residency, Toronto, Canada
- **Millikin University**, 2 week devising residency, Decatur IL
- **Rhode Island College**, two day residency, Providence RI
- **Pearl Studios**, 2 day workshop NYC
- **Guthrie Theater**, Master Class, Minneapolis, MN
- **Minnesota State University**, Moorhead, 2 day residency Moorhead, MN
- **Montclair State University**, 2 day residency, Montclair, NJ
- **Viterbo University**, 4 week devising residency, La Crosse, WI
- **Association of Professional Actors and Directors**, 4 week devising residency Barcelona Spain.

2013

- **Institute of Theatre Barcelona**, weeklong residency, Barcelona, Spain
- **Guthrie Theater**, master class, Minneapolis MN
- **University of Toronto**, two day residency, Toronto, Canada
- **Rhode Island College**, weeklong residency, Providence RI
- **Millikin University**, two week residency, Decatur IL
- **Bloomington Arts Center**, master class, Bloomington, MN
- **University of North Carolina**, two day residency, Chapel Hill, NC
- **Viterbo University**, master class, La Crosse, WI
- **Actors Movement Studio**, Summer Intensive Program, master classes, NYC

2012

- **Wagner College**, multiple actor workshops and contributed to the development of **GODDESS WHEEL**, a new musical by Galt MacDermot
- **SITI Company Master Teacher Series**, two day workshop, NYC
- **Windsor College**, Master Class, Windsor Canada
- **Region VIII KCACTF Festival**, First Guest Artist of Devised Work, Ogden UT
- **Guthrie Theatre**, Guest Artist, Mpls. MN
- **Montclair State University**, Monthlong Performance Residency, Montclair NJ
- **Bloomington Arts Center**, master class, Bloomington, MN

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2000-2011

- **Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival**, Master teacher for thirteen years. Each year the Kennedy Center offers one Margolis Method Center Scholarship to an Irene Ryan Finalist.

2011

- **Montclair State University**, three day residency for combined BA and BFA Freshman
- **Viterbo University**, two day residency
- **University of Minnesota, Moorhead**, two day residency
- **Bloomington Arts Center**, Guest Artist Residency, Bloomington MN
- **Millikin University**, two-week residency

2010, 2008, 2006

- **Professional Actors and Directors of Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain.** International Guest Artist. It is rare that international artists are invited more than one time.

2005-2012

- **Actors Movement Studio, Summer Intensive Program**, Guest Teacher, NYC

2009

- **Fort Lewis College**, six week performance residency, Durango CO
- **Towson University**, three day residency for MFA program. Towson MD
- **Master Teacher for Phoenix Fringe Festival**, Phoenix AZ

2008

- **Rocky Mountain Theatre Association**, Master Teacher, Durango CO
- **Towson University**, five-day residency for MFA Program, Towson MD
- **University of Maryland Baltimore County**, weeklong residency, Baltimore MD
- **University of Missouri, Kansas City**, master class, MI
- **Arizona State University**, five day residency, AZ

2003 - 2007

- **Cos International Theatre Festival**, Master Teacher, Reus Spain
- **University of Nevada Las Vegas**, six week residency
- **Luther College**, weeklong residency and responded to redesign of Theatre and Dance Programs, Decorah, IA
- **Saint Mary's College**, two day residency, Winona, MN.

1993-2003

- **Institute of Theatre Barcelona**, two day master class, Barcelona, Spain
- **Institute of Theatre Terrassa**, lecture and master class, Terrassa Spain
- **Ringling Brothers Clown College**, two week residency, Baraboo WI
- **George Mason University**, two week residency, Fairfax, VI
- **Dance Place**, weeklong residency, Washington DC
- **Theatre Mu**, series of master classes, Minneapolis MN

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- **University of Minnesota, Twin Cities** multiple residencies and workshops for Theater, Dance and Music Departments

### **1986-1991**

- Taught daily workshops at ADAPTORS Company school and throughout the New York State area.
- Taught master classes at all sites where MB ADAPTORS toured (see edited list)

### **1982 - 1986**

- Taught workshops throughout the New York State area
- Taught master classes at all sites where the MB ADAPTORS toured (see edited list)

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

2008 **Rocky Mountain Theatre Festival**, Durango, CO. .

2002 **National Conference of Theatre, Dance and Music Educators**, Mpls, MN.

