

R. DAVID STEPHENS  
(Writer/Performer/Director)

His first play, *Portraits of an American Killer*, premiered at Olio's in Los Angeles. It was followed by the solo performance piece *Please Don't Throw Things at Me! The Perils of a Poet/Substitute Teacher* produced by *The Ensemble Studio Theatre* of Los Angeles, by *The Alumnae Theatre* of Toronto for their *New Ideas Festival* and as part of *The Fringe of Toronto Festival* along with *The Wounding*. The *University of British Columbia Summer Theatre Festival* produced *The True Love Story of Madison County*. *Rapunzel-A Still Life* was produced by *Twelve Minutes Max* of Vancouver. *Trump the Musical* co-written with Jacques Lalonde appeared at The Vancouver Fringe Festival in 2016. And in 2018, *Try to Remember* premiered at The Vancouver Fringe. He directed and acted in all of these productions.

His screenplay for *The Bone Collector's Son*, adapted from Governor General Award winning Paul Yee's young adult novel published by *Tradewind Books* was optioned for production by *Homebound Films*. And he was commissioned by *Really Real Films* to write a treatment for *On Potato Mountain*, a novel by Bruce Fraser published by *Granville Island Press*.

His acting career began at the *Mendocino Arts Center* in a production of *The Play's the Thing*. Then he was chosen by Rachel Rosenthal, the internationally known performance artist, to be trained as a member of her *Instant Theatre Company* in Los Angeles. There he auditioned for and was selected by *The Ensemble Studio Theatre* as an Actor, Writer, Director member and launched his film career with a role in *The First Power*. Since then he has appeared in numerous film, stage, television and voice over productions. His primary acting teacher was George Shdanoff who helped Michael Chekhov develop the technique published in *To the Actor*.

His directing career began with *Lent's Passage*, a solo performance work, by Louise Steinman in San Francisco. In addition to directing his own work mentioned above, he directed Damon Pennington in his solo adaptation of *The Terrible Speed of Mercy* as well as Tom Kerrigan's full length play, *Weeping with One Eye* at the *Ensemble Studio Theatre*. He directed a staged reading at *York University* of *Death and the Maiden* with South American actors who were political refugees from Chile, Argentina, and Ecuador.

He holds an MA from *Tufts University* where he received a *Carnegie Foundation Fellowship* for co-founding *The College Within* (a student directed, mentorship college with contracts of study rather than traditional classes). His BA's are from the *University of California at Berkeley* in English and Humanities where he was awarded the *Irving Prize in Literature for American Wit and Humor*. He taught courses in Fiction Writing and Editing at the *University of British Columbia* and *Simon Fraser University* as well as a Master Class in Chekhov Technique at the *Union of British Columbia Performers*.

Originally from California (and holding dual citizenship with Canada) his human interest articles have appeared in several newspapers including *The Los Angeles Times*, *The LA Weekly*, and *The Santa Cruz Sun*. His children's book, *My Animal Friends*, was selected by the *B.C. Ministry of Education* to be presented to 40,000 pre-school children for the *Ready, Set, Learn Program*.