



JOSHUA POHJA
CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST

818.960.9227
joshpohja@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHY

JOSH POHJA (he/him) is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama during the residency of the Moscow Art Theatre; Anatoly Smeliansky, Andrei Șerban, Natalia Fedorova, as well as Bulgarian director Mladen Kiselov, Ibsen Scholar Brian Johnston, Victoria Santa Cruz, Gregory Lehane, Don Marinelli, and Don Wadsworth. These scholars and teachers shaped his love for re-imagining classical theatre. He is also a graduate of the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and alumni of the Saratoga International Theatre Institute (SITI) at Skidmore College under the guidance of Anne Bogart and the SITI Company. He is co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of Vanguard Productions. JP most recently helmed Vanguard's annual production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* and *Antigone* at The Calvary starring Gregory Linington and Chantae Miller, and staged readings of *Hamlet* and *Endgame*. Other professional credits include assistant directing Molly Rhode in the critically acclaimed Milwaukee Chamber Theatre production of *Great Expectations*. Also at Chamber Theatre, Pohja also co-produced and directed for the 2023 Young Playwright's Festival. Other directing credits include *Hamlet*, *An Enemy of the People*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Antigone*, *Blue Stockings*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Julius Caesar* for First Stage Young Company and Summer Academy. *Golden Child*, *She Kills Monsters*, *No Child* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for Pius XI. JP also served five years as Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Education Programs Coordinator and Basic Acting I-III teacher. As an actor Pohja has performed nationally with, most notably, The Guthrie Theater (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*; dir. Joe Dowling), The Acting Company (*Richard III* dir. Eve Shapiro), Old Globe (*The Full Monty* dir. Jack O' Brien), Alley Theatre (*A Christmas Carol*; dir. Stephen Rayne), Judson Church, HERE Arts Center and NYC Fringe Festival.

Visit joshpohja.com and vanguardmke.com for more.

RELEVANT INSTITUTIONAL AND CREATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <p>JSPMKE INC.
joshpohja.com
APEX Ignition APEX Scene Lab(s) at The Calvary
<i>in association with Vanguard Productions</i>
APEX Ignition Director's Composition Lab at The Calvary
<i>in association with Vanguard Productions</i></p> | <p>2024 - Current</p> |
| <p>CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
bigred.church
Building Administrator and Events Manager</p> | <p>2024- Current</p> |



JOSHUA POHJA
CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST

818.960.9227
joshpohja@gmail.com

Vanguard APEX Arts Campus

VANGUARD PRODUCTIONS MKE

2022 - Current

vanguardmke.com

Founding Member & Producing Artistic Director

Director of Artistic Training: *Vanguard APEX Education*

Educator: Vanguard APEX Suzuki & Viewpoints at The Calvary

2024 - Current

Educator: Vanguard APEX Suzuki & Viewpoints at Milwaukee Ballet

2023 - Current

Director: *Antigone*

Production || Calvary Presbyterian Church || March 2024

Director: *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*

Production || Calvary Presbyterian Church || December 2023

Director: *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*

(Laura Gordon, Jonathan Wainwright)

Reading || Baumgartner Center for the Arts || Milwaukee Ballet Studio B || August 2023

Director: *Endgame*

(Jim Pickering, Jonathan Wainwright)

Reading || Plymouth Church, Milwaukee || October 2023

Director: *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* (Staged Reading)

Production || Interchange Theater || December 2022

MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE

2015 - Current

Young Playwright's Festival Artistic Producer | March 2023

Director: *To Be De(ad)cided, Mom* 2023

Director: *1-800-123-BOYS*; Young Playwright's Festival | 2019

Assistant Director: *Great Expectations* (dir. Molly Rhode) 2017

Director: *Great Expectations* Young Company u/s collaboration with First Stage

Teaching Artist: *Romeo and Juliet* Masterclass for High School 2016

FIRST STAGE CHILDREN'S THEATER

Director: *An Enemy of the People*

Young Company

March 2024

Director: *Hamlet*

Company Class

August 2023

Director: *Julius Caesar*

Company Class

August 2020

Director: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Company Class

August 2019

Director: *Great Expectations*

Young Company

April 2017

Director: *The Skin of Our Teeth*

Young Company

March 2017



JOSHUA POHJA
CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST

818.960.9227
joshpohja@gmail.com

FILM PRODUCTION AND CASTING

BEFORE THE DOOR PICTURES

2011 - 2013

Assistant to Producers; Neal Dodson, Corey Moosa and Zachary Quinto.

Read and write script coverage for over 50 scripts; help cast and maintain a high level of confidentiality between agency and producers during artist contract negotiations; delivered scripts to A-List talent; listened in and took notes on significant deals with Hollywood A-list writers and producers. Worked pre and post-production on films *All Is Lost*, *A Most Violent Year*, *Dog Eat Dog*, *The Banshee Chapter*, *Never Here*, *Margin Call* and reality tv show *The Chair*.

