

**VIRGINIA GRISE**  
**vgrise@gmail.com**

### **EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION**

California Institute of the Arts, MFA, Writing for Performance, 2009.

Mentor: Carl Hancock Rux

Thesis: *blu* (2010 Yale Drama Series Award)

The University of Texas at Austin, BA, College of Liberal Arts, 1998.

Double Major: History and Spanish Language

Minor: Chicana/o Studies

Thesis: *Dime con quien andas: Jovita Gonzalez and the Making of Texas*  
(1998 Frederick D. Cervantes NACCS Student Premio)

State of Texas Secondary Teacher Certification, Spanish and English as a Second Language, 1998.

### **AWARDS & HONORS**

- Mellon Foundation Playwright in Residence, Cara Mia Theatre, 2020.
- Soho Rep Theater, Writers'/Directors' Lab, 2017.
- American Studies Association's Gloria Anzaldua Prize for Independent Scholars, finalist, 2015.
- Whiting Writers' Award, 2013.
- NALAC Leadership Institute, 2013.
- Women's Project Theater, Playwrights' Lab, 2012.
- Pregones Theatre, Asuncion Queer Playwriting Award, 2011.
- Yale Drama Series Award, 2010.
- Princess Grace Foundation, Pierre Cardin Theater Award in Directing, 2010.
- Contemporary Arts Month Award, San Antonio, Texas, 2010.
- National Association for Chicana/o Studies Student Premio, 1998.

## **COMMISSIONS, RESIDENCIES, & FELLOWSHIPS**

- Hodder Fellowship, Princeton University, 2021.
- Matakayev Research Fellow at the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands, Arizona State University, 2020.
- National Performance Network Creation Grant Commission, 2020.
- Sol Project Play at Home Commission, 2020.
- Artist in Residence, ALLGO, Austin, Texas, 2020.
- Mellon Foundation Playwright in Residence, Cara Mia Theatre, 2020.
- Projecting All Voices Fellowship at Arizona State University, 2018.
- National Performance Network Creation Grant Commission, 2017.
- Agnes Nelms Haury Program in Environmental and Social Justice Visiting Fellowship at the University of Arizona, 2016.
- Hedgebrook Writing Residency, 2016.
- Djerassi Artist Residency, 2016.
- National New Play Network Commission, 2015.
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival Commission, 2015.
- Luminaria Arts Festival Commission, 2015.
- Loft Literary Center Spoken Word Immersion Fellowship, 2013.
- Playwrights' Center, Jerome Fellowship, 2009.
- Artist in Residence, ALLGO, Austin, Texas, 2004.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Teaching Spanish to Native Speakers, 1999.

## **ARTIST, RESEARCH, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

- New England Foundation for the Arts, National Theater Project, 2020.
- National Performance Network Documentation Grant, 2020.
- Princess Grace Professional Development Grant, 2020.
- National Association for Latino Arts and Culture Mentorship Grant, 2019.
- Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation Grant, 2019.
- MAP Fund for the Arts Grant, 2018.
- Princess Grace Foundation Special Projects Fund, 2018.
- Ford/Latin American Studies Special Projects Grant, 2018.
- Network of Ensemble Theater Travel Grant, 2018.
- National Association for Latino Arts & Culture NFA Grant, 2016.
- National New Play Network Collaboration Fund, 2015.
- Princess Grace Professional Development Grant, 2012.
- Center for Cultural Innovation ARC Grant, 2011.
- National Association for Latino Arts & Culture NFA Grant, 2011.
- Open Meadows Foundation Grant, 2008.
- Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation Grant, 2008.

## PUBLISHED WORKS

### Books

- *Mestiza Power* by Conchi Leon Mora, in translation by Virginia Grise. New York, NY: No Passport Press, 2018.
- *Your Healing is Killing Me*. Pittsburgh, PA: Plays Inverse Press, 2017.
- *The Panza Monologues. Second Edition*, (co-written with Irma Mayorga), Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2014.
- *blu*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2011.
- *The Panza Monologues*. (co-written with Irma Mayorga), Austin, TX: Evelyn Street Press and Austin Latino/a Lesbian Gay Organization, 2004.

