

Jeff Christian

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www.uprightmonkey.net

Columbia College Chicago
Cinema Art + Science
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Academic Employment

Columbia College Chicago, 2011 - present

Directing Instructor - Cinema Art + Science, Adjunct Faculty

Courses taught: Cinema Directing II (6 credits), Directing I (6 credits), Advanced Casting Director (3 credits), Acting Techniques for Filmmakers (4 credits).

Working with students in both the Directing and Producing concentrations, exploring the rudiments of directing, effective communication with actors, casting, creation of preproduction documents, collaboration with department heads, screenwriting, production and post-production — all in service of storytelling with a distinct directorial voice. Collaborating with faculty and students from different concentrations within and outside the department on multiple cinematic projects. Advising current and past students on their outside projects, and helping them chart their artistic and career growth. Serving on curriculum committees and providing critique for upper-level projects.

Award Winner, Excellence in Teaching Award, 2014

Finalist, Excellence in Teaching Award, 2013

Roosevelt University, 2015 - present

Theatre Conservatory Instructor - Chicago College of the Performing Arts, Adjunct Faculty

Course taught: Rehearsal and Performance (3 credits).

Leading students through the process of auditions, rehearsals and performance — culminating in a public run of a mainstage production. Providing dramaturgical material to students, and collaborating with design and production faculty to achieve a directorial vision.

Guest Lecturing

Roosevelt University, theatre conservatory— *substitute instructor for Camera Acting II, 2015*

University of Illinois-Chicago, theatre — *substitute instructor for Shakespeare acting, 2014*

Northwestern University, theatre — *audition techniques, 2013*

Roosevelt University, theatre conservatory — *acting Shakespeare, 2012*

Northwestern University, film — *professional experiences in film directing and acting, 2010*

Syracuse University, theatre — *the business of theatre, 2005*

University of Wisconsin, theatre — *the business of theatre, 2003*

Barat College, theatre — *stage combat workshops, 2002-3*

Columbia College Chicago, theatre — *scene study, 2001*

University of Chicago, theatre — *scene study, 1999*

Education

University of Wisconsin

Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing, 1987

Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, 1987

Professional

Awards

Joseph Jefferson Award, Direction, *Angels in America* (co-director)

Joseph Jefferson Award, Production, *Angels in America* (co-director, actor, fight director)

Joseph Jefferson Award, Ensemble, *Angels in America* (actor)

After Dark Award, Production, *Angels in America* (co-director, actor, fight director)

After Dark Award, Production, *Journey's End* (actor)

Joseph Jefferson nominations, Production/Ensemble, *The Fair Maid of the West* (actor)

Professional

Experience

Cinema Directing, 2004 - present

Directorial work ranging from narrative to documentary to animation to commercial. As owner and Chief Creative of upright monkey, inc. (incorporated in 2006), partnering with production companies to create and produce entertainment, infotainment and advertising content. Collaborating with actors, directors of photography, writers, editors, producers, assistant directors and animators to execute vision, as well as leading and coordinating all department heads. Collaborating with clients to effectively and artistically convey brand identity and messaging to their audiences. Under contract for nearly five years with the Emmy Award-winning production company, Digital Kitchen, working as a director, writer and/or creative director for 55 episodes of a national movie pre-show, seen by an average of 47 million people on 10,000 screens per month. Created cinematic content for union theatrical productions — conceiving, designing, shooting and editing all pieces. Full credits and clips available at www.uprightmonkey.net.

