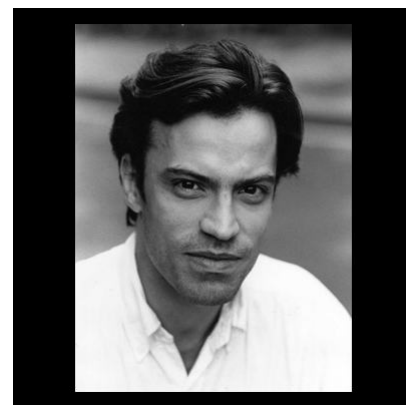


Justin Butcher

Writer



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Credits

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
CICERO: THE LAST REPUBLICAN 2024	J.Productions Srls	<p>Writer and lead performer, in the role of 'Cicero' for the Volterra International Roman Theatre Festival.</p> <p>43 BC. The Roman Republic is at the point of collapse. Civil war looms. Julius Caesar has been assassinated. His heir Octavian and the corrupt demagogue Mark Antony set about making themselves the new rulers of Rome. Marcus Brutus, lifting his bloodstained dagger after the assassination, calls upon Cicero to restore the Republic. All eyes now look to the revered elder statesman, lawyer and orator to lead a last stand against tyranny.</p> <p>In an era of new demagogues, with democracies under threat from a rising tide of new extremism, the story of this desperate, heroic episode from the ancient world has never been more salutary.</p>

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SCARAMOUCHE JONES 2021	Wilton's Music Hall	Written and performed by Justin Butcher. Justin won Best Lead Performance in the 2022 OffWestEnd (Offies). 'A glorious one-hander with stellar acting. ****' - The Upcoming 'Poignant, remarkable performance...many moving moments.' - British Theatre Guide 'Justin Butcher's gloriously elegiac prose...reverberates in the memory.' - Irish Independent 'Mesmerising.' - The Guardian 'Fascinating, poignant, funny...Storytelling at its best.' - The Times 'Extraordinary...hilarious, picaresque and terrifying.' - Sunday Times 'Unique...stunning...a new kind of theatre.' - Metro
SCARAMOUCHE JONES 2021	Stream Theatre	Shane Richie stars in the lead role in the digital revival of Justin Butcher's absorbing solo show, Scaramouche Jones. Filmed in a London theatre, and available to stream on Stream.Theatre from Friday 26th March to Sunday 11th April 2021.
SCARAMOUCHE JONES 2011	Rebbeck Penny / Bristol Old Vic	What's On Stage Best Solo Performance 2002 (winner) Barclays Stage Partners Best Actor Award 2002 (nominee) Canadian Dora Award 2003 (nominee) BankSA People's Choice Award, Adelaide Fringe 2010 (nominee)
THE PRISONER OF WINDSOR 2011	Leicester Square Theatre	Royal Wedding satire, with music by Harvey Brough, Leicester Square Theatre, May-Jun '11 "The excellent Justin Butcher ... erudite, sophisticated, lots of fun." (The Spectator)
THE ROMAN BATH 2010	Gologan Productions	translation & adaptation of Bulgarian satirist Stanislav Stratiev's 1973 classic communist-era satire, Arcola Theatre, with Gologan Productions, UK premiere, Apr-May '10, dir. Russell Bolam "A sparky new version by Justin Butcher" (Michael Billington, The Guardian) "Justin Butcher's witty text" (Michael Coveney, The Independent)
THE SPIRE 2010	Salisbury Cathedral / Salisbury Playhouse	adaptation of William Golding's novel, comm. by Salisbury Cathedral, Festival & Playhouse for production in 2012, Golding Centenary Year
PETER PAN 2009	PPKG Ltd	adaptation, developed for multi-media production in circus theatre tent in Kensington Gardens, summer '09, dir. Lucy Bailey, designed William Dudley