### Anthologies

- Contributor, "Despite the Flames," *Troubling Traditions: Canonicity, Theatre, and Performance in the US*. ed. Lindsey Mantoan, Matthew Moore & Angela Farr Schiller, Rodriguez, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2022.
- Contributor, "Llamado de Nopal," *Theater Journal* Vol. 49: N. 1, ed. Tom Seller & Chantal Rodriguez, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019.
- Contributor, *Prison Nation*, ed. Nicole Fleetwood, New York, NY: Aperture Magazine #230, 2018.
- Contributor, "Siempre Norteada," *Theatre and Cartographies of Power: Repositioning the Latino/a Americas*, ed. Analola Santana & Jimmy Noriega, Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois Press, 2018.
- Contributor, "International Panza," *Monologues for Latino/a Actors*, ed. Micha Espinosa, Hanover, NH: Smith & Kraus, 2014.
- Contributor, "pineapple/full moon offerings for my nephew," *Experiments in a Jazz Aesthetic: Art, Activism, Academics and the Austin Project*, Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2010.
- Contributor, "a farm for meme," 13 Baktun: Return of the Wisdom of Elders. Issue No. 8. Los Angeles, CA: A Mujeres de Maiz Zine, 2010.
- Contributor, "STICK: a short story of texas mexican education," *Works in Progress/Writers in the Making*. Lemont, PA: Eifrig Publishing, 2010.
- Contributor, "a farm for meme," Somos Medicina. Issue No. 6. Los Angeles, CA: A Mujeres de Maiz Zine, 2008.
- Editorial Collective, *Conversations with Don Durito: The Story of Durito and the Defeat of Neo-Liberalism*, New York, NY: Autonomedia Press, 2005.
- Contributor, *rasgos asiaticos*. "Gender on the Borderlands" *Frontiers: Journal of Women Studies* Vol. 24: N. 2 & 3, ed. Castañeda: University of Nebraska Press, 2004.
- Contributor, *Voices for Racial Justice*, ed. bridgforth & Margulies, Austin, TX: Evelyn Street Press, 2004.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY

### *a farm for meme*

- HowlRound TV, directed by Elena Araoz, produced in collaboration with allgo, a todo dar, Cara Mia Theatre, Innovations in Socially Distant Performance (a research group housed at Princeton University), 2020.
- Radio Play, directed by Rebecca Rivas, 2020.

### *Your Healing is Killing Me*

- Cara Mia Theatre, directed by Kendra Ware, Dallas, TX, 2019.
- Playmakers Theater, directed by Misha Chowdhury, Chapel Hill, NC, 2019.
- JACK, directed by Emily Mendelsohn, Brooklyn, NY, 2017.

### *Their Dogs Came With Them* (adaptation of the novel by Helena Maria Viramontes)

- Borderlands Theater, directed by Kendra Ware, Tucson, AZ, 2019.
- Perryville Women's Prison, directed by Grise, Perryville, AZ, 2019.
- Staged Reading, AWP Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2020.

### *She She She*, directed by Elena Araoz, Ice Factory Festival, New York, NY, 2016.

### *DJ Latinidad's Latino Dance Party*, directed by Mark Valdez, Mixed Blood Theater, Minneapolis, MN, 2016.

Comprised of commissioned works by Junot Diaz, Kristoffer Diaz, Michael John Garces, Virginia Grise, Maria Isa, Melinda Lopez, Marcela Lorca, Joe Minjares, Kyoung Park, Sean San Jose, Tanya Saracho, and Octavio Solis.

