

César Alvarez

pronouns: they/them
cesar@cesaralvarez.net

Representation: Rachel Viola
ViolaR@unitedtalent.com

United Talent Agency | 888 Seventh Ave. 7th Floor New York, NY 10106
T: 212.500.3224

EDUCATION

- 2009 Bard College, MFA Music/Sound
- 2003 Oberlin Conservatory, BM Saxophone, Electronic, and Interdisciplinary Performance
- 2001 Universidad de La Habana, Cuba, School for International Training, semester of study
- 1999 Interlochen Arts Academy, High School Diploma w/ Honors

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 New Musical commissioned by Playwright's Horizons
- 2020 Hermitage Fellow
- 2018 Princeton Arts Fellow
- 2018 Sundance Institute/Ucross Composer & Playwright Fellowship
- 2016 Lucille Lortel Award - Outstanding Musical - *FUTURITY*
- 2016 The American Theater Wing's Jonathan Larson Award
- 2016 Off-Broadway Alliance Award - Best New Musical - *FUTURITY*
- 2015 Drama Desk Nomination – Outstanding Music in a Play - *An Octoroon*
- 2014 Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan Commission - *The Elementary Spacetime Show*
- 2013 Drama Desk Nomination – Outstanding Music in a Play - *Good Person of Szechwan*
- 2012 NEA Art Works Grant for *FUTURITY* at Soho Rep
- 2011 NEA Art Works Grant for *FUTURITY* at American Repertory Theater
- 2004 Van Lier/Meet the Composer Fellow
- 2002 Composer at 9th Issue International Electro-Acoustic Music festival. Havana, Cuba
- 1999 Hispanic National Merit Scholar

ONGOING PROJECTS

- 2018 – Present *The Potluck* – Music, Book and Lyrics. Commissioned by Barbara Whitman and Beth Williams
- 2016 - Present *NOISE* - Music, Book and Lyrics. Commissioned by The Public Theater

and NYU/Playwrights Horizons Theater School. Larson Legacy Concert at Adelphi University, Vineyard Arts Project. **Upcoming: Workshop directed by Sarah Benson. July 2020**

- 2014 - Present *The Elementary Spacetime Show* – Music and Lyrics by César Alvarez. Book by César Alvarez and Emily Orling Directed by Sarah Benson. Developmental Productions at University of the Arts/FringeArts. Ars Nova Uncharted Group, EST/Sloan Commission, EST First Light Festival, Polyphone Festival, Joe's Pub, NYU/Playwrights Horizons Theater School, NY Stage and Film
- 2012 – Present *The Universe is a Small Hat* – (Participatory Musical) Conceiver, composer, book, lyrics, experience design. Directed by Sarah Benson. Development: LMCC Process Space, Berkeley Rep Ground Floor, PRELUDE NYC, The Civilians 2013 R&D Group, Workshop at Silent Barn, 4-month developmental residency at Babycastles Gallery. NYU Playwrights Horizons Theater School Developmental Practicum, Student productions at Sarah Lawrence College and Princeton University.

HIGHLIGHTED ARTISTIC WORK

- 2014-2019 Artistic Director and Co-Founder of The Polyphone Festival. A Festival of New and Emerging Musicals at The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2008 – 2015 *FUTURITY* - Conceiver, composer, book, lyrics. Directed by Sarah Benson. (Soho Rep/Ars Nova, A.R.T., Walker Art Center, Mass MoCA, Joe's Pub, HERE, 92YT, Zipper Factory) Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical plus four other nominations. Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Musical.
- 2005-2014 CONTRA-TIEMPO (LA based Urban Latin Dance Theater Company) Co-founder, resident composer. International and National touring. Selected Performances: Dance Motion USA, Lincoln Center, REDCAT, Ordway Center for Performing Arts, ASU, Ford Amphitheater, Jacob's Pillow, Ailey Theatre.
- 2020 • Attended the Johnny Mercer Writer's Colony at Goodspeed Musicals.
- 2018 • Composer for the Campfire Project, Ritsona Refugee Camp, Greece
• Co-Director of *Filament* by Ashley Fure, A World Premiere for Trio, Orchestra and Moving Voices with the The New York Philharmonic.
- 2017 • Co-Director of *The Force of Things: An Opera For Objects* by Ashley Fure at Peak Performances, Mostly Mozart Festival.

