

# SEAN DONOVAN

Director, Actor, Dancer, Writer, Educator, Arts Administrator

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## EDUCATION:

**2019** National Academy of Sports Medicine Personal Trainer Certification, New York, NY  
**2000 - 2004** New York University (NYU), Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY  
*Bachelor of Fine Arts: Drama (Honors) Minor: Fine Art*  
*Overall G.P.A.: 3.75*  
Dean's List, 5/01,5/02, 5/03, 5/04

## FULL LENGTH WORKS:

- 2019** *Cabin*  
Part theater, part dance, and part film, *Cabin* explores violence, the complexities of queer desire and intimacy, and the lines between biography and fiction.  
Written, Directed, and Performed by Sean Donovan  
Co-choreographed by Sean Donovan, Tyler Ashley, Brandon Washington  
Originally commissioned by The Bushwick Starr, NY  
Premiere: The Bushwick Starr, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017** *The Reception*  
A theater and dance performance that delves into the dark underbelly of the social and how we survive when a world begins to crumble.  
Written and Directed by Sean Donovan and Sebastián Calderón Bentin  
Originally commissioned by HERE Arts Center  
Premiere: HERE Arts Center, New York, NY
- 2013** *18 ½ Minutes*  
*18 ½ Minutes* is a multimedia performance work that explores the historical, technological and political circumstances around the mysterious 18 ½ minute gap in President Nixon's Oval Office tapes and broader questions of time, silence, and erasure at the center of one of the most famous political scandals in modern U.S. political history.  
Written and Directed by Sean Donovan and Sebastián Calderón Bentin  
Premiere: JACK, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011** *The Climate Chronicles*  
An absurdist theater and dance performance that narrates the story of a team of questionably qualified American climatologists.  
Written and Directed by Sean Donovan and Sebastián Calderón Bentin  
Premiere: Incubator Arts Project, New York, NY

**2008**

***Se Vende***

A site-specific performance work created and performed in an art gallery in Panama City's historical colonial Casco Viejo district. Dissecting gentrification and class, *Se Vende* takes place in the real-space that it proposes selling and responds to a current Panamanian situation where both nouveau riche and retired Americans move to Panama in droves for cheap prices, tropical weather, and exotic culture.

Written and Directed by Sean Donovan and Sebastián Calderón Bentin  
Premiere: FAE International Theater Festival in Panama City, Panama

**2007**

***Equator***

A theater/performance work that is both an investigation of the red-tape surrounding the global climate crisis and a search to find the meaning of how and why we meet and gather.

Written and Directed by Sean Donovan and Sebastián Calderón Bentin  
Premiere: Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY

**PRESENTATIONS / TOURING:**

**2019**

The Bushwick Starr (Brooklyn, NY)  
Under The Radar Festival, The Public Theater (New York, NY)

**2018**

North American Cultural Laboratory (Highland Lake, NY)

**2017**

CUNY Prelude Festival (New York, NY)  
HERE Arts Center (New York, NY)

**2016**

HERE Arts Center (New York, NY)

**2015**

HERE Arts Center (New York, NY)

**2013**

JACK (Brooklyn, NY)  
Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA)

**2011**

Incubator Arts Project (New York, NY)  
Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA)

**2010**

Brooklyn Arts Exchange (Brooklyn, NY)

**2008**

FAE International Theater Festival (Panama City, Panama)

**GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS:**

**2019**

Edith Lutyens and Norman Bel Geddes Design Enhancement Fund

**2019**

Brooklyn Arts Council Grant

**2017**

Stanford University Alumni Fund

**2017**

Rosin Fund

**2017**

Mertz-Gilmore Foundation

**2016**

Art Matters Foundation

**2013**

Stanford University Research Fund

**2008**

Brooklyn Arts Council Grant

## RESIDENCIES:

2019	The Public Theater: Under The Radar Festival's Devised Theater Working Group
2018	North American Cultural Laboratory (NaCl)
2018	The Skirball Center
2016	Bushwick Starr
2014 - 2017	HERE Arts Center
2013	JACK
2013	Brooklyn Arts Exchange Space Grant
2012	Stanford University
2011	Incubator Arts Project

