

## THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENCE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK



Akustiks is the acoustical consultant for Theatre for a New Audiences' Polonsky Shakespeare Center. Akustiks joined the design effort in 2003 to provide both architectural acoustic and performance audio, video and communication system design to support TFANA's vision to build a simple, elegant, dynamic space to present modern interpretation of classic plays rooted in the traditions of Shakespeare. Akustiks worked closely with H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture and Theatre Projects Consultants to craft a space that not only exhibits great intimacy between the actors and the audience, infinite flexibility of stage production, but also provides the hallmark of great theatre, clear and unfettered access to the spoken word.

The 299-seat courtyard theatre fits

within a massively constructed acoustically isolated shell that alleviates the theatre's sonic canvas from subway, traffic and the general hum of activity of its Brooklyn neighborhood. With a capability to present a range of productions, the theatre has a unique ability to support the natural voice where actors can speak at a whisper and allow sound designers and modern productions to explore a full range of sonic expression with a highly flexible audio infrastructure.

The natural acoustics are created from the very form of the theatre, using the underside of catwalks and balconies as acoustical reflectors to the interior walls of the theatre that are clad on all levels with boards of wood of varying dimension and slightly spaced to expose sound absorptive material. The result is a controlled acoustic that provides clarity of the spoken word that has acoustic lift for actor's voices regardless of their position or orientation in the theatre.

Audiences that visit the Polonsky Shakespeare Center may be gripped by the expression of a lone actor presenting a memorable soliloquy or whisked away to another place or time all the while in the heart of Brooklyn.

*"A theatre company that is as dynamic as Theatre for a New Audience required a space that would sonically support a full range of expression, from the softest whisper to a raging tempest and all within a stones throw of the subway in the heart of Brooklyn."* ~ C. Russell Todd, Akustiks' Principal-In Charge for the Polonsky Shakespeare Center

*"We are very excited for the completion of this wonderful building. Finally, TFANA has a space that will meet not only their current technological needs, but those of their future endeavors as well!"* ~ Anthony Nittoli, Akustiks' Principal Audio/Video and Communication Systems Designer for the Polonsky Shakespeare Center

Akustiks' team for Theatre for a New Audience's Polonsky Shakespeare Center: Russell Todd, Principal-In Charge; Anthony Nittoli, Principal-Audio/Video Design; Paul Scarbrough, Principal; and Sam Brandt, Senior Consultant-Audio/Video Design

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**a'ku·stiks**

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## ABOUT AKUSTIKS

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

Akustiks is a team of talented and successful acoustical professionals who have played central roles in the most striking acoustic design successes of recent years. Since founding the firm in 2001, Russell Todd, Paul Scarbrough, Christopher Blair, and Anthony Nittoli have completed numerous projects, most notably the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, the much acclaimed new home of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition to Theatre for a New Audience's Polonsky Shakespeare Center, Akustiks' recent work in New York City includes Signature Theatre on West 42nd Street; the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Richard B. Fisher Building; Orchestra of St. Luke's DiMenna Center for Classical Music; the Seventh Regiment Armory Conservancy's Park Avenue Armory and in development the Culture Shed in the Hudson Yards district to name a few.

### **Russell Todd, Principal-In-Charge**



Russell Todd, as one of the managing partners of Akustiks, is an insightful hands-on consultant with over 20 years of experience advising clients on acoustics. Known for his collaborative style, he works directly with clients and design partners to develop and drive solutions for Akustiks' major projects, including the recently opened DiMenna Center for Classical Music and Signature Theatre in New York City, the US Mint Jazz Theatre in New Orleans and the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, LA, the Smith Center for Performing Arts in Las Vegas as well as the acclaimed Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, TN and the renowned Cleveland Museum of Art in Cleveland, OH.

### **Anthony Nittoli, Principal Audio/Video and Communications Systems Designer**



Anthony Nittoli is one of the most accomplished electro-acoustic designers in the United States. In a career spanning over 30 years, he has worked on the design and installation of sound reinforcement, video and technical communication systems for a wide variety of performing arts and entertainment facilities. Anthony has designed systems for the Kodak Hall and Hatch Recital Hall at Eastman School of Music in Rochester NY, Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville TN, The New Victory Theater in New York City, The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul MN, Auditorio Telmex in Guadalajara, Mexico and the Teatro Municipal and Auditorio Iberapuera in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### **Paul Scarbrough, Principal**



Paul Scarbrough is an acoustical design professional with over 28 years of experience. Most recently he led the Akustiks team in designing the acoustics for the new Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas. This complex houses a 2,000-seat multi-use concert theater, a cabaret theater and a studio theater/rehearsal hall. He also led the design of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, a hall that has been called "one of the best auditoriums built in a century." In the fall of 2007, he helped inaugurate the 250-seat jewel-box recital hall at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the 350-seat Suzanne Roberts Theater for the Philadelphia Theatre Company.

### **Sam Brandt, Audio/Video and Communications Systems Designer**



Sam Brandt is a senior consultant for Akustiks where he works closely with Anthony Nittoli and Jordan Lytle on audio video systems design for concert halls, performing arts centers and drama theaters. His current projects include the Tobin Center for the Arts in San Antonio Texas, the Theatre For A New Audience in Brooklyn New York and Centro Internacional de Convenciones de Bogotá in Bogotá Colombia.

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