

# Rick Miller

Theatre Producer/Writer/Director/Designer/Performer/Educator

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## SUMMARY

Rick Miller is one of Canada's most celebrated theatre innovators, and the founding artistic director of WYRD Productions. His award-winning creations have toured to five continents in six languages, and Entertainment Weekly called him "one of the 100 most creative people alive today".

## SKILLS

Though Rick is widely known as a solo performer, he thrives in large-scale multidisciplinary collaborations. A natural-born leader, Rick brings out the best in every team member. His infectious energy, enthusiasm, and passion shine throughout the creative process, from conception to execution.

## EXPERIENCE

### Founding Artistic Director and Producer                      WYRD Productions                      2000 – (pres.)

For over 25 years, Rick has produced, written, directed, designed and toured multidisciplinary theatre productions to over 250 cities in 16 countries, on some of the world's most prestigious stages.

- *MONEY*: large-scale new work exploring money, value(s) and the future of democracy. 2027 Luminato world premiere, in association with Crow's, Canadian Stage, Chrysalis, and Why Not.
- *HANS: My Life in Fairy Tales*: all-ages show about the life and stories of Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen. Luminato Festival world premiere in 2025.
- *The BOOM Trilogy (BOOM, BOOM X and BOOM YZ)*: solo theatre pieces commissioned by Theatre Calgary. Over 700 shows in 3 languages in Canada, the USA, Europe and Asia.
- *FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book*: family stage production adapted from Mary Shelley's novel. World premiere with Segal Centre/Geordie Theatre in 2023.
- *Jungle Book*: stage adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling stories. Premiered in 2018 at AsoloRep in Sarasota FL. Toured to Pasadena Playhouse, Off-Broadway and all across North America.
- *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*: multimedia stage show adapted from Jules Verne's classic novel. PANAMANIA World premiere in 2015. Off-Broadway run, and national tours.
- *HARDELL*: co-created with Daniel Brooks and Necessary Angel. World premiere at Canadian Stage in 2008. adapted into a lecture/performance that Rick toured in English and French.
- *Bigger Than Jesus*: multimedia play co-created with Daniel Brooks and Necessary Angel in 2003. Performed in 4 languages at theatre festivals all over the world.
- *MacHomer*: solo show that played for 17 years in 170 cities to over 500,000 people, including runs at CalShakes, Chicago Shakespeare, Kennedy Centre, Sydney Festival and Stratford Festival.

### Co-Creative Director    Kidoons    2013 – (pres.)

Rick joined Kidoons to help develop innovative transmedia content online and onstage, with a vision to educate, empower, enlighten and entertain young people. Their animated videos and web series have been seen by millions of viewers, and are installed in museums in 6 provinces across Canada.

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## **Co-Creator and Collaborator** **Ex Machina** **1999 – (pres.)**

Ex Machina is a theatre company created and curated by director Robert Lepage. It develops far-reaching, groundbreaking work that has won countless awards around the world..

- *Dragon's Trilogy*: Rick is working with Lepage on the remount of Ex Machina's epic production, which brought the company international acclaim in the 1980s and 1990s.
- *Lipsynch*: Miller, Lepage and 8 other theatre artists from around the world created this hit show, a 9-hour epic that toured to 10 countries from 2008-2012, including a Toronto run at Luminato.
- *Zulu Time*: technological cabaret, co-created with Lepage and musician Peter Gabriel. Opened at Usine C in Montreal in 2001, but the NY World premiere and US tour was cut short by 9/11.
- *Geometry of Miracles*: a first collaboration with Ex Machina, drawing from Rick's architecture training, and his masters thesis on Lepage. World tour from 1999-2001.

## **Associate Professor (part-time)** **The Creative School (TMU)** **2025 – (pres.)**

Rick teaches *Performance Creation* in the Performance Studies program at Toronto Metropolitan University. A multidisciplinary class that encompasses all aspects of the creative process.

## **Associate Professor (part-time)** **University of Toronto** **2013 – 2017**

Rick developed and taught an interdisciplinary class called *Architecture of Creativity*, examining the impact of creativity in society, and encouraging students to collaborate outside of their core discipline.

## **Musician / Bandleader** **TRAINWRECK** **2012 – (pres.)**

TRAINWRECK is a 10-person professional party band that Rick founded, and has fronted since 2012. It has played major Toronto festivals, and raised tens of thousands of dollars for charities across the city.

