

# Joshua H. Cohen

## Playwright, Composer and Lyricist

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### Selected Commissioned and Performed Works

*Keep On Walkin'* (lyrics), a family musical, book by James Armstrong, music by Lavell Blackwell. Reading, Amas Musical Theatre/The Actors Harbor, NYC, 2009. Toured New York City schools in March 2009. Reading, Ruble New Play Festival, Caryl Crane Children's Theatre, Huron, OH, March 2012. Production upcoming 2014-15, UNH. See awards below.

"Ruth Must Die". Readings, City Theatre, Miami, FL, Mar-Apr 2014.

*My Mom is a Sex Therapist* (music and lyrics), book by Cara Maltz and Stephan Varnier; additional music and lyrics by Keith Varney. Production, The Duplex, NYC, Nov. 2013. Presented at Emerging Artists Theatre, NYC, March 2014.

*Sam I Am*, a full-length play. Readings, Active Theater & Momentum Rep. Based on the one-act of the same name: Semi-finalist, American Globe 15 Minute Play Festival, NYC, Apr 2010. Prod., New American Theatre, L.A., May 2012.

*Tamar of the River* (book and lyrics), music and book by Marisa Michelson. Commissioned by the Signature Theatre, Arlington, VA; workshop July 2010. Production, Sep-Oct 2013, Prospect Theatre Co. See awards below.

*The Thirteenth Commandment*, a play. Readings, Judson Church/Magic Time, NYC, April 2011, and Jewish Ensemble Theatre, West Bloomfield, MI, July 2011. Production April-May 2013, Libra Theatre Co., NYC. See awards below.

"Numbers Racket". Staged reading, Western Michigan University Directors Festival, Feb. 2013. Production (finalist), Secret Theatre, Long Island City, NY, April 2013.

*Tamar of the River: Oratorio* (book and lyrics), music and book by Marisa Michelson. A one-act theatrical concert adaptation of *Tamar of the River*. Produced by New York Theatre Barn and Choral Chameleon, March 2013.

*Ordinary Island* (music and lyrics), book by James Armstrong. Under the title *Maggie the Pirate*, workshops March 2011, Western Kentucky University, Before Broadway series, and August 2011, Momentum Rep, NYC. Featured in the Composers Chamber Theatre's Sunday Nights at Square One, December 2012.

"The Adjective Noun of Character". Productions, Salem Theatre Co. (MA), July 2012; Pink Banana, Milwaukee, WI, June 2014.

"The Lovers" (book and lyrics), music and book by Marisa Michelson. Produced by Prospect Theatre Company, NYC, 2008, as part of *Museum Pieces* (original commission). Subsequent productions; details upon request.

"The List" (music), book and lyrics by Sunny Turner. Produced by Raw Impressions Music Theater, NYC, 2004 (original commission). Subsequent productions; details upon request.

*The Mole* (book and lyrics), music by Lavell Blackwell. Reading, Emerging Artists Theatre, NYC, May 2011.

*The Entropy Songs* (music and lyrics), a song cycle. Produced at the Abingdon Theatre Company, NYC, 2006, and at the Laurie Beechman Theatre by Libra Theatre Co., May 2011. Component songs have appeared in showcases and cabarets across the country; details and previous development history upon request.

*Fun and Games*, a play. Reading, Studio 42 (under the title *And Twenty-Five for the Insult*), NYC, 2007. Extensive workshop, Little Hibiscus Prod., NYC, 2008-09. Reading, Oberon Theatre Ensemble, NYC, April 2011.

*Still Life With Toe Shoes* (book and lyrics), music and book by Marisa Michelson. Workshop, Old Deerfield Prod., Deerfield, MA, 2008. Produced by Musical Theatre Society of Emerson College, Boston, March 2011.

"Odysseus Swims For It". Produced by Turtle Shell Productions as part of its Summer Shorties series, NYC, 2009. Published by Smith & Kraus in *2010: The Best Ten-Minute Plays*, 2010.

*The Day The World Went Queer* (lyrics), book by Jonathan Matthew Gilbert, music by Lavell Blackwell. Produced 2005 NYC Fringe.

### Awards/Honors

2014 Drama Desk Awards, *Tamar of the River* (Prospect Theater Co.), 2 nominations

2013 *Tamar and the River* and *The Thirteenth Commandment* cited in Huffington Post's year-end Top Ten list

2013 New York Innovative Theatre Awards, *The Thirteenth Commandment* (Libra Theater Co.), 7 nominations including Outstanding Premiere Production of a Play; 2 wins

2013 Winner, Anna Zornio Children's Theatre Playwriting Award, *Keep On Walkin'*

2011 American Theatre Wing Jonathan Larson Grant Recipient (with Marisa Michelson)

2011 NEA Grant to Amas Music Theatre for production of *Keep On Walkin'* (to be scheduled)

2010 Finalist, Jonathan Wallowitch Award

2010 Winner, Musical category, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual New Play Contest, Chameleon Theatre Circle, *Maggie the Pirate*

2010 MAC Award nominee, Special Musical Material, "The Sacrifice of Love" (music and lyrics)

2010 Semifinalist, Playwrights First Award, *The Thirteenth Commandment*

2010 Semifinalist, Princess Grace Award, *The Thirteenth Commandment*

### Education/Training/Residencies

CAP21 Writers Residency, August 2012

American Lyric Theatre, Composer-Librettist Development Program, 2008-2010 Fellow

New York University-Tisch School of the Arts, Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program, MFA 2004

Amherst College, BA with Distinction, 1999. Magna Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa. Studied playwriting with Constance Congdon and music composition with M. Lewis Spratlan