Production History

<i>Screenvision 2010, #1- 9</i>	director/writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Screenvision 2009, #1- 12</i>	director/writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Screenvision 2008, #1-12</i>	director/writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Screenvision 2007, #1-12</i>	director/writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Screenvision 2006, #4,8</i>	director/writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Screenvision 2006, #2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11,12</i>	writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Frightline</i> (animated short)	co-director/co-writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Man in the Seats #4-6</i>	director/writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>Man in the Seats #1-3</i>	co-director/co-writer	Digital Kitchen
<i>10th Magnitude</i> (identity video)	co-director/writer	The Shadow Gang
<i>Still Live</i> (narrative short)	director/co-producer	upright monkey/ Collaboration
<i>Das Pingponger</i> (documentary short)	co-director/co-producer	upright monkey

Stage Directing, 1989 - present

Over 20 full professional productions — including many world premieres — and nearly 30 fully staged professional theatrical readings in Chicago and regional theatres. Collaborating with actors and design teams to execute vision, as well as working with artistic directors and stage managers to uphold artistic integrity throughout the run of the show. Working with playwrights to develop scripts and adapting classic scripts for production. Acclaimed productions range from Shakespeare to revivals of classic and contemporary American and Irish plays, as well as the premieres including *According to Mark* (a one man, word-for-word theatricalization of the King James Version of the Book of Mark), *Kill Me* (a non-linear psychological horror play) and *Singer and Saw* (a neo-vaudevillean revue, featuring a saw-playing clown and an mezzo soprano). Served as Artistic Director for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago — directing, adapting, planning seasons, casting, hiring outside directors and working with the board on all financial matters — for eight seasons (2001-2009), during which time audiences increased 400% and the company annually operated in the black. Currently serving as Producing Artistic Director for Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre.

Shining City — Irish Theatre of Chicago

“For all its bleakness, McPherson and Jeff Christian's production are more concerned with the personal realizations and truths that can only be discovered after everything is lost. Ensemble-wide, the performances are patient, raw and rewarding.” (Time Out Chicago)

The Skin of Our Teeth — The Artistic Home:

“Jeff Christian's cunning and sometimes breathtaking production...dazzles. Christian's cast builds the tension and sorrow bit by bit by masterful bit, moving nearly seamlessly from the first act's absurdity (complete with baby dinosaur and woolly mammoth) to the bleak blasted world left after global warfare.” (Chicago Tribune)

A Whistle in the Dark — Seanachai Theatre Company

“Seanachai Theatre Company's revival, directed by Jeff Christian, is so explosive it's a wonder that the walls of the downstairs studio at Victory Gardens are still intact. Astoundingly powerful.” (Chicago Tribune)

Proof — New American Theater

“Director Jeff Christian deserves kudos for the excellent ensemble and setting the right pace and tone to accentuate the many aspects of “Proof” without allowing anything to override.” (Rockford Register Star)

Mojo Mickybo — Seanachai Theatre Company

“In Jeff Christian's brisk, athletic staging for Seanachai Theatre Company, Robert Kauzlaric and Dan Waller play not only the boys but everyone else in their world -- troubled parents, eccentric shopkeepers, neighborhood thugs. Their characterizations are crisp, their accents flawless, their depiction of boyhood boisterous, touching, and true.” (Chicago Reader)

Driving Miss Daisy — New American Theater

“Everything from Jeff Christian’s unencumbered staging to Robert Durhams’s stylized representational set to the straightforward sensitivity of the three-member cast is neither more – nor less – than it needs to be. It is simply marvelous.” (Rockford Register Star)

Kill Me (world premiere) -- WildClaw Theatre

“Killer -- especially in Jeff Christian’s nicely orchestrated, cleverly designed staging.” (Chicago Reader)

