

# Chris Browne Valenzuela

Actor | Playwright | Educator

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## Writing Highlights:

Title	Production History	Notes
<b>The Two Deaths of Saint Sebastian</b>	Presented by <b>Dixon Place</b> as part of the <b>HOT Festival 2024</b>	A look into the life (or afterlife) of the unofficial Patron Saint of gay boys. Saint Sebastian spends his days in Heaven, where he has befriended fellow martyr Saint Agatha (early Christian whose breasts were cut off and is always represented carrying them on a platter) in shared disillusion of eternity. That is until Sebastian gets a desperate prayer from a Queer kid. According to Catholic dogma saints are intercessors —carriers of intentions to God— but can't intervene themselves. In this Queer, Catholic fantasy Sebastian is faced with the first moral question of his death.
<b>Believe in Stupid Sh*t</b>	Presented by the <b>Hispanic Federation</b> as part of <b>FuerzaFest 2024</b> .  Presented by the <b>"It May Be Over Soon..."</b> cabaret series at <b>"We Are Here"</b>	One-person show about how everyone has deeply held beliefs that if looked closely enough could be considered stupid, without that being evidence of our own stupidity. This deeply personal piece explores themes such as Queerness, religion, and family relations in a semi-academic spoof that earned it the 2024 <b>Abniel Marat Award for Best Playwright</b> .
<b>#Daddy</b>	<i>Unproduced</i>	A family drama about a middle aged single gay dad and his Queer teenage son. What could sound like a utopia for most of us that grew up in less than understanding families becomes sour when the zeitgeists of two very different generations of Queer men come at odds.

## Teaching Experience:

Courses	Institution	Position and Description
<b>Neutral Mask &amp; Devised Works</b>	<b>Circle in the Square Theatre School</b>	<b>Core Faculty (2022-Present)</b> In 2022 I became the Neutral Mask professor at Circle, following Shelley Wyant's retirement. As an educator I have developed the course to focus on the applicability of the gifts given by the use of the mask to the working actor in today's professional environment.
<b>Neutral Mask</b>	<b>NYU-Tisch New Studio on Broadway</b>	<b>Substitute Teacher (2023)</b> In 2023 I temporarily took over the three undergrad Neutral Mask sections of students for Ellen Ko while she was indisposed. As both of us were at different points apprentices of Shelley Wyant, the transition between teachers was seamless.
<b>Neutral &amp; Character Mask</b>	<b>Circle in the Square Theatre School &amp; The Terry Knickerbocker Studio</b>	<b>Assistant Teacher under Shelley Wyant (2021-Present)</b> Alongside internationally renown Actress, Director, and Mask Master Shelley Wyant, we have taught the acting discipline of Neutral Mask at respected universities and conservatories. The technique teaches actors how to "speak" with their bodies.
<b>Playmaking</b>	<b>Circle in the Square</b>	<b>Teaching Artist (2023-2024)</b> Rooted in Daniel Judah Sklar's form of playwriting called Playmaking, I got to teach the discipline to third graders at PS11, and later act in their plays for them at the Circle in the Square Broadway stage.
<b>Cultural After School Adventure (CASA)</b>	<b>Inside Broadway</b>	<b>Teaching Artist (2022-Present)</b> As a Teaching Artist with Inside Broadway, I've got to teach several afterschool programs at New York City elementary and middle schools. All of them have involved teaching the kids the basics of acting, singing, dancing, and teamwork.

## Training

<b>Circle in the Square Theatre School, NYC – Theater Conservatory</b>	
<b>Acting:</b> Alan Langdon, Kevin McGuire, Maria Tucci	<b>Voice:</b> Lucille S. Rubin, Ph.D., Dianna Cortez
<b>Shakespeare:</b> Edward Berkeley, Sybil Lines	<b>Speech/Dialects:</b> Shannon Marie Sullivan, Elizabeth Loughran
<b>Movement:</b> Randolyn Zinn, Christine Sang	<b>Singing Technique:</b> Beth Falcone, Christine de Frece, Shan Y. Chuang
<b>Stage Combat:</b> Brad Lemons, Dan Renkin	<b>Singing Interpretation:</b> Sara Louise Lazarus
<b>Acting Technique:</b> Jacqueline Jacobus	<b>Clown/Comedy/Improvisation:</b> Nancy Smithner, Ph.D.
<b>Music Theory:</b> Natalie Wilson	<b>Mask:</b> Shelley Wyant, Patrick Horn
<b>On-Camera:</b> Zachary Spicer, Shannon Marie Sullivan	
<b>Dance:</b> Jeanne Slater	

## Theater Highlights:

Production	Character	Company	Director
<b>Directing Labs</b>	Company Member	Mercury Store	Will Frears
<b>Various</b>	Company Member	Teatro SEA	Manuel Morán
<b>The Two Deaths of Saint Sebastian</b>	Saint Sebastian	Dixon Place	Self
<b>Believe in Stupid Sh*t</b>	The Man	The Hispanic Federation	Self