

# ALEX FTHENAKIS

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## OVERVIEW

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**Alex Fthenakis** is a Glasgow-based producer, theatremaker, and performer whose work focuses on international co-production in Shakespeare and Scottish New Writing.

## EDUCATION

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**MA Classical and Contemporary Text**, *Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama* 2010  
Concentrations: Acting, Script Development, Contemporary Scottish Theatre Practice  
(RSAMD is now known as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland)

**BA Acting and Production/Design**, *Pepperdine University* 2008  
Awarded Outstanding Graduate and Service in Theatre

## INDIVIDUAL ENDORSEMENTS/AWARDS

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**Exceptionally Promising Artist**, Arts Council England and UK Border Agency 2014

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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### As Maker/Co-Maker

***Believe None of Us* by Jemma Alix Levy.**

As Performer, Deviser  
Shakespeare Theatre Association 2016  
Washington and Lee University 2015  
American Shakespeare Centre 2015  
“The most extraordinary side-glance at *Hamlet* I’ve seen since *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.” – Paul Smith, British Council USA  
Available for touring from 2017

***Flags***

Written and Performed by Alex Fthenakis  
Currently in development  
Excerpt performed at Moon Country Nights 2015  
Excerpt performed at A Moment’s Peace *Border Control* 2012

***RISK* by Marcus Roche**

As Solo Performer, Deviser, Editor, Dramaturgy  
Arches Live! 2012.

***To A God Unknown***

Adapted from John Steinbeck by Alex Fthenakis  
As Performer, Playwright  
Reading dir. Alison Peebles, Tron Mayfest 2012  
Developed with support from Steinbeck manuscripts libraries at Stanford University, San Jose State University.

### As Producer

***The Interference* by Lynda Radley - Pepperdine Scotland**

Winner – 2016 Scotsman Fringe First Award  
Winner – 2016 Broadway Baby Bobby Award  
Final Shortlist – Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award  
World Premiere Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016  
US Premiere Pepperdine University 2017  
Available for Touring beginning 2018

***Forget Fire* devised by Pepperdine Scotland and JC Marshall**

World Premiere Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014  
“Proof that Pepperdine is a company here to stay the distance” – British Theatre Guide

***Why Do You Stand There In The Rain?* by Peter Arnott – Pepperdine Scotland**

Winner – 2012 Scotsman Fringe First Award  
Final Shortlist – Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award  
Final Shortlist – Holden Street Theatres Award  
Final Shortlist – Brighton Fringe Award  
World Premiere Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2012  
US Premiere Pepperdine University 2013  
Scottish Tour 2013 – Traverse Theatre, Oran Mor, Beacon Arts Centre, Aros, SEALL, Dornie Hall, Eden Court, Mull Theatre.

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## FURTHER CREDITS

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### **Actor/Performer**

Theatre credits include the title role in *Hamlet* (Muse of Fire, Chicago), *It’s A Wonderful Life – the Radio Play* (Tour: South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Muse of Fire), *Heuristics in the Diner* by Peter Arnott (Tour: Tron, Traverse, Hampstead), *Titus Andronicus* (Bard in the Botanic), *Attempts on Her*

*Life* dir. Katherine Nesbitt (Glasgow West End Festival), *Tell Me When It Hurts* (Berger Park Chicago), *Growling Tent* (Conflux / Merchant City Festival) and *The Kentucky Cycle* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe)

Playreading and Script Development credits include *I Heart Maths* by James Ley (Glasgay! / Citizens' Theatre), *LIMELIGHT* (proudExposure / The Arches), *Stars in the Morning Sky* dir. Nicola McCartney (Tron Theatre Mayfest), *White America* (Polarity – Chicago), *Killed with Kindness* by Marcus Roche, and work with the National Theatre of Scotland.

### Writing/Dramaturgy

Credits not mentioned above include contributions to *Crossing Six Corners* (Filament Theatre Ensemble, Chicago), interludes and adverts for *It's A Wonderful Life – the Radio Play* (East Kilbride Arts Centre), and dramaturgical support for *Queen Margaret* (Muse of Fire), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Citizens' Theatre Community Collective), and all Pepperdine Scotland commissions.

### Producing

Freelance work as a producer includes the 2016 and 2017 *On The Verge Festivals* for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, *The Air Makes Us Ill* (Summerhall Festival Club), four NTS Five Minute Theatre pieces, project managing the *Parkening International Guitar Competition*, and assisting work with Ankur Productions.

## MEMBERSHIPS / COMPANY ATTACHMENTS

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**Rootstock Arts** – Founder, Producer 2016 - Present  
Rootstock exists to facilitate international exchange between artists, with a focus on international co-production in live theatre, both at the professional and educational level. Rootstock is a project delivery partner on the Pepperdine Scotland exchange and will begin launching its own work in 2017.