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GO TO GAZA, DRINK THE SEA 2008	Theatro Technis	co-written with Ahmed Masoud in quick response to Dec '08/Jan '09 attack on Gaza Strip, designed Jane Frere, live music Nizar Al-Issa, Theatro Technis, Feb-Mar '09, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Fringe, Aug '09 "A deeply felt, humane and vividly expressive reaction to the current crisis." (Michael Billington, The Guardian) "Raw power ... carries huge moral and emotional impact." **** (The Scotsman) "A harrowing journey into a very modern heart of darkness and a moving celebration of the human spirit." (The Stage) "A heartfelt tribute to the people of Gaza" (Palestine Telegraph) "By far the most powerful example I've yet seen of a border-crossing theatrical mix ... An extraordinarily versatile cast ... Profane, witty, desperate and poetic – a voice from Gaza Beach itself" (Tribune)
THE RUIN OF BRITAIN 2008	Royal and Derngate Theatres	retelling of King Arthur legend, a "dream of Sir Thomas Malory", comm. Rupert Goold & Royal & Derngate Theatres, Northampton
CHILD OF BIAFRA 2007	Contact Theatre, Manchester	co-written with Ben Okafor (see above), Contact Theatre, Manchester, Jul '07, with Manchester University's "War & Our World" International Conference, working with local Nigerian community choir in Manchester
THE FIREBRAND 2006	Royal and Derngate Theatres	huge community play – original fable based on local history, comm. to celebrate reopening of Royal & Derngate Theatres, Northampton, performed in promenade by community & professional all-age cast in 5 spaces, September 2006, dir. Dani Parr
THE TRADUCERS 2005	Host Universal	satire on 2005 G8 Summit, Blair's Commission for Africa, Live8 etc, comm. by Host Universal for Flight 5065, London Eye, dir. Steve Keyworth, Jul '05
THREE GOTHIC TALES 2005	Union Theatre	adaptation of HG Wells' The Red Room, Dickens' The Signalman & Poe's The Tell-tale Heart for solo performance, The Sticking Place's Season Of Terror, Union Theatre, Nov '05, & continuous touring of UK schools since

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GUANTANAMO BAYWATCH 2004	New Players Theatre	<p>finale to anti-war trilogy, New Players Theatre, Oct-Nov '04</p> <p>"Hits its targets with deadly accuracy ... delightful in its frighteningly plausible absurdity." (The Evening Standard)</p> <p>"The shining exception is Justin Butcher ... very funny ... some of the best political satire around ... incisive, funny and thought-provoking." (British Theatre Guide)</p> <p>"The torch was taken up by a young Oxford-educated writer-director, Justin Butcher, who was driven by indignation about the Iraq war to stage a trio of satirical revues all based on existing works. The first of them, The Madness Of George Dubya, was easily the most successful ... Butcher shrewdly tapped into Britain's oppositional mood and on the first night the audience cheered the play to the echo, as if relieved to hear someone say in public what they themselves believed in their hearts."</p> <p>Michael Billington, State Of The Nation - British Theatre Since 1945 (2007)</p>
A WEAPONS INSPECTOR CALLS 2003	Theatro Technis	<p>sequel to Madness, Theatro Technis, Dec' 03-Jan '04, Pleasance London, Feb-Mar '04, New Players Theatre, Oct-Nov '04</p> <p>"Butcher lands blow after blow ... confirms Butcher's rare talent for blending moral anger with brute farce." (Michael Billington, The Guardian)</p> <p>"Hilarious" (The Spectator)</p> <p>"Political theatre at its best" (What's On In London)</p> <p>"Lands many tough blows through song and dance ... deeply unsettling ... startlingly accurate." (The Daily Telegraph)</p>

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THE MADNESS OF GEORGE DUBYA 2003	Theatro Technis	<p>smash-hit anti-war musical satire hailed by The Guardian as catalyst for re-politicisation of British theatre, Theatro Technis, Jan-Feb '03, Pleasance London, Feb-Mar '03 & Arts Theatre, Apr-Aug '03, receiving global media coverage Fringe Report Best Political Dramatist Award 2003 (winner)</p> <p>"Excellent ... deserves the warmest of welcomes ... Aristophanic vitality and ability to keep abreast of events ... the strength of Dubya lies in its ability to blend manic comedy with passionate polemic." (Michael Billington, The Guardian)</p> <p>"Song and dance numbers, witty one-liners ... fantastic piss-take ... way too close to the bone ... the comedy and current affairs crackle along like Carry On meets Kubrick ... jabs and tickles the ribs and inflames indignation too ... packs a powerful punch ... comedy with smart gags that hit the target." (Time Out)</p> <p>"A welcome blast of light relief ... a judicious mixture of puerility and intelligence, and delivered with refreshing splashes of song and dance ... this oil-black comedy scores ... direct hits." (The Daily Telegraph)</p> <p>"Justin Butcher's stealth-bomber of a show" (Independent On Sunday)</p> <p>"This lively, sexy production has a gloriously distinctive bark" (Evening Standard)</p>
BREAKING STRAIN 2003		<p>comic update of Phaedra/Hippolytus legend, St James Cavalier Centre, Malta, Oct '01, Edinburgh Fringe '03, dir. Jamie Bower</p> <p>"A modern classic: overwhelmingly intelligent ... uproarious empowering of the older woman ... very funny ... witty, clever and comic ... set[s] the stage alight and make[s] the atmosphere crackle with danger and sexual tension ... as intelligent as it is hilarious." ***** (The Scotsman)</p> <p>"With an expert sense of verse and vulgarity, Butcher's interpretation puts Liz Lochhead's Thebans rather in the shade ... genuinely sordid but always hilarious. Living proof that the Greeks will never be too old for today." (The Daily Telegraph)</p>
SOUL FOOD 2001	Salisbury Cathedral	
THE MILLENNIUM MAN 2000	Theatre Royal, Bath	<p>Modern re-working of Mystery Plays for Theatre Royal, Bath & Churches Together in Somerset, premiered Theatre Royal, Bath, May '00, then regional tour</p> <p>"An unexpectedly gritty affair ... extremely effective ... wittily written" (Venue)</p>

