

Dianne K. Webb, Director, founder of Next Iteration Ensemble (NIE).

As a theater professional, Webb has spent more than 25 years directing ensemble-based, interactive, original, contemporary, and traditional theater in both community and professional venues in Maine and Texas. In 2014 Webb founded Next Iteration in Houston and introduced the Biennial ReadFest, three Annual Intercultural Play Reading Series, Next Iteration Conversations—Professional Development for Actors, Next Iteration Presents—a collaborative venture with local performing artists to share theater space during our dark times, a world premiere, and a workshop production of *Turquoise* by Deb Margolin. During the summer of 2017, Webb established the Ensemble, and launched the development of a new devised work, *Open Carry: It's Loaded*.

With a focus on underrepresented voices—women, people of color, differing ethnicities, genders, and orientations—Webb and NIE endeavor to produce thought-provoking, relevant theater drawing from influences that include among others—Bausch, Hagan, Artaud and Grotowski. Webb's vision combines interactive theater skills, generative work ethic, and ensemble model to produce devised work, contemporary playwrights, and new iterations of well-known pieces.

Webb earned a BA/BS in Human Development from Lesley University and later an MFA in writing. Webb has participated in workshop training with Kristin Linklater, vocal work, Northeastern Univ., and Tony Montanaro, Mime and physical acting, The Barn, Maine. Dianne has been directing and teaching traditional and generative theater since 1990.