

curriculum vitae

DR MATT YOXALL

Theatre-maker, training consultant, academic researcher

Creating, learning, thinking together

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Professional History

An Overview:

Theatre trained in the UK, narrative and storytelling sit at the very heart of my work. I've been bringing their associated skills and uses to programmes of learning since 1998.

During the 2000s, I specialised in theatre-making for training and development. As a consultant I assisted government staff, community-based and intergovernmental organisations, and INGOs. Fields of focus included counter human-trafficking, HIV prevention, immigration detention, community health, refugee resettlement, gender-based violence, and refugee's access to legal assistance. Using drama-based participatory methodologies I facilitated training on experiential learning, resource and curriculum development, psychosocial programming, and approaches to outreach and information campaigns.

From 2010 - 2016 I was a PhD research scholar (fully funded) at the National University of Singapore, writing about theatre and social change in Thailand and Burma/Myanmar. I thus remain focussed on relating the worlds of storytelling, training, and academic research to one another. Steps into the corporate world since 2016, with a focus on communication and leadership, have brought additional qualities to my work.

I currently live between Thailand and Canberra, Australia, holding clientele across Asia-Pacific and in Europe, in the business and humanitarian sectors. I am Founder and Director of Australian venture Naractiv Pty Ltd, and also a Managing Partner of Singapore based training company Lister-Stephens Pte Ltd, and our allied brand Actin.



Education

- Oct 2016 | **PhD Theatre Studies** . *Fully Funded*
National University of Singapore, Singapore
- Feb 2002 | **MA Performing Arts** . *Pass with Merit*
Middlesex University, London, UK
- May 1997 | **BA (Hons) Drama and Technical Theatre Arts** . *First Class*
Middlesex University

Training **Accredited Mediator** | NMAS Australia July 2020 . *High Standard*

Languages **English** | Mother tongue **Thai** | Proficient in speaking

Current and Previous Employment:

Founder and Director

July 2020 – Present
Location: Australia

Naractiv, Australia

- Through a focus on storytelling and human connection, Naractiv helps develop relationships between people. Based on the principles of participation we provide the expressive tools that you need to grow as an individual, team, community, and as a leader.

Managing Partner

Jun 2018 – Present
Location: Asia-Pacific

Lister-Stephens, Singapore

- Leveraging over forty years' expertise from the London stage and television industry, we offer up concrete, tangible skills that empower executives in improving their communication.

Associate Trainer

Jun 2016 – Present
Location: Asia-Pacific

Dramatic Resources, London

- Working in the international business environment delivering bespoke courses for this London based training company. Currently interacting with a global client list, taking a special focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

Executive Coach

Dec 2022 – Present

Location: Asia-Pacific

Performance of a Lifetime, New York

- Interacting with major global companies as a facilitator and coach, online and face-to-face, for programmes promoting leadership enhancement. Includes short and long term courses.

Visiting Fellow

May 2022 – Apr 2023

Location: Canberra, Australia

Australian National University, Canberra

- As Director of Naractiv, developing and delivering leadership programs with the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health - NCEPH. Focus on senior public health staff based in the Pacific, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community - SPC. Additional leadership development support for NCEPH academic and administrative staff and cohorts studying for Master of Applied Epidemiology.

Theatre and Migration Consultant

Jul 2017 – Dec 2021

Location: Hakha, Chin State,
Burma/Myanmar

Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)

- Working with CHRO in Chin State and Thukhuma Khayeethe (Arts Traveller) Theatre from Yangon (Burma/Myanmar). Creating three companies of young Chin actors for a touring theatre project about safer migration, travelling to 166 locations in central, northern and southern Chin (2017, 2018 and 2019-2020 respectively). A long form final evaluative report was commissioned by the donor. Title: Let's Meet Again Chin State. Publication by CHRO was in March 2022.

Affiliate Researcher

Mar 2017 – Mar 2021

Location: Chiang Mai, North Thailand

Research Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development, Chiang Mai University (CMU)

- Continuing my PhD thesis research on socially engaged theatre and public engagement in Southeast Asia. Taking an interdisciplinary approach combining theatre and performance studies with philosophy and the social sciences. (I have also taught Community Theatre for CMU's Faculty of Fine Art, intermittently, since 2005).