**Pepperdine Scotland** - Programme Co-Director 2011 – Present  
Creator and Producer of this multi-award winning collaboration between Pepperdine University and leading members of the Scottish Theatre community. Pepperdine students spend Summer in Scotland based in Glenelg, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Students work with leading Scottish playwrights and theatre artists to premiere new work at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

**Runamuck** – Co-Founder 2016 - Present  
International theatremaking collective comprised of Ben Crystal (London), Jemma Alix Levy (Virginia), Matthew Davies (Wales/Virginia), Sean Hagerty (New York), Sara Hymes (New York), and Alex Fthenakis (Glasgow). The devising/performance company of *Believe None of Us* formed the collective to finish developing and begin touring the show.

**Muse of Fire Theatre Company, Chicago** – Producing Artistic Associate 2013 – 2016  
Performed in multiple productions, assisted with day-to-day running of the company, board governance, fundraising, grantwriting, and season programming. Conceived 2016 hit adaptation *Queen Margaret*. Alex remains an Advisory Member of the Company.

Member of **Equity** 2010 – Present

## RESIDENCIES

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**Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London.** RSAMD Training Residency 2010  
Intensive practical training residency working with the Globe's own movement, voice, and text directors. Culminated in public performance of selected scenes on the Globe stage.

**Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum.** Summer Shakespeare Training Residency 2009  
Intensive practical training residency with the leading professional Shakespeare company in Los Angeles, including text analysis and rhetorical training with leading rhetorical performance analysts Milan Dragicevich and Armin Shimerman.

## OTHER RELATED SKILLS

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### Teaching / Facilitating

- Through Pepperdine Scotland Alex has been **Adjunct Faculty** for **Pepperdine University** since 2012. He created ENG380 Modern Drama: A Practical Exploration of Contemporary Scottish Theatre, which he delivers biennially for the exchange.

- Alex has created and taught ongoing courses for **Muse of Fire** and **Stage Kids CA**, as well as training other workshop leaders to deliver classes.
- **Masterclasses** - Guest teaching since 2010 includes sessions on Improv, Devising Theatre, Agit-Prop, and Shakespeare. Clients include The Citizens' Theatre Glasgow, Pepperdine University, Lewis and Clark College, and Washington and Lee University.
- **Corporate Training** – Facilitation and roleplay clients since 2013 include everything from international hedge funds to the Co-Op.

### Scenic Carpentry / Technical Theatre

Over two dozen professional carpentry credits since 2006 including several on Olivier and other Award nominated productions and many as **Production Carpenter** or **Head Carpenter**. Highlight clients include **The Hackney Empire London**, **The Odyssey Theatre LA**, and **Chicago Scenic Studios**. Other backstage credits include work as Flyman, Electrician, Designer, ASM, Stage Manager, and Technical Director.

### REVIEWS / PRESS

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#### Believe None of Us

“The most extraordinary side-glance at *Hamlet* I’ve seen since watching *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* for the first time” – Paul Smith, Director of British Council USA

#### Hamlet

“immensely gifted” – Lauren Whalen, Chicago Theater Beat (4 out of 4 stars)

#### Tell Me When It Hurts

“The production features dapper Alex Fthenakis ... who offers boundless young talent to his character.” – Northwest Indiana Times

#### The Taming of the Shrew

“in a particularly gleeful turn, this production sports a Petruchio so fine in the honey-voiced Alex Fthenakis that by the end we are as head over heels as Kate... This production ... is the best you’ve ever seen, bar none.” – Chicago Reader

#### RISK

“Genius ... The quick wits of the games master, and the manner in which teasing observations are made about the consequences of our actions... are the final, subtle ingredients that make this more than just a game.” – Simon Gwynn, Fools Seldom Differ ★★★★★

#### Forget Fire

"clever... touching... thoroughly entertaining... proof that Pepperdine is a company here to stay the distance." - British Theatre Guide ★★★★★

"something special... Moving and honest: a lovely piece of contemporary theatre." - Three Weeks ★★★★★

#### The Interference

“This is a devastatingly brilliant piece of theatre” - Broadway Baby ★★★★★

"a damning indictment of a warped establishment protecting its own" – Neil Cooper, The Herald ★★★★★

"brisk, gripping, fiercely intelligent, and tightly focused" Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman ★★★★★

"Pepperdine has captured the essence of the moment in all its rage, its despair and hope." - British Theatre Guide: ★★★★★

“spellbinding...definitely a highlight of the festival” - Black Diamond FM ★★★★★

“Intelligent... heartfelt... cleverly staged” – Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

“The Interference [is] a perceptive & compelling piece about a social system rotten with male privilege” - The List ★★★★★

“needs to go into every male common room in every university the world over” - FringeReview Outstanding Show

#### Why Do You Stand There In The Rain?

"Well worth its place in the best shows of this year's Fringe Festival" "The cast are universally superb" British Theatre Guide ★★★★★

"A riveting tale of hidden history and human strength" "Truly moving" - Broadway World

“a powerful and provocative performance... thoroughly insightful” – TV Bomb ★★★★★

"vivid, beautiful,...packed with timely insights" - Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman ★★★★★