## **Podcast Creator and Host** **Toronto** **2021-2024**

For 2 seasons, Rick developed and hosted a hit podcast called *XingTheGap*. It features intergenerational conversations between extraordinary Canadians, and is an online extension of Rick's *BOOM Trilogy*.

## **Teaching, Lecturing, Hosting & Public Speaking** **Various** **2007 – (pres.)**

Rick has taught masterclasses, given workshops, mentored artists, hosted events, given keynotes, and participated in panel discussions throughout his professional career. Select examples:

- *P(LAY)*: keynote speaker at Serious Play Europe conference in Mainz Germany (2026)
- *Creative Storytelling*: teaching TDSB middle school students (part of Luminato Festival, 2025)
- *Embracing Aging*: moderating bi-weekly online events for CABHI's Leap community (2024-2025)
- *OnTheMic Training*: teaching professional voice acting classes online (2022-pres.)
- *Aquarius Gala*: hosting an annual fundraising event at Theatre Aquarius (Hamilton, 2025)
- *Amadeus Choir*: hosting and performing for 50th anniversary event (Toronto, 2023)
- *National Mentorship Program*: mentoring a playwright for Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (2023)
- *WaterDocs Film Festival*: hosting the annual festival (Toronto, 2021-2023)

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- *Grand Gala*: hosting an annual fundraising event at The Grand Theatre (London, 2022)
- *Canadian Stage/BMO Lab*: Artist-in-Residence at the University of Toronto (2020-2021)
- *Dora Awards*: hosting and performing at the annual Toronto gala (2019 and 2006)
- *Banff Ball*: hosting and performing at the Banff Centre's annual gala (2017)
- *Shakespeare Banquet Gala*: hosting and performing at the University of Toronto event (2017)
- *BOOM* lecture: lecturing/performing at Moses Znaimer's IDEACity (Toronto, 2014)
- *Creativity and Career* lecture: Fanshawe College (2023), Fundica (2019), Banff Centre (2017)
- *Just for Laughs*: hosting ABC's primetime hit TV series (2008-2010)
- *Solo Theatre* workshop: TDSB (Toronto, 2007), QDF (Montreal, 2010), CanStage (Toronto, 2009)
- *HARDELL* lecture: IDEACity (Toronto, 2011), OISE (Toronto, 2011), West Hill (Toronto, 2009)
- *Bigger Than Jesus* lecture: IDEACity (Toronto, 2009), High Schools, Colleges across Canada
- *MacHomer* Shakespeare workshop: High Schools, Colleges, Universities across North America

## AWARDS / NOMINATIONS

Battle of The Bands Award (GovFest, <i>TRAINWRECK</i> )	Best Band (Judge's Choice)	2023
2 Betty Mitchell Award Nominations (Calgary, <i>BOOM YZ</i> )	Best Performance, Best Video Design	2022
Prix de Théâtre Award (Québec City, <i>BOOM X</i> )	Best Video Design	2021
Prix de Théâtre Award (Québec City, <i>BOOM X</i> )	Best Costume Design	2021
3 Betty Mitchell Award Nominations (Calgary, <i>BOOM X</i> )	Best New Play, Perf., Video Design	2019
SATAward (Saskatoon, <i>BOOM</i> )	Outstanding Lighting Design	2017
3 Betty Mitchell Award Nominations (Calgary, <i>BOOM</i> )	Best Prod., Perform., Video Design	2017
Sterling Award (Edmonton, <i>BOOM</i> )	Best Multimedia Design	2016
Gemini Award ( <i>Atomic Betty</i> )	Original Voice Work	2010
Dora Mavor Moore Award ( <i>Lipsynch</i> )	Outstanding Touring Production	2010
Dora Mavor Moore Award ( <i>Bigger Than Jesus</i> )	Outstanding Theatre Production	2006
Dora Mavor Moore Award ( <i>Bigger Than Jesus</i> )	Outstanding Performance (Actor)	2006
Dora Mavor Moore Award ( <i>Bigger Than Jesus</i> )	Outstanding Lighting Design	2006
Just for Laughs Awards ( <i>Slightly Bent</i> )	Best Comedy	2000
1 Dora Mavor Moore Nomination (Toronto, <i>MacHomer</i> )		2007
3 Capital Critics Circle Nominations (Ottawa, <i>Bigger Than Jesus</i> )		2006
4 Betty Mitchell Award Nominations (Calgary, <i>Bigger Than Jesus</i> )		2005

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architecture, McGill University, Montreal, QC	1994
Bachelor of Science (Architecture), McGill University, Montreal, QC	1992

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, French, and German. Spoken proficiency in Spanish and Mandarin.