

# Francis Weiss Rabkin

Playwright, Co-Founder of Tight Braid Group  
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## RESIDENCIES

### Abrons Art Center

July 2017

### The Wassaic Project

Jan-March 2017

May 2011

### Dixon Place Artist in Residence

Summer 2015

### Drama League of New York

Director's Project, dir. Anna  
Brenner

May 2014

### Millay Colony for the Arts

April 2012

## PLAYS & PERFORMANCE HISTORY

### **Covenant (in progress)**

*May 2017 Development reading at New York Theater Workshop*

In a small village in England in the early 1600s, a coven of witches and a radical anti-property Protestant sect form a tenuous bond to push back against the rapid privatization of land. *Covenant* looks to the historical pockets of European resistance to the emerging colonial capitalism, and imagines what could have been if Europeans hadn't so thoroughly sacrificed their connection to the Earth.

### **Won't Be a Ghost (2016)**

*April 2016 Premiere at The Brick in Brooklyn, NY*

*Development Showings 2014-2015: Dixon Place, Drama League of New York, Prelude Festival, HERE Arts.*

*Won't Be A Ghost* engages the history of radical sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld and his Weimar-era Berlin Institute of Sexology, braiding it together with the story of trans-hactivist Chelsea Manning, the lore of St. Sebastian, and the Greek tragedy *Agamemnon*. By interrelating these histories and myths, *Won't Be a Ghost* examines the truth-telling body, specifically the queer/outsider body, encountering and in conflict with the state.

### **Yay! Synchronicity in the Universe (2013)**

*February 2013 Premiere at Dixon Place in New York, NY*

When we were in our early twenties, my friend Tadd passed away from Lyme Disease complications. That summer we were supposed to write a play together. *Yay! Synchronicity in the Universe* is an attempt to continue writing that play, while simultaneously telling the story of losing him, and situates the loss within the greater context of the loss of so many young queers since the start of the AIDS epidemic.

### **Script for Covers, a dance by Katy Pyle (2012)**

*September 2012 at The Bushwick Starr in Brooklyn, NY*

A dialogue for two dancers, read by flashlight beneath a quilt fort.

### **Collecting Dust: A Play in Verse (2009)**

*June 2009 Cha-cha'razzi Art Space in Philadelphia, PA*

*May 2008 Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT*

Scout is an archivist living in an old farmhouse on family land, which suits her fine since her archival specialty is dust. When a traveling carpenter passes through, Scout falls for her hard and the dust archive really starts to build up.

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## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

### **2016-2017 New York Theater Workshop 2050 Fellow**

The 2050 Fellowship is a yearlong residency for emerging playwrights and directors with unique cultural perspectives inclusive of race, ethnicity, gender, class, disability and sexual orientation. Three playwrights and three directors are chosen through a rigorous four-round application process as representative voices from the emerging “majority minority”—the diverse demographic trend not yet reflected in the greater theater discourse.

### **2016 Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation Production Grant**

*Won't Be a Ghost* received support as a new play dealing with LGBT history and creating new audiences for LGBT-themed performing-arts.

### **2015 The Kilroys List, honorable mention**

The List is an annual compiling of the most recommended un- and underproduced plays by women and trans playwrights. Around three-hundred national artistic directors, literary managers, professors, producers, directors, and dramaturgs were surveyed to recommend plays.

### **2001 Pegasus Players' Young Playwrights Festival Winner, Chicago, IL**

For thirty years, Pegasus Players has presented short plays written by Chicago youth in a 250-seat theater with professional directors and actors. The contest selects four plays by high school students for a month long run, and Pegasus Players continues to stage the play I wrote as a thirteen-year-old in classrooms across Chicago as a teaching tool.

## TEACHING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### **Wesleyan University, 2018**

Playwriting Workshop—Upcoming workshop over three consecutive weekends for 10-15 undergraduates will focus on generating writing from historical primary documents.

### **Tight Braid Group, founded 2015**

As co-founder of Tight Braid Group, I have had a hand in managing nearly every aspect of the company. In addition to writing the scripts for our two productions, I have co-directed, produced and fundraised, built websites, secured workspace grants, and stage-managed. Our company is dedicated to working with queer and trans poets, choreographers, musicians, activists, and visual artists, and relies on strong community foundations. We have shown work as resident artists in NYC at HERE, Dixon Place, in the Prelude Festival, The Drama League of New York, New York Theatre Workshop, and The Brick.

### **Friends Seminary (NYC), 2015**

*Playwriting* – A semester-long elective course for high school juniors and seniors, students finished the semester with a one-act play.

### **Backyard Theater (Chicago), 2004-2007**

The summer after graduating high school, I founded my first theater company. I wrote and directed three plays, and produced them in my parents' Chicago backyard. Each production included puppetry, live original music, and employed around 20 high school and college-aged youth, the majority of whom have gone on to have lives in theater and the arts.

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## EDUCATION

### **Wesleyan University**

BA with high honors, 2008

### **2008 Dorchester Prize, Wesleyan University**

The Dorchester Prize is awarded to the best honors thesis submitted to the English Department.

### **2007 Wesleyan Student Poetry Award**