

ERWIN MAAS

Theatermaker / Educator / International Arts Advocate

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Artistic Leadership, Teaching & Facilitation

- In my various leadership roles at organizations such as International Society for Performing Arts, International Performing Arts for Youth and Pan-African Creative Exchange, I've implemented & supervised artistic vision & programming; grew fellowship programs; innovated formats for workshops & discussions; and created a strong focus on diversity, equity and inclusion matters.
- As a director of many international theater & opera productions, I collaborated with numerous creative teams of diverse performing arts professionals - coordinating production schedules, supervising budgets, hiring cast & crew, and overseeing technical production.
- As a teacher, lecturer & guest instructor for numerous universities, art platforms & cultural organizations, I teach a wide variety of topics including: Acting, Directing, Experimental Performance & Composition, Viewpoints, Devised Work, Theater for Young Audiences, Cultural Diplomacy / International Cultural Policy, Leadership, Group Dynamics & Collaboration, International Cultural Engagement, Mentoring Thesis Productions, Audition prep, and more.
- As Director of Performing Arts - Royal Netherlands Embassy & Consulates in the USA, I implemented Netherlands' International Cultural & Subsidy Policy, overseeing all incoming performing arts grant applications, creating new cultural foci & programs and successfully engaging cross-departmentally across Culture, Economy and Public Diplomacy. Also mentoring numerous interns.
- As a facilitator, moderator & guest speaker for international cultural organizations, festivals, congresses and think tanks, I have focused on Art of Resilience/Sustainability & Future of Festivals (*Salzburg Global Seminar*); Cultural Mobility & International Touring (*IFACCA World Summit on Arts & Culture, Arts Summit of Southern Africa, Performing Arts Market Seoul*); Youth Culture & Activism (*Assitej World Congress, IPAY*); Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (*American Performing Arts Presenters, Under the Radar festival, Arts Council England's Sustained Theatre & Change Makers Programs*); Cultural Diplomacy & International Cultural Engagement (*National Endowment for the Arts, National Arts Council South Africa, Theater Communications Group*); Digital Artistic Creation during Covid & beyond (*1927 Art Space Athens, Lagos Fringe Festival, Vrystaat Arts Festival*); International Performing Arts platforms (*Korean Office for International Cultural Exchange, Nairobi & Kampala Thebere Arts Foundation*); and more.
- As an independent advocate and as core-member of Theater Without Borders, I connect artists globally & work in realms of socially engaged performance making, community building through arts, theater in conflict zones, cultural mobility & human rights issues.

Programming, Curation, Consulting & Strategy

- As Director of Programming for Origin Theatre Company, I create artistic vision & programming for this Off Broadway theater company in collaboration with the Artistic Director and I am the curator for the European Month of Culture NYC.
- In my various functions, and as an independent consultant, I am an advocate, liaison & strategic partner for numerous international (performing) arts relations, curatorial projects and cultural exchange programs – often referred to as ‘*a great connector*’:
 - Consultant & strategy partner of *Social Innovation* projects such as *Creative Placemaking* focus on water management, waterfront development and community building (LMCC); climate change & community outreach (Columbia University's Earth Institute); arts & health (MetroHealth Cleveland & Columbia University's Narrative Medicine MA Program); socially engaged performance (Bard College's Institute for Future Social Sculptures); Creative Case for Diversity (ACE, UTR, IPAY, APAP, PIAD)
 - Partner on programming and organization with numerous performing arts venues, festivals and events such as Distinctively Dutch Festival in Pittsburgh (PA); ZOEM! New Dutch (Youth)Theater Festival at the New Victory Theater on 42nd Street (NY); Gaudeamus Muziekweek New York at the ISSUE Project Room in Brooklyn; Vrystaat Arts Festival in Bloemfontein South Africa, and the Louis Andriessen 75 Festival in Washington DC.
- Judge/Consultant, either individually or on peer review panels, of grant applications and regarding the work of other (performing) arts professionals (i.e. towards residencies/jobs) for organizations such as; the Netherland-America Foundation Cultural Committee, TCG Global Connections, Creative Workforce Fellowship Cleveland, Department for Cultural Affairs Los Angeles, ISSUE Project Room Brooklyn, University of Arts Helsinki, Pan-African Creative Exchange, the Royal Netherlands Embassy & Consulates in the USA.
- Member of the Artistic Advisory Board for DecadesOut - an organization at the intersection of Arts, Science & Policy; The First Nation's Spiderwoman Theater; and the ISSUE Project Room in Brooklyn, NY – chaired by Yoko Ono with other members such as; Robert Wilson, Kate Valk, Julien Schnabel, MOBY, Jim Jarmusch, and John Turturro, among others.
- As a former Fulbright Fellow and now Netherland-America Foundation Cultural Committee member & Chair of the NAF Alumni Committee, I focus on strengthening the Fulbright & NAF Alumni Network by organizing cultural, educational and social programs.

