

STEPHEN FIFE

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Education: B.A. Sarah Lawrence College. MFA Columbia U. School of the Arts.
Also: National Theatre Inst. (CT), Oxford U. (Eng.), Carnegie-Melon University (PA).

Work Activities

TEACHING: Extensive experience teaching writing in H.S. and college. This includes:

- Artist in the Schools, teaching Shakespeare and directing scenes from “Macbeth.”
- Teaching workshops on poetry, playwriting and journalism in NYC high schools.
- Teaching the class “Writing Styles” for the College of New Rochelle, one year.
- Teaching poetry to at-risk kids in the Satellite Alternative School, NYC.
- Creating plays with at-risk kids in Harlem and the South Bronx, through the NYC Parks and Recreation Department.

EDITING: I have edited several books on a freelance basis directly with the writers.
These have included both novels and academic monographs.

DRAMATURG: Four years as Lit Manager for Primary Stages, Off-Broadway NYC.

Grants and Fellowships

JEROME FOUNDATION EMERGENT PLAYWRIGHTS GRANT (1992) and
COMMISSIONING GRANTS (1997, 2001).
SHENANDOAH PLAYWRIGHTS RETREAT FELLOWSHIPS (1990, 93, 95).
FEDERAL WRITING GRANT (through the American Jewish Congress).

NONFICTION PROSE WRITING

BOOK: “*THE 13TH BOY: a Memoir of Education and Abuse*” – published by Cune Press, Sept. 2014. About my experiences with a twisted writing guru back in Horace Mann high school in the 1970s. “Fife’s courageous telling of his personal story ... sheds light on a subject too long kept in the dark.” – Amos Kamil, New York Times Magazine.

BOOK: “*BEST REVENGE: How the Theater Saved My Life and Has Been Killing Me Ever Since.*” Memoir about 25 years in the theater (CUNE Press 2004). “Bilious and funny... *Best Revenge* comes from deep inside the heart and mind of a struggling artist... Fife is unafraid to tell the unattractive truth ... The best moments in *Best Revenge* are in the relationship between Fife and [Joe] Chaikin... The best revenge comes not only in surviving, but also in finding joy.”-- AMERICAN THEATRE MAG

BOOK: “*BEST MONOLOGUES FOR MATURE ACTORS*” – I edited this volume for Applause Books, 2015; also wrote the introduction and have two monologues included.

BOOK: “*PLAYING WITH A PURPOSE: MONOLOGUES FOR KIDS 7-15*” – I co-edited this volume for Applause Books, 2013. Also co-write the introduction and have a few monologues of my own in the book.

ARTICLES: on Theater, Film, Art, Literature (and occasional hard news) in The Village Voice, New Republic, New York Newsday, American Theater, “Arts & Leisure” section of Sunday New York Times, many others. These include a survey of the downtown NYC theater scene after 9/11, the only prison interview with “Hurricane” Carter after his re-conviction, and an analysis of the Plagiarism Scandal surrounding the Broadway “Diary of Anne Frank” (named “one of the best feature pieces of 1983” by The Boston Globe).

FICTION PROSE WRITING

DANCING WITH A RED-HAIRED ANGEL (2015) – Novel about a once-famous horror film screenwriter who is visited by an angel shortly after finding out that the volatile lover he’s about to break up with is pregnant.

ROSAMUNDO (2015) – Prequel to “Dancing,” about the same main character 27 years earlier, as he goes in pursuit of the Latina girl he loves and encounters many obstacles..

POETRY

BOOK: “*DREAMING IN THE MAZE OF LOVE-GRIEF-MADNESS*” – Philosophic and mystical poems about the search for an authentic self, to be published by Cune Press, Feb. 2015. “*This book bleeds the passions of youth ... This is an offering, a sign, brilliantly naïve yet profound.* -- Billy Hayes, author of *Midnight Express*

BOOK: “*U & ME & THE CITY*” – Poems about the fate of the Self in the big city, to be published in fall 2015. “A compelling collection, summoned up from the chronological roots of the poet’s life in ways that are alternately funny, youthful, sad, compelling ... I couldn’t recommend *U&ME&THE CITY* more strongly. You will never forget these vivid and heartfelt poems. -- Lee Slonimsky, author of *Logician of the Wind*

PLAYWRITING

Musicals:

CHARMING (2014) – The Prince is forced to go on a “Bachelor”-like reality show to save his kingdom. Music by Sean Schafer Hennessey. Workshop production, The Met Theater, Hollywood, Nov.-Dec. 2011.

ISABELLA in OZ! (2015) – Isabella wants to escape Kansas for the magical shows she watches on the Oz network. Then the tornado comes along and makes all her wishes come true – kind of. Workshop production at the Electric Lodge, Venice CA 2008. Rewritten in 2015. A Play with Songs.

YOUNG FOREVER (2014) – Contemporary Re-Conceiving of Peter Pan’s story, music by Yuval Shrem. Workshop prod., Edgemar Center, Santa Monica 2010. Workshop production in Tokyo Nov.-Dec. 2011.

BUZZ SNAPSHOT HOLIDAY SHOW (2013) – A young girl who doesn’t believe in holidays learns a lesson. This is a show for younger kids, 3-10. Workshop production at the Electric Lodge, Venice 2009.

Plays

THE AMERICAN WIFE (2014; co-written with Ralph Pezzullo) – Political Thriller. American housewife (35) seeks the truth about her husband, arrested as an enemy combatant. Championed by a veteran war correspondent, she travels to Afghanistan and Egypt. She learns more than she could ever have imagined. Workshop reading for HB Playwrights in their 2013 Festival, “Six Playwrights in Search of a Production.” Finalist for the 2015 National Playwrights Conference at the O’Neill Center.