## AWARDS:

2017	BESSIE Award Nomination for Outstanding Performer
2014	BESSIE Award Nomination for Outstanding Performer
2004	Experimental Theatre Wing Award of Excellence
2004	Drama Honors Program Certificate
2002	Amsterdam Scholarship Award
2001	J.S. Seidman Scholarship

## DIRECTING & CHOREOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

2022	Associate Choreographer of Taylor Mac's <i>Bark of Millions</i> Director: Niegel Smith Premiere: BAM Opera House, New York, NY (will Premiere in 2023)  Choreographer of OBIE Award Winning The Talking Band's <i>Lemon Girls or Art for the Artless</i> Director: Paul Zimet Premiere: La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY
2019	Director of <i>Cabin</i> Premiere: The Bushwick Starr, New York, NY
2018	Co-Director of the BESSIE Award winning <i>Jane Comfort's 40th Anniversary Retrospective</i> Choreography: Jane Comfort and Company Premiere: La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY
2017	Choreographer of Michael Kiley's <i>Close Music For Bodies</i> Premiere: Philadelphia Fringe Festival, FringeArts, Philadelphia, PA
2015	Choreographer of Gardiner Comfort's <i>The Elephant in Every Room I Enter</i> Director: Kel Haney Premiere: La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY

## PROFESSIONAL THEATER AND DANCE EXPERIENCE (ACTOR & DANCER)

2007 - 2018	Company member of Jane Comfort Dance Company, New York, NY
2010 - Present	Company member of The Builders Association (Theater Co.) New York, NY
2013 - 2019	Company member of Faye Driscoll Dance Group, New York, NY

- 2022** *Oratorio For Living Things*, Heather Christian, Ars Nova, New York, NY
- 2021** *Let Things Lie*, Gwen Welliver, Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York, NY  
*Hotel Savant*, John Jahnke, MASS MoCA, MA
- 2020** *Oratorio For Living Things*, Heather Christian, Ars Nova, New York, NY
- 2019** *Elements of OZ*, The Builders Association, The Skirball Center, New York, NY  
*Oratorio For Living Things (workshop)*, Heather, Christian, Ars Nova, New York, NY
- 2018** *Strange Window*, The Builders Association, Next Wave Festival, BAM, Brooklyn, NY  
*Strange Window*, The Builders Association, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA  
*Thank You For Coming Series*, Faye Driscoll, Peak Performances, Montclair, NJ  
*Strange Window*, The Builders Association, U. of Illinois, Krannert Center, Urbana, IL  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Beckett, MA  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy  
*Jane Comfort's 40th Anniversary Retrospective*, Jane Comfort Dance, La MaMa E.T.C., NYC  
*Relational Stalinism*, Michael Portnoy, American Realness Festival, Abrons Arts Center, NYC
- 2017** *I Fight*, Dir. Sarah Revoltella, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, TBA Festival at PICA, Portland, OR  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, ICA Boston, Boston, MA  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, MA  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, River to River Festival, NYC  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, Philadelphia Fringe Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016** *Elements of OZ*, The Builders Association, 3LD Art & Technology Center, NYC  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Onassis Center, Athens, Greece  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, Next Wave Festival, BAM, Brooklyn, NY  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Belfast International Arts Festival, Ireland  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Melbourne Festival, Melbourne, Australia  
*Thank You For Coming: Play*, Faye Driscoll, Wexner Arts Center, Columbus, OH  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Fisher Center at Bard College, New York  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Wexner Arts Center, Columbus, OH  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, MCA Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, Raritan Valley Community College, Raritan, NJ  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- 2015** *Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Theatre de Genevilliers, Paris, France  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Croatian National Theatre, Zagreb, Croatia  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Wesleyan University, Connecticut  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Centro Le Parc, Mendoza, Argentina  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Arte Experimental, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, ICA Boston, Boston, MA  
*Elements of OZ*, The Builders Association, Peak Performances, Montclair, NJ  
*Age & Beauty: Part 2*, Miguel Gutierrez, New York Live Arts, New York, NY