### *Barrio Stories*, directed by Marc Pinate, Borderlands Theater, Tucson, AZ, 2016.

Site specific public intervention created in collaboration with Elaine Romero, Martin Zimmerman, Milta Ortiz and Lydia Otero.

### *Siempre Norteadá: Always Late, Always Lost* (Featured play for 2015 Carnaval)

Originally developed as a 10 minute chapter titled Go Away! in *Architecture of Becoming*, a group commission by Women's Project Theatre, in collaboration with Sarah Gancher, Lauren Yee, and Dipika Guha, World Premiere at City Center, New York, NY, 2014.

### *blu* (2010 Yale Drama Series Award)

- Cara Mia Theater, directed by Rene Moreno, Dallas, TX, 2015.
- Weekend Theatre, directed by Ryan Whitfield, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2014.
- Company of Angels, directed by Laurie Carlos, Los Angeles, CA, 2011.

### *behind barbed wire* (commissioned by the Community Arts Partnership)

- REDCAT Theatre, directed by BJ Dodge, Los Angeles, CA, 2009.
- Plaza de la Raza, directed by BJ Dodge, Los Angeles, CA, 2009.

*The Panza Monologues* (co-authored with Irma Mayorga)

- Teatro Vivo, directed by Florinda Bryant, Austin, TX, 2015.
- Cara Mia Theatre, directed by Irma Mayorga, Dallas, TX, 2005.
- Teatro Caliente! Festival, directed by Irma Mayorga, Phoenix, AZ, 2004.
- ALLGO, Tillery Street Theatre directed by Irma Mayorga & performed by Grise, Austin, TX, 2004.

## **DANCE THEATER**

*Measure of a Man*

Highways Performance Space, choreographed by Stephanie Nugent, commissioned by Nugent Dance, Santa Monica, CA, 2011.

*would i then be*

REDCAT Theatre, choreographed by Stephanie Nugent, commissioned by Nugent Dance, Los Angeles, CA, 2009.

## **TRANSLATIONS**

*22 Dreams* by Aída Andrade Varas

Staged Reading, Lark Play Development Center, 2014.

*Mestiza Power* by Concepcion Leon Mora

- Staged Reading, PEN World Voices Festival, New York, NY, 2016.
- Staged Reading, The Goodman Theater, Chicago, IL, 2013.
- Staged Reading, Lark Play Development Center, New York, NY, 2012.

*Supermarket Renaissance: The Rebirth of Fidelia* by Isabel Benet

Page 22 Salon, New York, NY, 2012.

## **PERFORMANCE LECTURES**

*These Are My Papers*

- ArtChangeUS, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, 2020.
- Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 2019.
- Madrid Lecture & Symposium, Chicana Teatristas Past & Present, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, 2019.

*A Place at the Table: A Performance Experiment in Radical Dialogue*, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, 2015.

*Theater of the Rowdy*

- University of California Santa Barbara, 2015.
- Colgate University, Colgate, NY, 2014.
- Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, 2014.
- Women, Community Engagement, Resistance and Transdisciplinary Activism, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, 2012.

## SHORT PLAYS

- *Sexo y Revolucion*, One-Minute Play Festival, Queens Museum, New York, NY, 2019.
- *Revolution*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2016.
- *Pulse*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2016.
- *Imagine the Impossible (3mins)*, Latino Theater Commons, New York, NY, 2016.
- *Racism's Chokehold*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2015.
- *100 women are on strike because they are hungry*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2014.
- *Teatro Organico (10mins)*, Free Range Thanksgiving Performance Feast, Foundry Theater, New York, NY, 2014.
- *Right to Remain (30mins)*, directed by author, The Local Project, Long Island City, NY, 2014.
- *Call to Prayer*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2014.
- *ESL*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2014.
- *Sha-Hell-No! (10mins)*, Eco y Voces de Arte Studio, San Antonio, Texas, 2014.
- *death sounds like...*, John Street Studio, Providence, Rhode Island, 2014.
- *corn does not grow in the museum (10mins)*, directed by author, Highly Impractical Theatre, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY, 2013.
- *woman in the walnut tree turned butterfly*, One-Minute Play Festival, Intar Theatre, New York, NY, 2013.
- *flower offerings for lil girls that ride buses*, Cornerstone Theatre, Hunger Cycle: One-Minute Play festival, Los Angeles, CA, 2011.
- *a farm for meme (15mins)*, directed by author, University of Butare, Butare, Rwanda, 2007.