Production History

<i>The Plough and the Stars</i>	Roosevelt University Theatre Conservatory
<i>Shining City</i>	Irish Theatre of Chicago
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Kill Me</i> (premiere)	Wild Claw Theatre
<i>As You Like It</i>	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i>	The Artistic Home
<i>Mojo Mickybo</i>	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>Love’s Labours Lost</i>	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Our Father</i>	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>According to Mark</i> (premiere)	Original/Touring Production
<i>A Whistle in the Dark</i>	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Proof</i>	New American Theater
<i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i>	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Driving Miss Daisy</i>	New American Theater
<i>50 Minute Hamlet</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Sister Bernie’s Bingo Bash</i>	Regional Touring Company
<i>Land of the Free</i> (premiere)	Artistic Home
<i>Angels in America: I & II</i> +# (co-director)	The Journeymen
<i>Crate Expectations</i> (premiere/co-writer)	Chicago Dramatists/Big Belly
<i>Singer and Saw</i> * (premiere)	Factory/Actors Gym/NYC cabarets
<i>A Tribute to Offenbach</i> (premiere)	Chicago Cultural Center
<i>Cruise Control</i> (premiere)	Artistic Home
<i>A Girl in Every Town</i> (premiere)	Chapel Perilous
<i>Mickey’s Teeth</i>	Bailiwick Festival
<i>A New Day</i>	Act Now Productions
Act Now Improv	Regional Touring Company
ARK Improvisational Theatre	Regional Touring Company
+Joseph Jefferson Awards: Director/Production	
#After Dark Award: Outstanding Production	
*Comedy Festival winner	

Staged Theatrical Readings

<i>The Judge's House</i>	Stone Hearth Theatre Company
<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Mary Stuart</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Paradise Lost</i> (also script consultant)	Milton Project/Shakespeare Project
<i>The Rivals</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Henry VIII</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>In Medea Res</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>As You Like It</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Henry VI</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Constant Wife</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Love's Labours Lost</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Faust</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>The Parvenu</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Ghosts</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>King Lear</i>	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>A Walk in the Woods</i>	Aspect Theatre/The Peace Museum
<i>Cricket on the Hearth</i> (also adaptor)	The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Six Postcards</i>	Seanachai Amarach Festival
<i>Medea</i>	Aspect Theatre
Ten Minute Plays: <i>78 & Existential Love</i>	Chicago Dramatists
<i>Monitor</i>	The 24 Hour Play Project

On-Camera Acting, 1989 - present

More than 50 principal credits in features, television, narrative shorts, industrials and national commercials. Worked with director Christopher Nolan on *Batman Begins*, was the second lead in the feature *Witches' Night* and has shared scenes with actors such as William H. Macy (Showtime's *Shameless*), Dennis Quaid (*The Express*) and Academy Award winner, Jennifer Lawrence (*The Poker House*).

Select Film and Television Credits

<i>Shameless</i> : #312 "Survival of the Fittest"	Showtime	d. Mark Mylod
<i>Happy Hour</i>	71° North	d. Martin Rodahl
<i>The Last Rider</i>	Last Rabbit	d. Sebastian Keck
<i>Cyrus</i>	Lakeshore	d. Mark Vadik
<i>Carjacked</i>	IFP	d. Casshmarek Green
<i>Good People</i>	Taproot Productions	d. Alex Lemay
<i>Helix</i>	Windward	d. Aram Rappaport
<i>The Express</i>	Universal Pictures	d. Gary Fleder
<i>The Poker House</i>	Phase 4 Films	d. Lori Petty
<i>Witches' Night</i>	Haymoon	d. Paul Traynor
<i>Batman Begins</i>	Warner Brothers U.K.	d. Christopher Nolan
<i>Pickman's Muse</i>	Cappelletto	d. Robert Cappelletto
<i>Spaceman Dan's 243rd Flight</i>	Ground Zero Films	d. John Mossman
<i>Coasting</i>	Filmtrust, Inc.	d. Amy Turilli

Stage Acting, 1988 - present

Over 60 professional productions in Chicago and regional theatres throughout the country, ranging from classical to new works. Roles include Shakespeare's Richard III, Brutus, Malvolio, Claudius, Macduff, Falstaff and Proteus, as well as Joe Pitt in *Angels in America*, Nick in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Seumas in *The Shadow of a Gunman* and the Jackson Pollock-inspired lead character in Tennessee Williams' *The Day on Which a Man Dies* (in Chicago, East Hampton and Provincetown).