Administration, Communications & Writing

- Extended administrative & social media experience in cultural organizations, universities and other businesses with distinguished organizational skills and attention to detail.
 - Experienced Guest Speaker for international universities, conferences, thinktanks and festivals.
 - Developed & reviewed multiple reports, databases, programs and budgets towards the implementation of International Cultural Policy and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion matters for numerous international cultural organizations (as well as for my own productions).
 - Translated numerous Dutch documents and theater texts to English & vice versa / Adapted various novels and films for the stage.
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Directed Works (Selected)

Erwin Maas

A Kid Like Rishi (<i>upcoming</i>)	Kees Roorda	Origin Theatre Company / OFF Broadway	New York - USA
Bodiness (<i>upcoming</i>)	Kirsty Martinsen	Site Specific	Adelaide - Australia
Playgrounds por todo lado / House in Play	Ieltxu Ortueta / Erwin Maas	Artefactos Bascos	Sao Paulo - Brazil
De Dødes Tjern, a Symphonic Performance Experience	Collective / André Bjerke	Old Dairy Factory	Bergen - Norway
Viktor Frankl / Meaning Project	Collective	Seadog Theater / Austria Cultural Forum	New York - USA
Kingdom of 아무것도 / NOTHING / NADA / لا شين	Brush Theatre	Brush Theatre / Osan Culture Arts Center	Seoul/Osan - South Korea
Bach & Bleach	Esther Apituley & Co	LaMaMa E.T.C.	New York - USA
Beautiful Day Without You	Marco Calvani	Origin Theatre Company / OFF Broadway	New York - USA
ALPHA	Collective / E.Maas	Vrystaat Arts Festival	Bloemfontein - South Africa
Not From Here	Collective	Seadog Theater / Ace Hotel	New York - USA
Magdalena	Gabri Christa	Snug Harbor / TheaterLab / Westbeth	Staten Island/NYC - USA
Sammelweis (new Opera in development)	Ray Lustig / Matt Doherty	National Arts Club NYC	New York - USA
GIF / POISON / ITYHEFU	Lot Vekemans	Vrystaat Kunstefees / KKNK / Woordfees	Touring South Africa
POISON (GIF)	Lot Vekemans	Origin Theatre Company / OFF Broadway	New York - USA
I-DENT-I-TIES	Collective / E.Maas	UFS Qwa Qwa Campus / Vrystaat Kunstefees	Bloemfontein - South Africa
Inside I (Autism Project)	M. Haverty / E.Maas	7Stages	Atlanta - USA
The Hundred We Are (Vi Som Är Hundra)	Jonas Hassen Khemiri	Origin Theatre Company / OFF Broadway	New York - USA
Marília	Rogério Pinto	United Solo Festival / Vrystaat Arts Festival	New York/Bloemfontein SA
Cities of Salt (new Opera in development - film)	Jabri / Morris / Christiansë	ISSUE Project Room / AOP	Brooklyn - USA
Silent Voices (reading)	Lucy Judith Adong	Hybrid Theatre Works / LaMaMa E.T.C.	New York - USA
Haroun & the Sea of Stories / It's Your Voice	Salman Rushdie / E.Maas	Manhattanville College	Purchase - USA
Alcina (Opera)	Händel	Pocket Opera NY / Atlantic Theater / 2 nd Stage	New York - USA
Welcome to the Woods (Welkom in het Bos)	Alex van Warmerdam	Chelsea Warehouse	New York - USA
Germania	Heiner Müller / E.Maas	Chashama	New York - USA
Attempts on her Life / Sortie de Théâtre	M. Crimp / J.C. Grumberg	Fontasy Academy of Dramatic Arts	Tilburg - Netherlands
The Northern Quarter (Het Noorder Kwartier)	Alex van Warmerdam	Vortex Theater Company	New York - USA
Please Stop Talking	Sam Forman / E.Maas	Cherry Lane Theatre / OFF Broadway	New York - USA
"EcstasE"	Dutch writers / E.Maas	Theatre Repertory UTS	Sydney - Australia
Poor Theatre <i>Assistant director</i>	Elizabeth LeCompte (Dir.)	The Wooster Group	New York - USA
Brimstone & Treacle (or the Bittersweet)	Dennis Potter	Riverside Church Theatre / Columbia Stages	New York - USA
The Lesson	Eugene Ionesco	Shapiro Theatre (Columbia University)	New York - USA
The Dangers of Tobacco	Anton Chekhov	The Connelly Theatre (Chekhov Now)	New York - USA
Scenes from the American Zoo	Sam Forman / E.Maas	Kunsthochschule Berlin Weißensee	Berlin - Germany
Tell us Medea Tell us	Mol / v.Woensel / Euripides	Shapiro Studio (Columbia University)	New York - USA
CHC Arrival	Actors / E.Maas	Gymnasium X	Minsk - Belarus
Roberto Zucco	Bernard-Marie Koltès	Theatre Company Schakel	Maarheeze - Netherlands