## ADDITIONAL DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

- Director, *The Passion According to Antigona Perez* by Luis Rafael Sanchez, Lehman College, New York, NY, 2016.
- Director, *how do you pull your own sadness up out of the ground?*, site specific collaboration with Rafa Esparza and Joe Jimenez, Commissioned for the Luminaria Art Festival, San Antonio, TX, 2015.
- Director, *Mr. Mystery: The Return of Sun Ra to Save Planet Earth!*, music and concept by Fred Ho, book/libretto by Quincy Troupe, Brooklyn Academy of Music Café, Brooklyn, NY, 2015.
- Director, *Dat Black Mermaid Man Lady*, by Sharon Bridgforth, Workshop Production, New Dramatists, New York, NY, 2014.
- Director, *Remember el Alma* (2010 Contemporary Arts Month Award), Site

Specific Performance at Hemisfair Plaza and the Alamo, Commissioned by Bihl Haus Arts, San Antonio, TX, 2010.

- Assistant Director, *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov adapted by Tracy Letts, directed by Anna Shapiro, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- Assistant Director, *bonded* by Donald Jolly, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera, Playwright's Arena, Los Angeles, CA, 2011.
- Director, Staged Reading, *bonded* by Donald Jolly, Los Angeles Theatre Center, New Play Festival, Los Angeles, CA, 2011.
- Director, Staged Reading, *Puto* by Ricardo A. Bracho, Company of Angels, Los Angeles, CA, 2011.
- Director, New Play Lab, Playwright's Arena, Los Angeles, CA, 2011.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTING & PERFORMING EXPERIENCE**

- *Llanto Collectivo*, directed by Cherrie Moraga, PerformaProtesta, ICE Detention Center & Otay Mesa Detention Center, San Diego, CA.
- *RiverSee* by Sharon Bridgforth, New Dramatists, New York, NY, 2012.
- *Cyclona* in *Athco, Or The Renaissance of the Faggot Tree* by Dorian Wood, Barnsdall Art Park (part of Pacific Standard Time), Los Angeles CA, 2011.
- Josefa Zanzibar in *Digging Up the Dirt* by Cherrie Moraga, directed by Cherrie Moraga, Breath of Fire Theatre, Santa Ana, CA, 2010.
- *Pork Chop Wars* by Laurie Carlos, directed by Deborah Artman, Brockett Theatre, Austin, TX, 2004.

### **SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2020

- Artist in Residence, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Lead Artist, These Are My Papers Writing Workshops, DiverseWorks, Houston, Texas.

2019

- Artist in Residence, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Projecting All Voices Fellowship at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.

2018

Lead Artist, This is a Manifesto! Writing Workshops

- Jump Start Theatre, San Antonio, Texas.
- Allgo, Austin, Texas
- Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.
- SUNY Purchase College, Purchase, New York.
- Palabras Bookstore, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Network of Ensemble Theatres Annual Conference, Tempe, Arizona.
- Perryville Women's Prison, Goodyear, Arizona.

2016

- Lead Artist, Tomorrow is Now! Writing Workshops, JACK, Brooklyn, NY.
- Artist in Residence, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Agnes Nelms Haury Program in Environmental and Social Justice Visiting Fellowship at the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

2015

Lead Artist, Create Dangerously Writing Workshops, JACK, Brooklyn, NY.

2013

Visiting Writer, Five College Consortium (Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, University of Massachusetts Amherst).