The Day on Which a Man Dies — The Tennessee Williams Festival

"The elegant and powerful Jennie Moreau as the Woman and the crazed Neanderthal of an artist Jeff Christian, deliver meticulously crafted and blazingly honest performances that cry, 'acting should be like this.'" (New City)

Lay Me Down Softly — Seanachai Theatre Company

"And the actors — each of them pure perfection, but also a model of ensemble synergy — not only live in the immediate moment of their characters' lives, but magically suggest the years of rage, disappointment, frustration and loss that have made them who they are. At its center is Theo (Jeff Christian), a big, volatile, self-made guy." (Chicago Sun-Times)

Angels in America — The Journeymen

"Its production of 'Angels in America' has carved out a distinctive place in Chicago theater history... All of the ensemble members focus on their characters' eloquent search for identity. Jeff Christian gives Joe just the right degree of emotional discomfort." (Chicago Sun-Times)

The Weir — Seanachai Theatre Company

"The ensemble is on top of a tough script filled with demanding monologues. The actors goose the humor with nice, natural touches; Christian's awkward pauses and over-long eye contact are genius." (New City)

The Laramie Project — Madison Repertory Theatre

"The Rep's show is a theatrical miracle. Despite the show's complexity, not one of the performers misses a beat. Rep veterans Jeff Christian, C. Michael Wright and Jim Devita all strike solid, sustainable chords in their various roles." (The Capital Times)

The Shadow of a Gunman — Seanachai Theatre Company

"I was impressed with Christian's shambling, comic, tragic, completely truthful performance." (WBEZ, Dueling Critics)

Journey's End — Seanachai Theatre Company

"...featuring a richly believable and touching Jeff Christian." (Chicago Sun-Times)

Production History

<i>Cymbeline</i>	Iachimo/Belarius	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	Grumio	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>Richard III</i>	Richard III	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Sea Captain/Priest	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>Lay Me Down Softly</i>	Theo	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>	Dromio of Syracuse	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>Hamlet</i>	Claudius	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Leonato	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>The Shadow of a Gunman</i>	Seumas	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>Macbeth</i>	Macduff	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Egeus/Snug	Lakeside Shakespeare
<i>God of Carnage</i>	Michael/Alan (u/s)	The Goodman Theatre
<i>The Weir</i>	Jim	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>King Lear</i>	Kent	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>The Day on Which a Man Dies</i>	The Man	Tennessee Williams Festival/NPT
<i>Henry V</i>	Chorus/Fluellen/King	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Our Father</i>	Beaky	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>Scenes From The Big Picture</i>	Dave	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>War</i>	Noel	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>Feast</i>	Mack	Chicago Dramatists
<i>Henry IV</i>	Falstaff	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Falstaff	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Noah Joad	Syracuse Stage/Indiana Repertory
<i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i>	Nick	Artists' Ensemble Theater
<i>50 Minute Hamlet</i>	Hamlet	Shakespeare Project of Chicago
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Brutus	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Malvolio	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Journey's End+</i>	Osborne	Seanachai Theatre Company
<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	Proteus/director	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Capulet	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Belber/Doc/ Galloway/Phelps	Madison Repertory Theatre
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Oberon/Bottom/Theseus	Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre
<i>Fallen Angels</i>	Willy	Writers' Theatre
<i>Waiting For Lefty</i>	Grady	Artistic Home
<i>Angels in America:</i>		
<i>Millennium Approaches*+</i>	Joe/co-director	The Journeymen
<i>Angels in America: Perestroika*+</i>	Joe/co-director	The Journeymen
<i>Richard III</i>	King Edward	Chicago Shakespeare
<i>Othello</i>	Herald	Chicago Shakespeare
<i>The Rivals</i>	Thomas	Milwaukee Repertory
<i>Inherit The Wind</i>	Bollinger	Milwaukee Repertory
<i>Playing With Fire</i>	Dr. Frankenstein	Illinois Theatre Center
<i>Strange Case: Jekyll & Hyde</i>	Utterson/original music	Lifeline
<i>Love, Sex and the IRS</i>	Jon	Drury Lane Evergreen Park
<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Tony	New American Theater
<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Murray	New American Theater
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Marley/Fred	New American Theater
<i>The Fair Maid of the West#</i>	Carrol	CT20 Ensemble
<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>	Tempter	Bernie Sahlins
<i>The Foreigner</i>	David	Madison Repertory Theatre
<i>My Night With Reg</i>	John	Bailiwick Repertory
<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>	Paris	Oak Park Festival Theatre
<i>Lone Star</i>	Ray	Act Now Productions
<i>Run For Your Wife</i>	Stanley	Festival Theatre