Production	Company	Notes
KING OF FOOLS 2000	Greenbelt Arts Festival	<p>Post-modern commedia dell-arte style passion play, comm. & prod. for Greenbelt Arts Festival '94, Westminster Abbey & UK tour '95, UK tour '96, Greenbelt Arts Festival '98, UK tour '00</p> <p>"This amazing production ... offered something for everyone ... kindness, a sense of humour, love of humanity ... pain, anguish ... wit, compassion and earthiness ... You didn't have to be a believer to get something from this production ... its honest and imaginative portrayal of Christ's lasy days on earth was both invigorating and entertaining." (Oxford Times)</p> <p>"Unsafe ... impressive ... challenging and entertaining, and imaginatively performed ... compelling ... See King Of Fools and take your friends." (Church Times)</p> <p>"There have been some moving passion plays in recent years ... but none can surpass King Of Fools for energy, imagination and heart-rending power." (The Tablet)</p>

Film

Production	Company	Notes
WALKING BACK TO JERUSALEM 2021	The New Theatre, Dublin	Justin Butcher's and Ahmed Masoud's film will be streamed via The New Theatre, Dublin at 9:15pm from 23rd March - 30th March.

Radio

Production	Company	Notes
THE DEVIL'S PASSION 2017	BBC Radio 3	<p>Written by Justin Butcher</p> <p>Produced and Directed by Jonquil Panting for BBC Radio 4</p> <p>Starring David Suchet as Satan, Amir El-Masry as Jesus and Lara Sawalha as Miriam.</p> <p>33 AD. Jesus enters Jerusalem to fulfil his destiny. Satan ascends from Hell to stop him.</p> <p>The Devil's Passion offers an outrageously entertaining fresh perspective - as the ancient story is played out once more, in our modern world of security, surveillance and ideological warfare.</p>
ESCAPE FROM GAZA 2011	BBC Radio 4	co-written with Palestinian writer Ahmed Masoud, telling of his perilous journey into Gaza in '09, for BBC Radio 4, dir. Jessica Dromgoole, broadcast Jan 13th '11

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THE PATIENCE OF MR JOB 2010	BBC Radio 4	BBC Radio 4, dir. Claire Grove, broadcast Aug '10, featuring Jude Akuwudike & Adjoa Andoh; satirical update of Old Testament fable, set in fictitious West African country devastated by well-intentioned meddling of "development" agencies & climate-change related disasters Pick Of The Day in The Daily Telegraph & The Daily Mail "Nicely played and very funny satire by Justin Butcher." (The Daily Telegraph) "Funny and deeply tragic." (The Daily Mail)
CHUKWUDEBELU - PRESERVE OF GOD 2005	Big Heart Media / BBC Radio 4	co-written with Nigerian musician Ben Okafor for BBC R4, dir. Richard Shannon, broadcast Jun '05, true story of a child soldier in the Biafran War
THE MAN ON THE PILLAR 2002	BBC Radio 4	BBC Radio 4, dir. Claire Grove, with Paul Bhattarcharjee & Tom Smith, broadcast Dec '02, story of Simeon Stylites, 5th century Syrian hermit & pillar-saint Pick Of The Day in The Guardian, The Times & The Daily Mail "Captivating" (The Times) "Justin Butcher has done it again" (The Radio Times)
THE SEVEN WHITE MASKS OF SCARAMOUCHE JONES 2001	BBC Radio 4	dir. Claire Grove, with Warren Mitchell, broadcast Mar '01 "A masterpiece of extraordinarily imaginative writing" (The Radio Times)

Additional information

Justin Butcher's credits as a director include:

NOYE'S FLUDDE, THE STATE WE'RE IN (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Fringe, 2009), BLACK COMEDY, and A WINTER'S TALE (Creation Theatre Company, Oxford, 2005).

His credits as an actor include:

SCARAMOUCHE JONES (Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Fringe '08 & UK tour, Adelaide Fringe '10, dir. Guy Masterson)

"A Superbly inventive monologue... played with electrifying energy by the show's author" *The Spectator*

CINDERELLA (Mr Marakovic, Unicorn Theatre, Dec '09 - Jan '10, dir Phil Porter)

