# Mark E. Diaz | (818) 963-1444 | markuptheglobe@gmail.com

#### **EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**Bachelor of Arts, Pomona College** - Major in Theatre and Double Minor in History & Asian Studies **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow** - Highly Selective Fellowship for Pre-PhD Candidates

- For broadening the academy with diverse ethnic studies, with a focus on the Basque Diaspora

**Thomas J. Watson Fellow -** Highly selective fellowship for an original research project carried out during a year of independent, purposeful global exploration. Awarded for leadership, creativity, resourcefulness, and responsibility.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

**Watson Fellow, Global** — Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, Jun 2022-Aug 2023

- Conceived and executed a year-long research project titled "Total Theatre: Global Discoveries of Diverse Drama"
- Studied and performed cultural dance, vocal, and acting practices in Spain, France, Basque Country, Japan, Bali Indonesia, Singapore, United Kingdom (EdFringe/Dorset Opera Festival), Germany, Hungary (ISTA/Theatre Olympics), Greece, Italy, and Netherlands
- Utilized strong interpersonal and relationship building skills, overcoming language barriers and creating both art and relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and cultural experiences
- Managed year-long budget and exercised problem solving, organizational capability and resourcefulness while planning an extensive international itinerary and logistics including numerous forms of transportation, lodging, visa acquisition, and appointment calendaring

## **Invited Guest Speaker: Kabuki Lecture & Demonstration** – 2020-Present

- Lecturing on the history of Kabuki, gender-roles, aristocracy and artistry alongside a performance demonstration of the fundamentals of kabuki dance, voice, and characterizations
- Presented at institutions including Pomona College, Washington & lee University, the Athenian School, Chaminade College Preparatory, and Ryukoku University in Tokyo
- Conceived and organized International Japanese Theatre Symposium at Pomona College through grant-writing, team assembly, and directorial leadership, with a panel of 20 speakers and thousands in attendance in-person and virtually

# Actor, Director, Designer – KabukiMA Theatre Troupe, 2018 - 2022

- Self-Produced Kabuki Theatre Company focusing on the development of diverse global Theatre. Awarded over \$14,000 through grant-writing for the proliferation and production of Kabuki Theatre in English.
- Successful domestic and touring productions, including a run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.
  - Awarded Featured Artist in the Japan-UK Season of Culture by the Embassy of Japan
- Over four years, worked with over 100 actors and creatives, and reached over 1000 audience members

# Teaching Assistant, Corporeal Mime – Pomona College, Aug 2020 - May 2022

- Assisted Master Artist and Corporeal Mime, Thomas Leabhart, in developing and recording choreography for 30 undergraduate students per semester at The Claremont College Consortium
- Managed Zoom rooms, set up cameras, and ensured smooth operations.

#### **Tour Guide, Docent & Researcher** – Basque Museum & Cultural Center of Boise, Jun 2021-Aug 2021

- Tour Guide of Basque Diasporic History, World History, & Culture for Uberuaga House and Museum
- Conducted research on California-Basque Immigrants status in Victorian Los Angeles
- Consulted with Senators, Experts, Tourists, and Townspeople on the position of Basques in society

### Junior Counselor - America's Teaching Zoo @ Moorpark College, Jun 2013-Aug 2017

- Worked several summers at America's Teaching Zoo, caring for children ages 4 to 13 and exotic animals (ages 0-116!) in an exhilarating summer camp atmosphere.

# Youth Education Assistant - Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, Jun 2017 - Jul 2017

- Assisted in administrative tasks and oversaw daily activities for youth theatre camp

#### AWARDS/RESEARCH

#### Yidan Endowed Fund for Transformative Learning Opportunities for the Study of Asia: June 2020, Pomona College

- "Bridging Total Theatre: Retelling Basque and Japanese Stories of Political Dissidence"

# Diaspora Eguna Mintzagai Basque Studies Conference: Invited speaker, Boise, ID. August 2021

- "Euskara: Indigenous Language, Camaraderie, and Manipulation in Victorian Los Angeles"

Best Newcomer: Pomona College Theatre Dept., May 2018. As part of the Virginia Princehouse Allen Prize.

Boys State California Delegate: American Legion, Jun 2017. Member of CA Boys State, 80th session

Hispanic Scholar & Youth Leadership: Three-time awardee, attended Youth Leadership Institute at U of Chicago in 2017

# RELEVANT SKILLS - Additional Resumes and References Available upon request

Leadership, Research, Professional Communication, Grant Writing, Team Management, Acting, Public Speaking, Directing, Shakespeare, Intermediate Spanish, Beginning Basque Language, Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, Budgeting and Financial Management, Intercultural Communication, Social Media Management, Adaptability to new environments