DOG EAT DOG, Assistant to the directors and producers dir. Siân Heder

2013

NATIONAL AND OFF-BROADWAY STAGE PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

RICHARD III (*Nat'l Tour and Off-Broadway*) Prince Edward | Acting Company; Eve Shapiro

GREAT EXPECTATIONS u/s Actor #6 | Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; Molly Rhode

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM *Francis Flute* | Guthrie Theatre On-Tour; Joe Dowling

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Young Scrooge | Alley Theatre; Stephen Rayne

THE FULL MONTY (*Pre-B'way Workshop*) *Nathan Lukowski* | Old Globe; dir. Jack O'Brien
w/ Roger Bart, Dana Reeve, Jason Danieleley, André De Shields and Annie Golden.

DR. FAUSTUS LIGHTS THE LIGHTS Doctor Faustus | Judson Church; New York Fringe

CHEAP THRILLS Danny Martini | HERE Arts Center

FILM AND RADIO PERFORMANCE

COMPANY K Pvt. Yawfitz | Waterfront Pictures dir. Bob Clem

THE ORCHARD Sascha | dir. Kevin Thompson

GHOSTS (Audiobook) Osvald Alving Right Track Studios, Pittsburgh

CATCHER IN THE RYE (USC Grad Film) Holden Caufield | dir. Kevin Thompson

ARBY'S | National Radio Spot | Lead Voice Merkle + Partners

MILK [Feature Film] ADR Artist | Dir. Gus Van Sant | Producer: Dan Jinks & Bruce Cohen



JOSHUA POHJA
CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST

818.960.9227
joshpohja@gmail.com

COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE

Volkswagen “Curiosos” w/ Sylvester Stallone

[Comercial Novo Gol Curiosos com Sylvester Stallone](#)

MCDONALD’S “Delivery” Arnold Worldwide | Z Group Films

[McDonald's Iced Coffee Commercial](#)

HBO DEF COMEDY JAM “Beep” HBO | Harvest Films

ARBY’S “Laughing Stock” Merkley + Partners | Sandwick Films

(1) [Arby's Chicken Naturals](#) (2) [Arby's Chicken Naturals](#)

CHEEZ-ITS “San Francisco” Leo Burnett USA | Biscuit Filmworks

[Cheez-It commercial](#)

FOX SPORTS NETWORK “Congrats” FOX | TBWA/CHIAT DAY

HONDA “SportsDrive” TBWA | CHIAT DAY

[International, Regional and Industrial Spots Available Upon Request.]

MUSIC VIDEO - DIRECTION

TIME OF MY LIFE - Christopher Dallman

Director, Producer and Cinematographer || Location: Paris, France

[TIME OF MY LIFE - Christopher Dallman](#)

SO HIGH - Christopher Dallman

Director, Producer and Cinematographer || Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[Christopher Dallman | SO HIGH | Official Music Video](#)

NO SENSE IN REGRET - Christopher Dallman

Director, Producer and Cinematographer || Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[NO SENSE IN REGRET - Christopher Dallman feat. Chantae Miller](#)

DANGER ZONE - Christopher Dallman

Director, Producer and Cinematographer || Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[Danger Zone · Christopher Dallman · Official Music Video · Kenny Loggins Cover](#)

THEATRICAL TRAINING

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY - B.F.A. ACTING (Dean’s List, During the Moscow Art Theatre residency with Andrei Serban, Anatoly Smeliansky, Natalia Fedorova. Studied under professors Mladen



JOSHUA POHJA
CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST

818.960.9227
joshpohja@gmail.com

Kiselov, Victoria Santa Cruz, Don Wadsworth, Barbara Mackenzie-Wood, Anthony McKay, Greg Lehane, Don Marinelli, Ingrid Sonnichsen, Jed Harris, Kaf Warman. Performed in *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Intruder*, *Our Town*, *A Flea In Her Ear*.

SARATOGA INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE (SITI) - Suzuki, Viewpoints and Composition | Anne Bogart and the SITI Company; Ellen Lauren, Will Bond, Kelley Maurer, Leon Ingulsrud, J, Ed Araiza, Barney O'Hanlon, Stephen Webber.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS - Acting/Directing Program; Produced, wrote and directed *Silhouettes Against The Moon* which went on to win the Ivar Theater's Inner City Cultural Festival's 1995 Best New Play || Performed in *Fly Blackbird* (dir. C. Bernard Jackson), *Wasitacatisaw*, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Becoming Memories*, *The Winter's Tale*.

PLAYWRITING

POTTERS FIELD, folk opera
PAWNS
MUNITIONEM
PRINCE OF THE RAINDROPS
*SILHOUETTES AGAINST THE MOON**
(*Winner Inner City Cultural Center - Best Play)
VEL & GROPPPI - IN THE DEEP TRACKS

AFFILIATIONS

SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild)
Actors Equity Association

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Brent Hazelton, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Artistic Director
Jesse J. Perez, Program Director, Old Globe Graduate Theatre Program
George Lorimer, Executive Producer, Vanguard Productions
Michelle LoRizzo, Associate Artistic Director, First Stage
Neal Dodson, Film Producer