

BEN COLLUM

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SELECTED PLAYS – FULL LENGTH

<i>Alexander Hamilton</i> Five-Act Verse Tragedy (yet un-produced)	1995
<i>Dance Bright Gods</i> Two-Act Comedy-Romance (yet un-produced)	2019
<i>Adventure of the Blue-Dark Sands</i> Two-Act Romance	in process

PRODUCING EXPERIENCE

New Mummies Repertory Theatre, Oklahoma City founder, producer	1995-1997
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DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<i>Mary Stuart</i> for Border Players, Texas †	1990
<i>Philoctetes</i> for New Mummies Rep, OKC	1995
<i>The Lady From the Sea</i> for New Mummies Rep, OKC	1996

AFFILIATIONS

Dramatists Guild of America	2007-present
Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis	2017-present

EDUCATION

Auburn University	BS - Biology	1985
Washington and Lee University School of Law	JD - Law	1988

† while on US Air Force active duty

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ARTISTIC STATEMENT

I was lucky to take one of the easier paths to writing plays: choosing a thirty-three-character German Romance as my first directing job; founding a professional small-Equity-house theatre and starting out there with Sophocles, followed by Ibsen; and then taking-on verse tragedy (in the full five acts) to write my first play.

But it's *Dance Bright Gods* that's been the eye-opening master-class—starting out as a riff on *As You Like It*, with a Rosalind turning the tables to impose disguises on others, the play grew much larger with the addition of Harold Bloom's fanciful guess that the original writer of the Genesis stories was Bathsheba—and me wondering how to tell these fantastical stories in our present, plugging-in to our own hopes and fears.

It became clear I'm imprinted like a duckling on this particular, peculiar form of drama (call it *Romance? Fable? Tragicomic Tale?*): deep, personal revelation juxtaposed with the ultra-expansive open stage. And while Romance is largely disliked for being thought un-modern and untruthful, I love it for its magnificence and wonder, and would bring it up to our day, wow an audience, and tell the truth.