Academic Employment & Teaching (Selected)

CUNY Brooklyn College MFA PIMA Program	Brooklyn - USA	Adjunct Professor MFA Performance&Interactive Media Arts	2014 - present
DAMU Academy for Performing Arts	Prague - Czech Republic	Guest Instructor <i>Acting, Viewpoints, Devised Work</i>	2020
Yale School of Drama	New Haven CT - USA	Guest Lecturer <i>The Artist as Cultural Diplomat</i>	2010,12,14,18
Georgetown University	Washington D.C. - USA	Guest Instructor <i>Viewpoints & Multi-Disciplinary Work</i>	2018
Market Theatre Lab & WITS University	Johannesburg – South Africa	Guest Instructor <i>Viewpoints & International Cultural Engagement</i>	2017,18
The New School of Drama	New York - USA	Guest Lecturer <i>The Artist as Cultural Diplomat / Subsidy</i>	2016
University of the Free State (UFS)	Bloemfontein - South Africa	Lecturer & Instructor / <i>Viewpoints & Cultural Diplomacy</i>	2015+2016
Barnard College	New York - USA	Guest Lecturer <i>European Theater & Directors</i>	2012+2015
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh - USA	Guest Lecturer <i>Dutch Performing Arts & Cultural Diplomacy</i>	2012+2013
Manhattanville College Dance & Theatre Dept.	Purchase NY - USA	Adjunct Professor <i>Acting / Directing / Viewpoints</i>	2010-2013
Trinity Rep / Brown University	Providence RI - USA	Guest Lecturer <i>Dutch Performing Arts & Cultural Diplomacy</i>	2012
Royal Dutch Conservatoire	The Hague - Netherlands	Instructor <i>Viewpoints</i>	2010+2011
NYU Tisch School of the Arts	New York - USA	Guest Lecturer <i>European Drama & Performance</i>	2010
Fontys Academy of Dramatic Arts	Tilburg - Netherlands	Director & Instructor <i>Acting / Directing / Scene Study</i>	2006-2010
University of Amsterdam (CREA)	Amsterdam - Netherlands	Instructor Workshops <i>Viewpoints / Acting / Scene Study</i>	2008
University of Technology (TROUTS)	Sydney - Australia	Acting Instructor / Internationals- and Study Mentor	2004
Columbia University School of the Arts	New York - USA	Acting & Directing Instructor (Summer Theatre Program)	2003

