

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST

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Howard J. Davis, aka HAU, is a mixed multidisciplinary artist and activist who defies categorization. To date he has worked in performance, directing, design and visual arts for theatre and film. A graduate of Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto in 2014, he has acted with companies such as the Shaw Festival of Canada, Native Earth Performing Arts, Cahoots Theatre, Paper Canoe Projects, Factory Theatre, Neptune Theatre as well as in film and television. As a director, he was recently invited to partake in the inaugural Bud's program to assistant direct as part of the Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction. He was an assistant director to associate director Estelle Shook and Peter Hinton at the National Arts Centre for the sesquicentennial production of the opera *Louis Riel*. He was a recipient of Theatre Ontario's Professional Theatre Training Program to work as a directing/design intern at the Grand Theatre. As a video/projection designer, he has worked at The Shaw Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Black Theatre Workshop, Great Canadian Theatre Company, and Neptune Theatre. In the summer of 2020, he was slated to design the world premiere of Anne Marie MacDonald's play *Hamlet 911* at the Stratford Festival of Canada. His work as a filmmaker emphasizes how the past can inform our current socio-political climate to build a practice in telling stories of his heritage, marginalized cultures, and original modern works that bridge classical, theatrical, and historical context to contemporary cinema and stage. Career highlights to date include: directing his short film *C'EST MOI* about the history Marie-Josèphe Angélique. The film screened at over 40 festivals worldwide, including *Vues D'Afrique*, Montreal and Hollywood's Black Film Festivals, *Caribbean Tales*, and *The Black International Film Festival* in the United Kingdom, where it was nominated for Best Short Film and won best short documentary at the Best Shorts Competition in Los Angeles. He assistant produced and did the stills photography and EPK working on Marie Clements feature film *Red Snow*. His photography has been published in *Harpers Bazaar UK*, *Amina Magazine (Paris)*, *GreyStone Books* and was commissioned and featured in the design for Canadian Opera Company's 2018 World Premiere of Rufus Wainwright's and Daniel McIvor's "*Hadrian*". Upcoming Howard is devising a new operatic work about the history of Canadian singer Portia White. The show is currently in development through the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council, National Ballet of Canada's Open Space Residency, and Caravan Farm National Playwright's Retreat. His award winning feature-length film debut entitled *MIXED↑* explores the isolation of being BIPOC and LGBTQ+ and demands that we celebrate what is unique about each of us. The film was co-produced with trans producer/filmmaker Jack Fox and premiered November 2020 on OUTtv and OUTtvGO network television and at *Image+Nation LGBTQ+ Film Festival*. Howard is part of *Wildseed Black Arts Residency* in association with *Black Lives Matter Toronto* - a 20-month residency and space for interdisciplinary collaboration through arts and activism. He is a recipient of *ByBlack's People's Choice Award for Best Director* in 2018 and 2020. In 2020 he was nominated for a *Montreal English Theatre Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre*. He is also a member of ACTRA, CAEA and ADC. For more information, head to hau.ca.

Selected Credits (Film)

- **MixedUp** - by Howard J Davis - Director/Writer/Producer (OUTtv/OUTtvGO /mixedup.ca) - 2020/21
- **Red Snow** - by Marie Clements - Assistant Producer (Zhoh Daatsik Pictures) - 2019
- **Sikhokele** - by DRFTR - Director/Producer (Music Video) - 2018
- **Chloe** - Director/Writer/Producer/Editor/Composer (Short Film) - 2017
- **C'est Moi** - by Howard J Davis - Director/Writer/Producer/Editor/Composer (Moving Images Distribution) - 2017

Selected Credits (Theatre)

- **Antigone** - by Sophocles - Assistant Director (Michael Langham Directors Workshop for Classical Direction) - 2019
- **Silence** - by Trina Davies - Intern Director/Designer (Theatre Ontario Professional Theatre Training Program) - 2018
- **Louis Riel** - by Harry Somers - Assistant Director (National Arts Centre of Canada/Canadian Opera Company) - 2017

Selected Credits (Video/Projection Design)

- **Backstage at Carnegie Hall** - by Audrey Dwyer, directed by Ahdri Mandiela (Bradyworks/Black Theatre Workshop) - August 2021 (*Upcoming*)
- **Mapping Toronto Music** - (Luminato Festival) - June 2021 (*Upcoming*)
- **The Man that Got Away** - by Martin Julien directed by Peter Hinton (Buddies and Bad Times Theatre) - April 2021 (*Upcoming*)
- **Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave** - by David Yee, directed by Andy Houston (University of Waterloo) (*Upcoming*)
- **Hamlet 911** - by Anne Marie MacDonald, directed by Alisa Palmer (The Stratford Festival of Canada) - Summer 2020 (*Postponed*)
- **Simone Half and Half*** - by Christine Rodriguez directed by Quincy Armourer (Black Theatre Workshop) - 2020
- **Oh What a Lovely War** - by Joan Littlewood directed by Peter Hinton (The Shaw Festival of Canada) - 2018
- **The Mountaintop** - by Katori Hall, directed by Ahdri Mandiela (Black Theatre Workshop, GCTC, Neptune Theatre) - 2017-2019
- **The Millennial Malcontent** - by Erin Shields directed by Peter Hinton (Tarragon Theatre) - 2017.

Selected Credits (Visual Arts)

- **Shadism** - by Howard J Davis - Experimental Art Film, produced in association with Black Theatre Workshop - 2020
- **Red Snow** - by Marie Clements - EPK/Stills Photographer (Zhoh Daatsik Pictures) - 2019
- **Greystone Books** - Commissioned for the cover of "Voice of Rebellion" the autobiography of Mozhdah Jamalzadah - 2019.
- **Hadrian** - Photography commission by the Canadian Opera Company and used as part of the premiere of Rufus Wainwright and Daniel MacIvors opera "Hadrian" - 2018.
- **Looking at Edward Curtis** - Poster Design - (Knowledge Network/Marie Clements Media) - 2018.
- Photography has been printed internationally in Harpers Bazaar UK, Amina Magazine and more.

In-Development

- **Aportia Chryptch : A Black Opera for Portia White**** - Director/Designer/Writer/Producer - Development Workshop (January 2021) Production (*Upcoming*)
- **My Wide Sargasso** - (Play) Writer, In-development (2021)
- **Diaries of a Dowry** - (Television Series) Director/Producer, pre-development collaborating with Sharada Eswer (Cultural Dramaturg and Writer) and Alison Wong (Director/Producer)
- **Die Winterreise** - (Short Film Collection) Director - adapted from Franz Schubert by Peter Hinton

Teaching

- **National Theatre School** - Mentor in Video/Projection Design (*Upcoming*)
- **York University** - Seminar on Physical Theatre and Classical Text Analysis
- **Ryerson Theatre School** - Coach - Tutorial in Laban Movement Notation
- **Musical Stage Company** - Mentor Directing/Design for One Song Glory

Awards

- *2020 Nomination for Montreal English Theatre Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre
- ByBlacks People's Choice Award for Best Director, nominated for Best Film (C'est Moi)
- **Funded by the Ontario Arts Council (Theatre Creators Reserve and Development Grant for Aportia Chryptch) and the Canadian Opera Company of Canada. www.aportiachryptch.ca
- Awarded the 2019 Newton Award for development on Feature Film "Bea" an adaptation of George Elliott Clarke's Beatrice Chancy.