- Original Music for *The Skin of Our Teeth* at Theatre for a New Audience. dir. Arin Arbus
- 2016 • *The Eighth Palace* (Participatory Music Theater Work by César Alvarez and Nina Runa Essendrop) TCG Global Connections Grant. Performances in NYC, Philadelphia, Copenhagen and Oslo.
- Featured composer/performer in the ENCORES! Jamboree at City Center with Jeanine Tesori
- 2015 • Original musical episode for *Washeteria*, site-specific children's theater piece created by Louisa Pregonson (Soho Rep)
- Original Music for the film *A Woman Like Me*, directed by Liz Giamatti and Alex Sichel Official selection SXSW Film Festival, winner of Jury Award, Spirit Award Nomination
- 2014 • Songs and Score for *An Octoroon* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins. Drama Desk Nomination. dir. by Sarah Benson (Soho Rep and Theatre for a New Audience)
- Contributing songwriter for *The Civilian's Cabaret Let Me Ascertain You: Sex Variants 1941 and F%*#ng and Dying* at Joe's Pub
- 2013 • Composer & Music Director for Foundry Theatre's *Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht. (Public Theater, La MaMa.) Drama Desk Nomination. Dir. Lear deBessonnet. Starring Taylor Mac.
- 2011 • Original Music; *3 2's; or Afar* by Mac Wellman, Dixon Place.
- 2010 • Performer in Kristin Lucas' *Refresh Cold Reads* at The New Museum
- 2009 • Sound Design & Original Music; *When in Disgrace*, Examined Man Theater.
- 2007 • Original Music & Sound Design; *3rd of July*; Film directed by Ben Chace
- 2006 • Improvisations w/ iPods; Solo performance at The Stone.
- Original Music & Sound Design; INTAR New Works Lab.
- 2005 - 2007 • Resident composer for UK-based dance company Helix Dance
- 2005 • Composer & Performer; *Papercutter* by Ani Weinstein; DUMBO Dance Festival & Dance New Amsterdam.
- Composer; *Woyzeck*; Flying Pig Productions. Site-Specific performance in Central Park.
- 2002 • Creator, Composer, Writer, Performer; *Hyper-Reality*; Multi-Media one-person show
- Composer; *Sides/Lados*; International Electro-Acoustic Music Festival. Havana, Cuba

SELECTED WRITING

- 2019 • "On Ashely Fure's *The Force of Things*" in Sound American Publications
- 2017 • "The Polyphone Festival: Building a Musical Theater Underground" in *Musical Theater Today*
- Micro-Review of Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music in *Theatre Journal*
- 2011 • "Micro Essays on The Lisps Sophomore LP" in *InDigest Magazine*
- 2009 • "Proposals for the Future of Sounds" published in *Digital Artifact Magazine* Issue #3 and in Spanish translation in *Pesanervios* #1

SELECTED INTERVIEWS and ARTIST TALKS

- 2017 "Working in the Theater - Polyphone" 25-minute documentary produced by the American Theater Wing. url: <http://americantheatrewing.org/working-in-the-theatre/polyphone/>
- "Musical Theater of the Future" - Artist Talk at Interaction|Unfinished a festival on participatory

media in Oslo, Norway url: https://youtu.be/wXyU5v_KjM

- 2015 "A Musical Envisions the Impossible" - César Alvarez and Sarah Benson on NPR/Leonard Lopate
"César Alvarez Is Changing the American Musical, and the World" American Theatre Magazine
"What Is a Musical Now? The Polyphone Festival" American Theatre Magazine
"Building the Future with Gaming and Participatory Theater" The Civilians/Extended Play
- 2013 "It's Better With A Band" American Theatre Magazine cover story by Rob Weinert-Kendt
- 2012 "Steam Powered Smarts" Feature in American Theatre Magazine
"The Lisps: In Defense of the Musical" Walker Art Center Online Magazine
"Civil War meets sci-fi in rock musical 'Futurity'" Boston Globe
- 2009 "An Indie-Rock Musical Grows in Brooklyn" Paper Magazine

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020
Dartmouth College
Assistant Professor of Sonic Arts. Department of Music. Teaching: Songwriting, Emerging Musical Theater, Graduate Seminar.
- 2018 – 2020
Princeton University
Teaching: Participatory Theater and an Atelier entitled Sounding Body/Utopic Voice
Social Practice Project: Exploring the Undercommons
Masterclass: Musical Theater as Queer Utopian Practice.
- 2015 – 2019
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. Artist-in-Residence and Artistic Director of Polyphone, a Festival of The Emerging Musical at UArts.
Teaching: New Musical Workshop, Participatory Theater, Advanced Songwriting and Guest Artist Seminar. Mentoring playwrights, composers and directors on senior projects.
- 2014 – 2018
NYU Playwrights Horizons Theater School. Visiting Artist. Mentor. Commissioned Playwright. Participatory Theater Practicums: Developing *The Universe is a Small Hat* and *The Eighth Palace*
- 2013-2014
Harvard University. Visiting Lecturer on Dramatics. Courses: Emerging Musical Theater & Participatory Theater. 2014 Certificate of Teaching Excellence
- 2012 - 2014
Sarah Lawrence College. Affiliate Artist, Co-Teaching: New Musical Theatre Lab.
- 2008 – 2012
Bloomfield College. Lecturer – Department of Creative Arts and Technology.
Teaching: Songwriting, World Music, Audio Engineering and Synth Programming.