### **SERVICE ON ARTS PANELS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

1987 - 2012

- **National Endowment for the Arts, Theater and Creativity Panels**, served on panel for four years.
- **National Endowment for the Arts Theater Program**, Site-reporter for 15 years.
- **Jerome Foundation, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Theatre, and Theatre Communications Group Panels**, multiple years of service.
- **National Movement Theatre Association**, Served two terms as President
  
- **Mid-Atlantic Arts Council**, Individual Artists Panel

### **PUBLISHED WRITING / edited list**

2008 **ENTREACTE Magazine**, Association of Professional Actors and Directors of Catalunya, number 159

2005 **Margolis Method™ DVD** funded by National Endowment for the Arts

2002 **MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS**, Allworth Press NY, “An Introduction to Margolis Method/A Dynamic Physical Approach to Actor Training”

1994 **WORDS ON DECROUX**, Mime Journal “Risking the Fall”

1993 **MOVEMENT THEATRE QUARTERLY**, Summer “Experiences of an NEA Panelist”

1991 **MOVEMENT THEATRE QUARTERLY**, Spring “Survival Through Growth”

1989 **INSIDE PERFORMANCE**, “Visual Poets”

### **THEATRE COMPANY AFFILIATIONS**

- **Theatre of Man**, core ensemble member of touring theatre company creating original ensemble based productions based on the techniques of Jerzy Grotowski, San Francisco, CA 1973-75

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- **Omnibus**, core ensemble member of international touring theatre company of original ensemble-created productions, Montreal, Canada, 1978 - 82

### TRAINING

#### **1973 - 1975: San Francisco, CA.**

- Daily training in Physical Theatre with Anne Dennis: 900hrs.
- Balinese Mask Theatre with Leonard Pitt: 300hrs.
  
- Brechtian Theatre with Ronnie Davis and Sandra Archer: 250hrs.
- Pickle Family Circus, acrobatics, trapeze and juggling: 120hrs.
- Intensive Workshops with Eugenio Barba, Ryszard Cieslak, Carl Weber, Joe Bellum, Marcel Marceau and members of the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

#### **1975 - 1978: Paris, France**

- Three years daily training in the private studio of Etienne Decroux: 1,200hrs.
- Ella Jaroszewicz of the Warsaw Opera Company, 480hrs.
- Weekly 2hr. classes with Rene Bon, Ballet and Carolyn Carlson, Modern

#### **1978 - 1982: Montreal, Quebec.**

- Daily training in Physical Theatre with Jean Asselin and Denise Boulanger, 1,200hrs.

#### **1983 to Present**

Has maintained a daily research laboratory working with an ensemble of artists, several of whom have dedicated over ten years to the development of the work.

### ARTICLES AND REVIEWS / edited list - chronological order

- [\*The Montclair Times\*, Joan Finn, A Theatrical Innovator at the Forefront of the Trend 2012](#)
- *American Theater*, Feature Article "Lets Get Physical" Nicole Potter & "Actors on the Move" ATM-January 2011
- *WYPR Maryland Morning*, J. Wynn Rousuck, October 2010
- *The Kansas City Star*, Robert Trussell, 2008
- *Star Tribune*, Graydon Royce, March 2005
- *Star Tribune*, Carolyn Petrie, September 2003
- *Arizona Republic*, Kyle Lawson, February 2001
- *Star Tribune*, Graydon Royce, December 2000
- *City Pages*, Max Sparber, December, 2000
- *American Theatre Magazine*, Kari Margolis on cover, March 2000
- *Star Tribune*, Mike Steele, 1998
- *Star Tribune*, Mike Steele, 1997
- *Minneapolis/Saint Paul Magazine*, Linda Shapiro, November, 1996
- *Variety*, Tad Simons, March 1995,
- *Pioneer Press*, Jayne Blanchard, March 1995
- *City Pages*, Carolyn Petrie, February, 1995



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- *Star Tribune*, Mike Steele, March, 1993
- *Village Voice*, Charles McNulty, December, 1992,
- *Washington Post*, Pamela Sommers, September, 1990
- *Village Voice*, Deborah Jowitt, April, 1989,
- *Pittsburgh Press*, Nancy Goldner, June, 1988
- *Washington Post*, Alan Kriegsman February 14, 1988
- *New York Times*, Anna Kisselgoff, January, 1987
- *New York Times*, Walter Goodman, December, 1986
- *Village Voice*, Don Shewey, June, 1985
- *New York Times*, Stephen Holden, May, 1985