*Age & Beauty: Part 2*, Miguel Gutierrez, Fisher Center at Bard College, New York  
*Altiplano*, Jane Comfort, La MaMa Moves, La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY  
*Age & Beauty: Part 2*, Miguel Gutierrez, American Realness Festival, Abrons Arts Center, NYC  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, COIL Festival, Danspace Project, NYC

**2014**

*Excuse Me, But...*, Joe's Pub, NYC  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, MASS Live Arts, Great Barrington, MA  
*Thank You For Coming: Attendance*, Faye Driscoll, Danspace Project, NYC  
*House/Divided*, The Builders Association, The Majestic Theater (Arts Emerson) Boston, MA  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, Hillsborough College, Tampa, FL

**2013**

*Blue Man Group*, Astor Place Theater, New York, NY  
*Of The Mountains*, Leslie Cuyjet, Danspace Project, New York, NY  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, LeHigh University, Bethlehem, PA  
*Eterniday*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., La MaMa E.T.C., NYC  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, Washington State University, St. Louis, MO  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

**2012**

*House/Divided*, Builders Association, BAM Harvey, New York, NY  
*House/Divided*, Builders Association, UMASS Amherst, Amherst, MA  
*House/Divided*, Builders Association, Majestic Theater, Boston, MA  
*House/Divided*, Builders Association, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, IL  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY

**2011**

*Vicious Dogs on Premises*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Theater Chaillot, Paris, France  
*Heaven on Earth*, Witness Relocation Theater Co. La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY  
*Heaven on Earth*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Les Subsistances, Lyon, France  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lenox, MA  
*Beauty*, Jane Comfort Dance, American Dance Institute, Rockport, MD  
*House/Divided*, The Builders Association, Wexner Center for Performing Arts, OH  
*The Medead*, Fiona Templeton, LMCC, New York, NY

**2010**

*It's Hell in Here*, Abigail Browde, Revolutions Intl. Theater Festival, Albuquerque, NM  
*Lands and Peoples*, Jennie Marytai Liu, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY  
*Five Days in March*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., La MaMa E.T.C., New York, NY  
*A Soldier's Tale*, William Kerley, Castleton Opera Festival, Castleton, VA  
*Panic Room*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Le Quartz, Anticodes Festival, Brest, France  
*Faith Healing*, Jane Comfort Dance, Joyce Soho, New York, NY  
*A Soul Leaves Her Body*, Jennie Marytai Liu, HERE Arts Center, NY

**2009**

*An American Rendition*, Jane Comfort Dance, Raritan Valley College, Raritan, NJ  
*Haggadah*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., La MaMa E.T.C., NYC  
*Panic Room*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Bumbershoot Festival, Seattle, WA  
*Panic Room*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Dance New Amsterdam, NY  
*Vicious Dogs on Premises*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Les Subsistances, Lyon, France  
*Vicious Dogs on Premises*, Witness Relocation Theater Co, Fools Fury Fest. San Francisco, CA  
*Vicious Dogs on Premises*, Witness Relocation Theater Co, Bytom Festival, Bytom, Poland  
*Vicious Dogs on Premises*, Witness Relocation Theater Co, St. Petersburg, Russia  
*An American Rendition*, Jane Comfort Dance, Franklin and Marshall College, Pennsylvania  
*The Rat Experiment*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., River to River Festival, NYC

- 2008** *Vicious Dogs on Premises*, Witness Relocation Theater Co., Ontological Hysteric Theater, NYC  
*An American Rendition*, Jane Comfort Dance, The Duke on 42nd St. Theater, NYC  
*An American Rendition*, Jane Comfort Dance, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
*The Rat Experiment*, Witness Relocation Theater Co. Man-in-Fest., Cluj Napoca, Romania  
*Josephine*, Abigail Browde, University Settlement, NYC
- 2007** *Love Notes For Geraldine*, Dir. Heather Christian, La MaMa E.T.C., NYC  
*Late Education of Sasha Wolf*, Dir. Shonni Ennelow, CSV Theater, NYC  
*Hamlet*, Dir. Ravi Jain, Winchester Street Theater, Toronto, Canada