2012

Visiting Writer, Theatrical Jazz Institute, DePaul University, Chicago, IL.

2011

Visiting Writer, [ENG 133.1 & ENG 33.1], English & World Literature Dept., Pitzer College, Claremont, CA.

2009

- Instructor, Arts Pedagogy [T-080-28], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Teaching Assistant, Playwrights' Salon [T882], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts. Instructor: Carl Hancock Rux.

2008

- Instructor, Arts Pedagogy [T-080-28], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Teaching Assistant, Arts & Activism [CS 179B], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts. Instructor: Evelyn Serrano.
- Teaching Assistant, Playwrights' Salon [T882], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts. Instructor: Carl Hancock Rux.

2007

- Instructor, Writing for Performance [T050], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Instructor, Arts Pedagogy [T-080-28], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.
- Teaching Assistant, Playwrights' Salon [T882], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts. Instructor: Carl Hancock Rux.



2006

- Teaching Assistant, Playwrights' Salon [T882], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts. Instructor: Carl Hancock Rux.
- Teaching Assistant, Graduate Play Analysis [T560], Theatre Department, California Institute of the Arts. Instructors: Erik Ehn & Mona Heinze

2003-06

Teacher, Kazen Middle School, South San Antonio Independent School District.  
Spanish I and English as a Second Language

1998-2000

Teacher, Austin High School, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX  
Spanish III.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES**

- Invited Speaker, Dean's Speaker Series, Representation in the Performing Arts, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, 2020.
- Invited Panelist, How Can Images Tell the Story of Mass Incarceration in the US?, Aperture Foundation, New York, NY, 2018.
- Invited Keynote, Bodies of Power/Theory in the Flesh, Graduate Women & Gender Studies Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 2018.
- Invited Keynote, Borders & Migrations, Association of Graduate Liberal Studies, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, 2018.
- Invited Panelist, Chinese/Mexican Memory Work, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2018.
- Invited Panelist, Because No Space is Safe: On Prison Rebellions, Mexican Magic, and Manifestos Written in the Subjunctive, National Association for Chicana/o Studies Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 2018.
- Invited Panelist, What Playwrights Talk About When They Talk About Writing (with David Hare, Marsha Norman, and Jeffrey Sweet), Yale University, 2017.
- Invited Lecture, An Artist's Statement, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA, 2015.
- Invited Panelist, Identification, Disidentification, and Other Syntheses in New Latino/a Writing, Latina/o Utopias Conference, John Jay College, New York, NY, 2015.
- Invited Panelist, Brooklyn Book Festival (with Lisa Kron, Anne Washburn, and Lucas Hnath), Brooklyn, NY, 2015.
- Invited Lecture, Your Healing is Killing Me: A Performance Manifesto, for the Creating New Medical and Health Humanities Program at UC Riverside (funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities), Riverside, CA, 2015.

- Panel Moderator, “Las Marthas” Film Screening, Bronx Documentary Center, Bronx, NY, 2014.
- Invited Lecture, From Panzas to Prisons: Pedagogy, Social Justice, and the Humanities, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, 2014.
- Invited Panelist, American Latino/a Literature Symposium: The Latino/a Literary Landscape, San Antonio, TX, 2014.
- Invited Panelist, Chicana Superheroes, Cantantes, Cantineras, and Gangstas, National Association for Chicano/a Studies Conference: Learning from our Past, Defending Our Rights in the 21st Century, San Antonio, Texas, 2013.
- Invited Keynote, Panza Platica, Gender & Sexuality Center, University of Texas at Austin, 2010.
- Invited Panelist, Art & Social Criticism in the Americas, REDCAT Theatre, Los Angeles, CA, 2010.
- Invited Panelist, The Politics of Panza Positive Cultural Production, National Association for Chicano/a Studies Conference: The Politics, Implications and Future of Chicana/os’ Cultural Production, 2008.