BLUE KISS (2013) – A fateful encounter between a high school English teacher and a girl from a different school whom he’s agreed to tutor for her upcoming SAT exam. Workshop production as part of the 2013 Hollywood Fringe. “I recommend the play. It is incredibly written.... Brilliant.” *The Examiner.com*. “How can we ever know the whole truth? Even though I saw and heard the entire play, I’m still not sure ... Words are only words, and if, like in *Doubt*, the audience was polled, what would the verdict be? Fife delivers a sly and brilliant conundrum. I loved it.” *theatrespokenhere.blogspot.com*

SIZZLE SIZZLE (2013) – An aspiring novelist tries to destroy his own roman a clef in this deconstructive comedy about sex, publishing, and how the Word becomes Flesh.

SCATTERED BLOSSOMS (2013) – In the south of France, 1888, Vincent van Gogh teams up with Paul Gauguin to create their “Studio of Ugly Paintings.” This is viewed through the lens of a Japanese Bunraku “Chanter” who is obsessed with Jack the Ripper. Master playwright John Guare has called it “*a gorgeous work in a diction i was completely unprepared for - a piece of music - a world you've made you're own.*”

SAVAGE WORLD (2013) – In post-Watergate America, a young reporter tries to prove that an outspoken black athlete has been framed for double-murder; 30 years later he recounts these events to try to reach his bi-racial son. Published by Samuel French Inc.

THIS IS NOT WHAT I ORDERED (2004) –6 one acts. Published by Samuel French.

BREAK OF DAY (produced 1999; rewritten 2013) – Vincent van Gogh at 27 fails as a preacher, decides to be an artist, moves back with his family and falls in love with his widowed cousin, thus enraging his minister father. Published by Samuel French.

FUTURESEX (2014), extensively revised version of NEW DAY (2001) – Sci-Fi Multi-Media Comedy about New Age Success Therapy. Equity Showcase at Theater for the New City; 16 performances, Nov. 8-Dec. 2, 2001. “A promising dystopian satire...If the success of “Urinetown” is any indication, this one is primed for Broadway.” (New York Magazine) “A midnight-movie playfulness that should readily appeal to fans of “Barbarella,” “Logan’s Run,” and other sci-fi adventures.” (DigitalCity New York)

MICKEY’S HOME (1997; revamped 2014) – A suspenseful comedy about an older Jewish couple who may have had a son, and the man who comes to interview them about their neighborhood. Equity Showcase at Theater for the New City, NYC. “An enigmatic little play of secrets, guilt and roiled psyches...[it] raises the ghosts buried in horrible memories of the Holocaust, murder, and abandonment, and makes of its characters both

haunts and the haunted.” (Friday New York Times) ““Fascinating and disturbing...If you’re looking for theater that will leave you thinking about the complexities seeded by the experiences of Jews in this century, make sure to catch this play.” (Curtain Up Reviews) Also featured in New York Magazine’s Cue section.

GOD OF VENGEANCE (1992) – My adaptation of the Sholem Asch play about a brothelkeeper who tries to make a bargain with God. Regional Theater Co-Production by 7 Stages & Jewish Theater of the South, Atlanta. Ran for 20 perfs, Oct.-Nov. 1998. (Directed by Joseph Chaikin.) LOA production by Jewish Repertory Theater, NYC. Ran for 24 perfs, Oct.-Nov. 1992, at Playhouse 91. 17 Rave reviews, including: “Vivid human beings whose hopes and schemes and self-delusions seem chillingly familiar... one can feel a chill run up the back of the neck.” (New York Times) “The present English adaptation by Stephen Fife effectively mixes the persuasively colloquial with the ritualistically formal.” (Clive Barnes, New York Post) “Retains its uncompromising power.” (Variety) “Strong pace and economy. There isn’t a spare word of talk in “God of Vengeance”—or a false note in Fife’s updated translation.” (Jewish Week)

One-Acts performed at many venues. Two Selections each in “BEST WOMEN’S MONOLOGUES” and “BEST SCENES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (Applause Books).

SCREENWRITING

Screenplays/Teleplays with Descriptions (a Selection)

BLUE KISS – Indie drama about a 17 year old girl who starts writing poetry to recover from her parents’ death in a murder-suicide; when everything falls apart for her, though, she makes a radical decision in the name of ‘truth’ that could have drastic consequences. Optioned by Fable Entertainment, currently in pre-production for a summer 2015 shoot.

THE FALLING MAN – Romantic Thriller about a successful architect who believes he’s finally found his true love– at the same time that someone seems to be trying to kill him.

SIZZLE SIZZLE – Indie Dark Comedy about the publishing industry, adapted from my play by me and Yuval Shrem. Optioned by Fable Entertainment, filming in late 2015.

THE AMERICAN WIFE - Political Thriller about a 33 year old San Diego housewife searching for the truth about her husband, arrested as a terrorist, written with R. Pezzullo.

THE 13TH BOY – my adaptation of my memoir about a prize student at an elite New York City prep school in the 1970s whose trust in a revered writing teacher leads him down a very dark path of sexual abuse and loss of identity.

BLOOD RED – Horror film about a vampire artist, script currently in development.

THE RISK (TV Series) – Developing with Ralph Pezzullo; about a college professor of humanities who discovers that a secret society is monitoring his life for its own purposes.