



MAGDALENA STAWMAN-TUKA

performer & theatre maker, teacher,

Doctor of Philosophy in Drama: Practice as Research
producer at Horsedonkey & artistic director of Tuka Wach

magdatuka.com

tukawach.com

horsedonkey.org

[linkedin.com/in/magdatuka/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/magdatuka/)

Contact: magda@psy.ac

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Drama: Practice as Research University of Kent (School of Arts)
2019-23 UK

Actor of Drama ZASP (Diploma/ BA equivalent) 2006 PL

MA Theatre Study, Warsaw Theatre Academy 2004 PL

Professional experience

Magda has been making, performing and regularly teaching practical and theoretical classes in the field of performing arts for over 20 years.

University Positions

2021 - 23 - University of Essex, East 15 Physical Theatre course (address:
Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1LW UK)

- mentoring students' creative projects
- leading movement expression classes
- preparing and conducting classes with a special focus on Grotowski Technique
- conducting and marking end-of-term exams

2012 - 24 - Falmouth University, Fourth Monkey Actor Training Company (address: The Monkey House 97-101 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7QP London, UK), where she was Head of Skills: Devising. Her responsibilities were (e.g.):

- preparing the curriculum for acting students with a focus on devising (MA, BA [Hons], CertHE)
- leading devising classes and projects
- conducting classes on Polish theatre
- preparing, marking, and conducting assessments
- coordinating the work of the department team
- mentoring students' creative projects
- leading movement expression classes
- participating in audition process to enter the BA, CertHE and MA courses

2024 October - visiting lecturer at Institute for Theatre and Music Studies, University of Amsterdam

2023-24 - Bathway Theatre Associate Artist, University of Greenwich (UK)

address: The Old Baths, Bathway, London SE18 6QX

2023 Sept - visiting lecturer at Institute for Theatre and Music Studies, University of Amsterdam

2023 Nov - visiting lecturer at University College London, Creative Arts and Humanities

2010 - 2016 - City Lit (adult education college in London address: 1-10 Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA) - various movement expression and devising classes

Teaching A-Level Drama

2024 Sept - 2025 Wycombe Abbey Changzhou in China (WASCH)

- preparing and conducting A-level Cambridge International Curriculum lessons
- preparing students for the auditions to drama schools (mainly in UK)
- running after-school clubs like: Lab Art Theatre Club (term 1), Creative Writing (term 2)
- supporting performing arts events
- teaching 1:1 LAMDA classes (in acting and public speech)

She also runs workshops for young people and adults in London, Poland, Slovakia etc.

Since 2009 she has been running the performance group TukaWach, where she is the artistic director and producer, her main responsibilities are:

- creating the script and performance of devised projects
- working on applications to arts funding programmes

- coordinating artistic tours
- building the company network
- preparing the company's promotional materials
- assembling of company archives

Since 2020 producer at Horsedonkey

Horsedonkey is a UK-based not-for-profit production company dedicated to the hybrid mix of live performance and sound-based work. As a creative producer at Horsedonkey, I initiated The Horsedonkey Club, a cabaret/laboratory format formulated in London between 2020 and 2022 at the venue VFD with support from Arts Council England; creating multiple opportunities for a broad spectrum of artists to develop work-in-progress and try out new ideas. Following a 2023 special edition at Dwie Zmiany in Sopot, Poland, the Horsedonkey production team of myself and Myles Stawman relocated in 2024 to China with the aim of mounting further special editions in Shanghai.

2009 - ongoing - performer at Slovenians theatre company Via Negativa

1995 - 2007 - actor and workshop facilitator at Warsaw's Studium Teatralne Theatre Company

Awards (selected)

2012 Year Scholarship from Polish Ministry of Culture

2013 Visegrad Fund creation residency Stanica Žilina-Záriečie

2014 Visegrad Fund/Motus R&D residency Alfred ve dvoře theatre, Prague

2016 Year Scholarship from Polish Ministry of Culture

Publications and Paper Presentations

Performer/28 *Alchemical process of burning [Alchemiczne procesy spalania]*

Culture Teatrali 33/2024 "After the Empty Space: from Traditional Settings to New Creative Ecologies" *Emerging hybrid workspaces*

Horsedonkey Press June 2024 *Burning Method*

IPPT 9th edition 12th-15th January 2023 *Emerging hybrid workspaces*

Tekstualia Nr 1 (720) 2023 *Confrontation with Grotowski. Record of conversation after Magda Tuka's performance Burning Method - four lectures on conditional love [Konfrontacja z Grotowskim. Zapis rozmowy po performansie Magdy Tuki Burning Method – cztery wykłady o miłości warunkowej]*

IPPT 7th edition 9th-12th January 2020 *Grotowski's via negativa*

Performance

Her work has been variously supported through a succession of grants, scholarships, residencies, co-productions and festival selections, presented in theatre, gallery, cinema, church, and online; in Poland, UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, USA and Germany. She has twice received an artistic scholarship from the Polish Ministry of Culture and twice from Visegrad Foundation.

Recently she has been working on her PhD Practice as Research at the University of Kent with the topic for her dissertation *Towards a Burning Method: how might the contemporary performer build on the legacy of Grotowski's Total Act?* under supervision of Professor Paul Allain and Dr. Angeliki Varakis.