PhD Scholar

Aug 2010 – Oct 2016

Location: Singapore, Thailand, and
Burma/Myanmar

National University of Singapore

- Researching and writing about socially engaged theatre-making in Southeast Asia. Doctoral thesis title - Making Theatre, Discerning Silences: Engagements with Social Change in Burma/Myanmar and Thailand (2016). During this time I also taught on undergraduate courses.

Drama Training Consultant

Nov 2008 – Jul 2010

Location: Mae Hong Son and
Mae Sot, Thailand

International Rescue Committee

- Working with community-based organisations and IRC staff on programmes aimed to address gender-based violence and provide access to legal assistance to the refugee community from Burma/Myanmar.

Cultural Orientation Officer (UN Contract)

May 2007 – June 2008

Location: Mae Sot, Thailand

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Running a theatre project providing information to the refugee community from Burma/Myanmar about resettlement to the USA. Developing cultural orientation curricula and learning activities with a large team of cultural orientation trainers.

Drama Training Consultant

Feb 2003 – Sept 2006

Location: Cambodia, Thailand, Laos PDR

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Incorporating theatre and drama-based approaches to experiential learning and community outreach activities, within a regional counter human trafficking programme for the safe return and reintegration of affected peoples. Strong focus on partnership working, women and children's protection and their psycho-social well-being and recovery.

Training and Outreach Services (Staff and Freelance)

Apr 1998 – Jul 2007

Location: Forest Hill, London

Horniman Museum and Gardens

- Development and delivery of drama and theatre-based community outreach initiatives and object-based discovery programmes across South London. Performing and presenting at major museum and community events. Education gallery and online learning portal development. Training new gallery staff. Collections management and care of objects.

More details of specific consultancies and related reports and performance work are available on request.

Academic Publications

Yoxall, Matthew

“A Theatre of the Middle Way: Buddhism, Convictions, and Social Engagement in Burma/Myanmar”.

The Routledge Companion to Theatre and Politics.

Eds. Helena Grehen and Peter Eckersall. 2019. Book chapter

Yoxall, Matthew

“At the ‘Frontiers’ of Humanitarian Performance: Refugee Resettlement Theatre-making and the Geo-politics of Service”.

RiDE: Journal of Applied Theatre. Special edition: Envisioning Asylum/Engendering Crisis.

Eds. Caroline Wake and Emma Cox. April 2018: 23.2, 210-227

Yoxall, Matthew

“Translating Agency and Experience: Integrating theatre-making to refugee resettlement in West Thailand”.

in *Arts with Communities: Practices and Possibilities.*

Ed. Felicia Low. Partridge: Singapore. 2015. Book chapter

With After Performance Working Group

“On Sadness”. Issue Editors, including Editorial:

“The Power of the Sad: Bearing with and compassion”.
Performance Research: Journal of the Performing Arts,

April 2024: 28.6 (On Sadness), 1-9

“Vulnerability and the Lonely Scholar”.

Interventions (Contemporary Theatre Review), 2017: 27.2

“After Performance: On Transauthorship”.

Performance Research: Journal of the Performing Arts,

October 2016: 21.5 (On Trans/Performance), 35-36

I have editorial experience and I peer review for several academic journals.

Handbooks

Matthew Yoxall

Drama and Community Engagement Handbook.

Norwegian Refugee Council, 2022 (Burmese and English)

Amanda Boyd and Matthew Yoxall

Almost Home: Vientiane Transit Centre Handbook.

International Organization for Migration, 2006 (Lao and English)

Amanda Boyd and Matthew Yoxall

The Drama Works: Drama Training Manual.

International Organization for Migration (Khmer and English), 2004; revised 2004 (Thai and English). Additional translations in Shan and Burmese 2006.

Leadership in Research

Core member of After Performance research collective. www.afterperformance.wordpress.com.

Co-convenor of Performance and Critical Social Praxis Working Group, Performance Studies international

(with Associate Professor Jazmin Llana and Dr Ella Parry Davies). The working group aims to support the critical praxis of socially engaged performance scholars.

Consultant Advisor to CSARN - Chin State Academic Research Network

Giving support to Chin people in Burma/Myanmar to develop their research skills and access to opportunities for higher level learning.