

THE Civilians

INVESTIGATIVE THEATER

The Civilians is an investigative theater company led by founding Artistic Director Steve Cosson dedicated to creating new work.

WHAT WE DO: To create original plays, The Civilians combines aspects of journalism with a creative process, with artists engaging directly with the real world through interviews, community residencies and other experiences. The work strives to be rigorous and broadly accessible, often incorporating music, dance and new media. The Civilians works with a multi-disciplinary group of Associate Artists that includes actors, writers, directors, designers, composers, and choreographers.

The Civilians' mission is to create new theater from creative inquiries into the most vital questions of the present; to directly and intimately connect artists to their subject matters; to innovate in all aspects of the company's work: finding new means to connect with a diverse audience, pursuing under-explored subjects including those political and controversial in nature, experimenting with new models of collaboration, and encouraging a permeable and ongoing relationship between the work and the public.



WHAT WE'VE DONE: Since its founding in 2001, The Civilians has supported the creation of eleven original shows that have been produced at venues throughout New York, including The Public Theater, the Vineyard Theatre, Joe's Pub, St. Ann's Warehouse, 59E59, among others, and at theaters nationally including Center Theatre Group, A.R.T., La Jolla Playhouse, HBO's U.S. Comedy Festival, Studio Theatre in D.C., and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Works by the company have also toured nationally and internationally to universities, arts presenters, and festivals in over 40 cities. The company has developed its work in residencies with New York Theatre Workshop, Sundance Theatre Lab, the MacDowell Colony, The Orchard Project, and Colorado College. The Civilians' works have been published by Dramatists Play Service, Oberon Books, and Playscripts, and recorded by Ghostlight Records. The Civilians received an Obie in 2004 in recognition of its accomplishments in its first two seasons of work.



RECENT PRODUCTIONS



THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY is an investigative theater project addressing the growing politicization of the Christian conservative movement in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was produced at the 2008 Humana Festival at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, at Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theater in 2008, and at the Vineyard Theatre in New York in 2009, where it received Lucille Lortel, Drama League, and Drama Desk nominations.

“Wicked Smart. Laughter turns to slack-jawed astonishment.”

- *Variety*



BROOKLYN AT EYE LEVEL is a multi-year theatrical exploration of the effects of large-scale development on communities affected by the controversial Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn. Its first year culminated in a sold-out engagement at the Brooklyn Lyceum, and in its second season, The Civilians commissioned Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage and composer Kirsten Childs to create an original musical based on the investigation.

“High brow and brilliant.” - *New York Magazine* “Culture Matrix”



GONE MISSING is an investigation of loss, grief, and the construction of memory told through actual stories about lost and found objects and nine original songs exploring the musical landscape of absence. In June 2007, it opened Off-Broadway at the Barrow Street Theatre for a critically-acclaimed eight-week run that extended to seven months through January 2008 and was included in several top 10 of 2007 lists in the New York press including critic Charles Isherwood's list in *The New York Times*.

“Fresh, breezy and very funny indeed, pretty much the perfect summer entertainment.” - *The New York Times*

“The Civilians... has demonstrated impressive longevity in an environment increasingly inhospitable to small nonprofits. The secret to their success might very well be their refusal to be pigeonholed, defying expectations with every new production.”

- *Stage Directions*