<i>The Miser</i>	Cleante	ARK Repertory Theatre
<i>Trumpets and Raspberries</i>	Tony	ARK Repertory Theatre
<i>Don't Drink the Water</i>	Kilroy	ARK Repertory Theatre

*Joseph Jefferson Awards: Ensemble/Production/Director

+After Dark Award: Production

#Jefferson nominations: Ensemble/Production

Roles performed in theatrical readings with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

Macbeth	<i>Macbeth</i> , 2015
Roughman	<i>The Fair Maid of the West</i> , 2014
Feste	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , 2013
Iago	<i>Othello</i> , 2012
Ajax	<i>Troilus & Cressida</i> , 2012
Caliban	<i>The Tempest</i> , 2011
Leicester	<i>Mary Stuart</i> , 2011
Satan	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , 2010
Enobarbus	<i>Antony & Cleopatra</i> , 2010
Oberson/Bottom/Theseus	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , 2010
Richard III	<i>Richard III</i> , 2009
Aegeus	<i>In Medea Res</i> , 2008
Oliver/Amiens	<i>As You Like It</i> , 2008
Richard/Cade	<i>Henry VI</i> , 2007
John	<i>My Name is Will</i> , 2006 (on-going)
Proteus	<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , 2004
Bassanio	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , 2003
Mercutio	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> , 2002
Brutus	<i>Julius Caesar</i> , 2001
Antonio	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , 2001
Hortensio	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , 2001
Buckingham	<i>Richard III</i> , 2000

Writing, 1984 - present

Writing original and adapted work for stage, film, radio, new media and commercial outlets. Produced work spans narrative drama, sketch comedy, commercial, promotional to infotainment. Head Writer for 55 episodes of Digital Kitchen's production of the Screenvision national movie pre-show. Stage adaptations include source material from Shakespeare, Euripides, Moliere, Ibsen, Dickens, Goethe, Marlowe, Milton and Sinclair Lewis. Three seasons as Head Writer for J.R. Sullivan's *Hometown Holiday* (live stage and radio broadcast) and Creative Consultant to Tessera Publishing.

Casting, 1989 - present

Facilitating and running casting sessions for film, theatre, improv and commercial productions. Liaising with producers and working with the performing unions, performers and agents to negotiate contracts. Currently serving as Casting Director for Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre.

Workshops and Private Audition Coaching, 1994 - present

Leading scene study, audition technique, voice, improvisation, stage combat and basic acting workshops for both students and working professionals under the aegis of such theaters as Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, New American Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and The Artistic Home. Working with dozens of private clients has resulted in network television and film roles, as well as offers from theatres such as Steppenwolf, Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Actors Theatre of Louisville and The Stratford Festival.

**Professional
Affiliations**

Screen Actors' Guild - American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, member
Actors' Equity Association, member
Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre, Production Artistic Director and founding member
Irish Theatre of Chicago, ensemble member
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, advisor and former artistic director
Part-time Faculty Association, member
The Artistic Home, advisory board member
WildClaw Theatre, artistic associate

**Other
Experience**

Jim Ziegeweid for Congress, April 1988 - September 1988
Campaign Manager - Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District

Paul Simon for President, January 1988 - April 1988
Regional Advance, Press and Field staff - national Presidential Campaign

University of Wisconsin Sports News Service, April 1984 - May 1987
Writer, Statistician and Traveling Press Liaison

References

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Former Associate Artistic Director of Utah Shakespeare Festival
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