## TEACHING & UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

- 2020** **New York University, NY - Department of Drama, Experimental Theater Wing**  
 Adjunct Professor - 2nd Year Undergraduate Movement Instructor  
 Full Semester course in choreography, composition, and improvisation
- 2019** **New York University, NY - Department of Drama, Experimental Theater Wing**  
 Adjunct Professor - Upper Level Undergraduate Movement Instructor  
 Half Semester course in advanced choreography and composition
- 2019** **Lion's Jaw Festival, Cambridge, MA**  
 Guest Teacher  
 Workshop in Storytelling and Solo Performance at four day festival for dance artists
- 2018** **New York University, NY - Department of Drama, Playwrights Horizons Theater School**  
 Adjunct Professor - 2nd Year Undergraduate Movement Instructor  
 Full Semester course in choreography, composition, and improvisation
- 2017** **Acrobatics of The Heart Pedagogy Training Intensive, Earthdance, MA**  
 Student and teacher at Master Theater Teacher Steve Wangh's 7-day training program
- 2014** **Swarthmore College, PA - Dance Department**  
 Masterclass in improvisation and dance repertory from Jane Comfort and Co's repertory
- 2013** **Stanford University, CA - Theater Department**  
 One Week Storytelling and Solo Performance Workshop
- 2012** **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, MA**  
 Masterclass in Text and Gesture for dance students

## FILM/TV/VIDEO EXPERIENCE

- 2019** *Morning Chardonnay* (webseries) - Co-Writer and Co-Star of 6 episode comedy series
- 2018** *Feast of the Epiphany* (feature film), dir. Jeff Reichert, supporting actor
- 2017** *Beast Mode* (short film), dir. Ernest Wadell, supporting actor
- 2017** *Laurence* (feature film), dir. Stephen Kellam, supporting actor
- 2015** *Drinking Buddy* (Clement Music, music video), dir. Kaz Phillips, actor and dancer
- 2012** *Spectacles* (short film), dir. Jeremy Fain, lead actor

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Brantley, Ben, "Agony, Ecstasy, and a Dancing Ménage à Trois in *Cabin*", *The New York Times*, May 26, 2019. Review.
- Farrington, Sara, "Sean Donovan in conversation with Sara Farrington on *Cabin*", *The Brooklyn Rail*, May 2019.
- Shaw, Hellen, "Review: *Cabin*", *TimeOut Magazine*, May 24, 2019.
- O'Neil, Daniel, "Tranquility Disrupted - Sean Donovan's *Cabin*", *Culturebot*, May 27, 2019. Review.
- McEntree, Billy, "In *Cabin*, A Queer Thriller Takes Over The Bushwick Starr", *Greenpointers.com*, May 29, 2019. Review.
- Bande, Amelia, "Jane Comfort in Conversation w/ Sean Donovan", *Movement Research Critical Correspondence*, June 2019.
- Greene, Melanie, "Review: Sean Donovan & Sebastian Calderon's *The Reception*", *DanceEnthusiast.com*, June 23, 2017.
- Rifkin, Mark, "Review: *The Reception*," *This Week in NY*, June 17, 2017.
- Canter, Aron, "Review: *The Reception*," *StageBuddy.com*, June 19, 2017.
- Rizzuto, Rachel, "Faye Driscoll's, *Thank You For Coming: Play: A Work of Extremes*", *BachTrack*, November 22, 2016. Review.
- Isherwood, Charles, "Review: Elements of OZ", *The New York Times*, September 28, 2015.
- Isherwood, Charles, "Dispossessed Progeny of Ma and Pa Joad", *The New York Times*, October 25, 2012.
- Montgomery, Mitch, "The Climate Chronicles" succeeds wildly.", *Backstage Magazine*, November 11, 2011.
- Parker, Janine, "Ken and Barbie are all dolled up at Jacob's Pillow", *The Boston Globe*, July 2, 2011. Review.
- Horwitz, Andy, "*The Climate Chronicles* at Incubator Arts Project," *Culturebot*, November 14, 2011.
- La Rocco, Claudia, "*Reality TV Meets Torture Meets Heidi Klum*," *The New York Times*, September 29, 2008. Review.