### **VENUES WHERE ORIGINAL WORK HAS BEEN PRODUCED /edited list**

7 Stages, Atlanta, GA

Actor's Theatre of Phoenix, AZ,

Art Awareness, Lexington, NY

Atlanta Arts Festival, Atlanta GA

Austin Arts Center and Real Art Ways, Hartford CT

BACA Downtown, Brooklyn, NY

Baltimore Theatre Project, Baltimore, MD

Central College, Pella, IA

City Theatre, Monterrey, Mexico

Dance Place, Washington DC,

Dance Theatre Workshop, NYC

Fortuney Theatre, Reus, Spain

Harbourfront Theatre Centre, Toronto, Canada

Illusion Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Gas Station Theatre, Winnipeg, Canada

John Harms Center, Engelwood, NJ

Just Off Broadway Theatre, Kansas City MO

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, Illinois

Le Festival Qui Fait Du Bruit, International, Montreal, Quebec

Marshall Artists Series, Huntington, WV

Montclair State College, Montclair, NJ,

Mount Vernon College, Washington, DC

Movement Theatre International, Philadelphia, PA

Nazareth College, Rochester, NY

Ogdensburg College, Canton, NY

O'Shaughnessy, Saint Paul, MN

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Performing Arts Center, SUNY Purchase, NY,  
Red Eye Theatre, Minneapolis, MN  
Stephen Foster Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA  
Saint Clement's Church, NYC  
Saint Mary's College, Winona, MN  
Singapore Festival of Arts, Singapore

Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN  
Spectrum, Montreal, Quebec,  
London International Mime Festival, London, England,  
Towson State University, Maryland,  
Tusten Theatre Narrowsburg NY,  
Wabash College, Wabasha, Indiana,  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN,  
Whole Theater, Montclair NJ

## **CURRENT PROJECTS**

- Building University Professor Margolis Method website, a resource and documentation of exercises and improvisation structures for Professors who have completed the Certification Program
- Completing development of Margolis Method Long Distance Learning Program.
- Completing a book entitled *Actor Warriors in an Actor Centered Theatre*.
- Touring PULLING STRINGS, an original production created for an ensemble of six actors.
- Re-staging INSULA in preparation for taking this production to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region II, on behalf of Montclair State University.
- Developing the Handbook for Level III University Professor Certification.
- Certifying three teaching artists for Professional Certification Levels.

## **REFERENCES**

**Gregg Henry, Artistic Director, The Kennedy Center, KCACTF**

P.O. Box 101510, Arlington, VA 22210

Office phone: 202-416-8864 Cell phone: 202-276-7571

**Boris Daussa Pastor, Professor del Dept. d'Història i Teoria**

Institut del Teatre, Barcelona

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# **Kari Margolis**

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**Michal Kolbialka, Past Chair and Professor of Theatre Arts & Dance Associate**

**Dean for Faculty**, author of several theatre books including two on Tadeusz Kantor

2322 Milwaukee Avenue. Minneapolis, MN 55404, phone number: 612 722 6676

or cell: 612 801 6919 e-mail: [kobia001@umn.edu](mailto:kobia001@umn.edu)

*A Letter of Recommendation is already available upon request*

**Anne Dennis, Director, Playwright, Professor, Author of THE ARTICULATE**

**BODY**, 79 Hargrave Park, London, N19 5JW, U.K. tel: + 44 (0) 20 7272 3542

e-mail: [hartnoll\\_dennis@hotmail.com](mailto:hartnoll_dennis@hotmail.com)

**Dr. Suzanne Trauth Montclair State University — College of the Arts**

**BFA Acting Program Advisor** Department of Theatre & Dance, Life Hall, Suite 126, 1 Normal Ave.

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## **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FROM:**

- Sallie Lyons, University of Toronto, Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
- Jonathan Becker, Assistant Professor of Movement and Acting, Ball State University
- Kent Stephens, Director, Playwright, Former Head of B.A. Theatre Program, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities,
- Louis Kavouras, Chair, University of Las Vegas Theatre and Dance Program
- Stephan Nunns, Director of MFA Program in Theatre Arts, Towson University
- Colette Sears, Associate Professor of Theatre, University of Baltimore, Maryland County

## **FIVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**