



Ditte Berkeley-Schultz

Performer, acting teacher, voice & singing pedagogue

Ditte Berkeley is an international performer, acting pedagogue and researcher in the field of theatre with over 20 years of performance and pedagogical experience. She specialises in a very particular approach to the expressive vocal and singing work of the actor connected with vocal presence and the power to communicate as a performer through song. She is co-creator of the internationally acclaimed and award-winning theatre company Teatr ZAR (Poland) and performer in most of its theatre productions until now. The work of Teatr ZAR has been awarded the Total

Theatre and Herald Angel Award. As a researcher at the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw she has been responsible for various pedagogical lines of teaching focused on the voice.

Of Danish and British origins, she has a very special relationship with Spain, where she was brought up. She trained as an actress at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama in London, UK, where she graduated in 2001, continuing her research and development in Poland.

Amongst the performances and international touring of Teatr ZAR, she performs in and is co-creator of:

Gospels of Childhood- Fragments on Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood (2003)

Caesarean Section – Essays on Suicide (2007)

Anhelli. The Calling (2010)

Armine, Sister (2013)

Anhelli. The Howl (2019)

Medee/ Mojry (2022)

The performances of Teatre ZAR have been awarded the ***Total Theatre Award*** and ***Herald Angel Award***.

“Christian song in a confusing but engrossing blend of musical richness and physical skill, particularly the transformative performances of Ditte Berkeley”

Theatre Review, Robert Hurwitt,

Chronicles Theatre Critic, San Francisco

“The most beautiful aria in Armine, Sister is sung by Ditte Berkeley, an artist gifted with the voice of an angel and a uniquely articulate body. She is greatly talented as an actress”

Miroslaw Kocur.

Opposite“ to me, on a chair, sits Medea. It is Ditte Berkeley, the greatest singer in Teatr ZAR (...)This Medea is more like Niobe, frozen in despair after having lost all her children. She laments in the languages spoken in Corsica and Sardinia. You don't need to understand the words to understand her pain(...)

Ditte Berkeley gives a wonderful display of her singing and acting abilities. Her voice has amazing power. It bursts into my body like a surgical scalpel. Scratches healed wounds. It revives repressed memories. It breaks out of indifference.

Miroslaw Kocur

“Ludzie i Robaki”, teatralny.pl

Other performance work includes:

“Unfinished Palace, Moving People, Floating Borders/ European Songlines” under the direction of Stephan Stroux, as part of the Culture Capital 2016 in Wrocław.

“Monument (or, King Lear)” with the American company Source Material, and under the direction of Samantha Shay. The performance was premiered in 2019 in Los Angeles and later New York.

“Little Thunder. Saint Catherine of Siena”, under the leadership of Julianna Bloodgood. Premiered in 2022 in Warsaw, Poland.

“Wybudzenie” concert in the frame of the **“Błaznice”** yearly conference 2022 in Wrocław.

Alongside the activity with Teatr ZAR, she has collaborated with Studio Matejka in their vocal training and musical work. She was vocal and music supervisor for their performances Awkward Happiness, or Everything I Don't Remember About Meeting You and Charmolypi.

Pedagogical work

She is leader of the workshop **“Into the Sound”** in collaboration with Teatr ZAR, which focuses strongly on the polyphonic songs of Georgian tradition. As a key member of Teatr ZAR she has led work sessions with students of higher education in theatre institutions around the globe.

Independently, she leads her own workshop entitled **Voice Tale (Speaking Song)**, for performers, and **The Rite of Voice**, for non performers, based on her own vocal/musical practice as a performer developed throughout her practice. She runs this workshop on a regular basis internationally and at the Grotowski Institute.

As a key member of Teatr ZAR she has lead work sessions of her own and the company's work in institutions of higher education such as CALARTS, the University of Exeter, Kent University, Loughborough University, National School of Drama in New Delhi, UCLA, RESAD in Madrid, the Institut del Teatre in Barcelona, Norwegian Theatre Academy as well as theatre academies in Poland (Warsaw, Wroclaw, Krakow). She has also led work demonstrations in Goldsmiths College during the company's performances in the Barbican and Battersea Arts Center in London and UCLA, to mention a few. She has also been working with a large number of students at the Grotowski Institute who have been sent on exchange experiences by their theatre institutions. She recently led work sessions for master students from Rose Buford College, London, UK.

She is a key leader in the Grotowski Institute's **BodyConstitution** program entitled **Actor's Atelier**, offering a 3-year educational program for actors from around the world interested in challenging and developing their actors' craft.

Publications

In 2017 she was invited to write an article in collaboration with Electa Behrens for the *VOICINGS Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies (JIVS) 2.2*. The subject of the paper was "*Songs of Tradition as training in higher education?*".

In 2019 a publication of the Performance Research 24.1 journal published by The Center for Performance Research in Wales entitled "*What is a Song?*" included a piece written by Ditte entitled "*The playground of Song*".

Festivals

She co-organized in 2009, in collaboration with the Center for Performance Research in Aberystwyth, Wales, the unique international festival "**Giving Voice**". This festival focuses on the voice and brings together vocal artists from all around the world. This edition of the event took place at the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw, Poland.

In 2010 she organized in Wroclaw the first session of a cyclical event called **VoicEncounters- Reclaiming the Voice**, focusing on the research and sharing of vocal cultures from around the world.

First edition: **The Phenomenon of Latin Confraternities**, took place in November 2010 in the auspices of the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw.

Second edition: "**my silent sister**" took place in November 2012, and focused on the subject of Armenian musical heritage and history.

As a result of her vocal research, she has carried out numerous expeditions with Teatr ZAR as well as individually amongst others to: Georgia, Bulgaria, Spain, Ukraine, Corsica, Morocco, Sardinia, Armenia.

Filmography

Co(2006) dir. Michal Rosa

Daas (2011) dir. Adrian Panek.

Papusza (2013) dir. Joanna Kos-Krauze, Krzysztof Krauze

Rojst (The Mire, Netflix series, 2020) dir. Jan Holoubek

Silent Twins (2021) dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska.

Strange Angels (2022). się. Mariusz Palej

Ethos

A strong believer in the idea that as creative beings we have the gift and responsibility to address matters that need to be talked about and heard in the world around us. Artists have a unique power to transform such matters into story lines that then reach directly into the heart of the spectator through their beauty and humanity.

Ditte is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, and is actively involved in discussions for supporting and understanding the challenges of parenthood in the performing arts.

Is a proud mother of Anouk, Ilya and Namkhai.

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