Recent projects (selected)

Burning Method - four lectures on conditional love (2022 - ongoing) - solo performance in collaboration with sound artist Opaeon. Presented at the University of Kent and Center of Modern Art Laznia in Gdansk (PL);

Deus ex Running Machina (2018 - ongoing) – solo performance presented in Emergency Festival, Manchester; Studium Teatralne, Warsaw; Art House, Eindhoven; hARTslane, London; Lub/Lab, Warsaw; FNAF Festival of Naked Forms, Prague; Centrum Sztuki Tańca, Warsaw; Women SRSly (The Yard), London; Fuck Club, Leeds; A PART festival, Katowice.

How The Hare Is Dying (2017- ongoing) - solo performance Presented in Emergency Festival, Manchester; Warsaw Center of Dance Art; Perforation Festival (La MaMa), New York; MAAT Festival, Lublin; Steakhouse Live Festival (Rich Mix), London; Seasonings (Art House), Eindhoven.

1923.webcam (2014-18) – a collaboration as *Tuka Wach*
Final presentation at MSUM Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Ljubljana.

Girl Descending a Staircase No.1 – solo performance
Presented at Studium Teatralne, Warsaw

The Horsedonkey Club (THC) - hosting and producing monthly performance events at London's queer hub vFDalston (2021-2022). Currently under preparation for the Polish edition.

Regular collaborators: Opaeon and Anita Wach

TukaWach - Ja Ja Ja Ne Ne Ne

A Warsaw-based production company founded by Magda Tuka, Agata Tuka, and Anita Wach.

Performance	role	when	where
How the Hares are Dying	Hare	2016	Studium Teatralne, Warsaw
gloria!	The Guru	2013	Źak, Gdańsk Body/Mind Festival, Warsaw
Fight, Fight – that's all we can do	Wrestler	2013/2014	Flare festival, Manchester S2, Stanica Žilina-Záriečie (Slovakia) Zadar snova Contemporary Theatre Festival (Croatia) Komuna//Warszawa, Warsaw Colston's School, Bristol Mandala Festival, Wrocław (PL) Flora International Theatre Festival, Olomouc (Czech Republic), Zahrada Culture Centre (Slovakia) A PART Theatre Festival, Katowice (PL)
Alive Alive O!	Eurydice	2013	Mandala Festival, Wrocław (PL)
Cold Feet	Bride	2012	Studium Teatralne, Warsaw NoFormat Gallery, London

Selected collaborations

With	Project	When	Where
Via Negativa (ongoing)	The Ninth	2016/17	Desire Festival, Subotica; FFT, Dusseldorf; Old Power Station, Ljubljana; Polish Dance Platform, Bytom (PL); Sacred:Homelands Fest., London; Stara Electralna, Ljubljana; Szeget Festival, Hungary;
	Shame	2011/12	Presented across Slovenia,
	Casablanca Therapy	2010/11	Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark and Poland

Nora Aurrekoetxea	Touch-me-tender-or-touch -me-not Dazzling-Encounters xXxxXXxxxX	2019 - ongoing	Standpoint Gallery, London Royal College of Art, London Sanderson Hotel, London
The Wretched Theatre	On Missing (Polish/ Nigerian)	2019	Central Speech and Drama School
Lisa Nelson & Scott Smith	Tuning Scores	2015	Art Stations gallery, Poznań Centre of Modern Art, Warsaw
The Other Way Works	Black Tonic	2009/15	CPT's Sprint Festival, London Contact Theatre's Autumn Season, Manchester Bristol Mayfest Touring to Birmingham, Bristol & Bradford in Autumn 2015
Marcin Cecko, Anita Wach & Paweł Smagała	W/RESTLESS	2012	SIN, Budapest Warsaw's Dance Stage
The Purple Ladies	Bewitched	2011	Area 10, London, Wilton's Music Hall, London
Studium Teatralne	Midnight Man Parsifal Hamlet Henryk/Hamlet/Hospital Gates of Paradise	1998 – 2007	Company was presenting work in: Poland, Switzerland, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Brasil, Italy, Uruguay, Russia, Moldova, Romania

Production & hosting

Magda has been working as a producer and events host for over 20 years:

- starting at Warsaw's Studium Teatralne organising and hosting artistic events and workshops (1995-2008)
- London's Area 10 (2008-2012)
- Tuka/Wach - production of performances and organisation of tours (2009 - ongoing)
- Horsedonkey - organising and hosting regular artistic events at London's Queer Hub vFDalston (2021 - ongoing). Next planning events in Gdańsk in Poland (Autumn 2023).

Skills

- language: Polish (native), English (fluent)
- Office (Word, Excel, Power Point)
- Google Workspace
- over 20 years experience working on various projects grants
- basic video editing skills in Premiere Pro

Other

Since 2021 Magda has worked voluntarily as a Membership and Education member and group coordinator at Deptford Housing Co-op (DHC). Her role is to organise and conduct interviews for applicants to DHC.

Since 2008 Magda regularly practises Ashtanga Yoga under Hamish Henry.