Related Professional Activities & Achievements (Selected)

International Society for Performing Arts (ISPA)	New York - USA	Artistic/Creative Director of NYC Conference	2016 - 2020
DecadesOut (Arts/Science/Policy)	Brooklyn - USA	Artistic Advisory Board Member	2016 - present
Georgetown University's The Lab	Washington D.C. - USA	Member of Think Tank on Global Performance & Politics	2016 - present
International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY)	Philadelphia - USA	Artistic Associate & Director of Fellowship Program	2015 - present
Origin Theatre Company / EU Month of Culture	New York - USA	Director of Programming / Curator EU Month of Culture	2015 - present
Pan-African Creative Exchange (PACE)	Bloemfontein - South Africa	Co-Founding Director	2015 - present
Programme Innovation Artform Development	Bloemfontein - South Africa	Consultant, Speaker, Moderator	2015 - present
Theatre Without Borders	New York - USA	Core Member	2012 - present
ISSUE Project Room	Brooklyn - USA	Artistic Advisory Board Member	2011 - present
Netherlands-America Foundation	New York - USA	Alumni Committee Chair & Cultural Committee Member	2008 - present
Spiderwoman Theater	New York - USA	Artistic Advisory Circle Member (First Nation Theater)	2018 - present
Caribbean Creative Exchange	Kingston - Jamaica	Consultant South-South Collective / Workshop Instructor	2019
Arts Summit of Southern Africa	Windhoek - Namibia	Speaker on Platforms to Enhance The Creative Industry	2018

KOFICE / Asia Culture Center ACC	Seoul/Gwanju - South Korea	Speaker on international performing arts platforms & USA gateways	2018
April Festival	Ebeltoft - Denmark	Speaker on international challenges in TYA	2018
Assitej World Congress	Cape Town - South Africa	Speaker, Moderator and Instructor for Next Gen Program	2017
National Arts Council of South Africa	Johannesburg - South Africa	Consultant on National Arts Policy	2017
Arts Council England	Birmingham/London - UK	Facilitator Sustained Theatre & Change Makers Programs	2017
Salzburg Global Seminar	Salzburg - Austria	Consultant/Fellow Art of Resilience/What Future for Festivals	2017+2020
IFACCA World Summit on Arts & Culture	Valletta - Malta	Speaker & Moderator	2016
Royal Netherlands Embassy & Consulates	New York - USA	Director of Performing Arts	2010-2014
Department for Cultural Affairs	Los Angeles - USA	Peer Review Panel - Cultural Exchange International Program	2011+2012

Education & Training (Selected)

Columbia University School of the Arts	New York - USA	MFA Theatre Directing (<i>Fulbright Scholar</i>)	2005
University of Technology	Sydney - Australia	MA Media Arts & Production (Documentary Filmmaking)	2004
University of Professional Education	Nijmegen - Netherlands	Post-Graduate Certificate Academic Teaching	2000
Academy of Dramatic Arts	Eindhoven - Netherlands	MA in Drama Teaching / BFA in Theatre Directing & Acting	1998
Gardzienice & LaMaMa E.T.C.	New York - USA	<i>Grotowski & Ecology of Theatre</i> with W. Staniewski	2005
Downtown Theatres & LaMaMa E.T.C.	New York - USA	<i>P.Brook & Architecture in the Theatre</i> with Jean-Guy LeCat	2002
Columbia University School of the Arts	New York - USA	<i>Viewpoints & Suzuki training</i> with Anne Bogart & Barney O'Hanlon	2001/02

Recognitions & Awards (Selected)

Fulbright-Netherlands-America Foundation // NAF Cultural Grants // Royal Prince Bernhard Culture Award // Shubert Foundation // Matthews Theatre Fund // Elaine Cancilla Orbach Studio Award // Consulate General of the Netherlands NY - Cultural Grants // Chashama Area Award // Fund for the Performing Arts NL // Dutch Film Fund // VandenEnde Foundation // Dr. Hendrik Muller Vaderlandsch Fund // Fund of Vrijvrouwe van Renswoude 's Gravenhage // NATI

Testimonials – more information at www.erwinmaas.com:

“Erwin Maas consistently brings his actors beyond their ordinary habits of performance, to a professional level of artistry. Though not a native of English, Erwin’s ability to perceive and communicate the rhythm, cadence, harmony, and melody of the English language in Shakespeare, Chekhov, and other classic playwrights, as well as contemporary playwrights, places him among the ablest directors of theatre. His sensitivity to the musicality of language and to the breath of his actors is a unique gift possessed by few directors. His visual imagination and his, almost, cinematic transitions on stage are absolutely eye-catching and show a theatrical innovation. I am confident that Erwin Maas will continue to have a tremendous effect as a director of theatre in America and throughout the world.”

– **Anne Bogart** (Head of Columbia University’s MFA Directing program / Theatre Director)

“In his work, Erwin displays an uncommon insight that represents the best of what theatre can offer. He is a director in the grand manner. He represents the upper echelon of professional directors of theatre, and will greatly enhance our nation’s theatrical legacy.”

– **Robert Woodruff** (Former Artistic Director Harvard’s A.R.T. / Faculty Yale School of Drama / Theatre Director)

“Erwin is one of the most venturesome, talented and visionary directors that I have had the opportunity to work with. Among the many amazing aspects of Erwin’s work is an ability to push the boundaries of the medium, moving beyond realism, to an alternate theatrical reality that opens an audience up to new registers of meaning. The result is some of the most challenging, stimulating work that I’ve seen. Erwin has a way of getting under the skin of a particular play and presenting its underbelly, a process that is truly revelatory both in terms of capturing an author’s voice and expanding the vocabulary of theatre. He has forged a unique voice and vision that I feel is posed to transform the field and make a significant contribution to the future life of theatre.”

– **Brian Kulick** (Artistic Director Classic Stage Company NYC / Theatre Director)

“Erwin’s vision, theatrical ingenuity and directing skills made him a thrill to work with. I knew from the beginning that he was a director different from all the others I had worked with, for his spirit and dedication, and for his unique vision and intellectual flexibility and openness: he is a theatre visionary who has the ability not only to direct some of the highest quality and some of the most innovative theatre, he is also an infectious teacher and a stellar collaborator. Erwin is an avid listener, and always hungry for new ideas. He never ceases to surprise me, by his extraordinary diligence, his commitment to his craft, and his capacity always to challenge himself as well as to encourage those around him to do the same. I strongly believe that Erwin Maas will be a real builder of bridges between theatre artists in North America and Europe.

He has already established significant trans-Atlantic collaborations, and I know that he will continue actively to pursue new links and opportunities for cross-cultural work. In my career I have worked with the best and I teach among the greatest theatre artists and thinkers. I believe that Erwin Maas is one of them and he will continue to have a profound impact on the people he works with and on his audiences.”

– **Kéline Gotman** (Associate Professor, Convenor and Chair, MA Theatre, Text & Performance Studies King’s College London / Dramaturge)

“It is Maas’ ability to work among cultures and among languages that makes him especially valuable to the theater community in the United States as we seek to make our work known abroad and to enrich the arts here through contact with what is being written and produced elsewhere.”

– **James Leverett** (Head of Columbia University’s Dramaturgy program / Associate Professor Dramaturgy, Yale School of Drama)

“It is because of his extensive experience in networking, teaching and international engagement in the arts, and his sensitivity to the needs of emerging practitioners that Maas has been so eagerly embraced in South Africa by both local institutions and practitioners. His extraordinary generosity of spirit makes him not just approachable but an incredible ambassador for the importance of diversity in the arts. As part of PACE, Maas worked tirelessly over the last three years to connect both students and professionals internationally with Africa in particular.”

– **Ricardo Peach** (Artistic Director Vrystaat Arts Festival Bloemfontein South Africa / Co-Founder PACE)