



SUMMER AWAD

POET. PLAYWRIGHT.
ESSAYIST. ADVOCATE.

CONTACT

515-446-8901

SUMMERGAWAD@GMAIL.COM

WWW.SUMMERAWAD.COM

EDUCATION

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

CREATIVE WRITING AND ENVIRONMENT

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY | EXPECTED GRADUATION MAY 2024

BACHELOR OF ARTS, COLLEGE SCHOLARS:

LITERARY ACTIVISM

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE | 2012-2016

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Pearl Hogrefe Grant in Creative Writing
 - Iowa State University English Department, 2023
- de Groot Foundation LANDO Grant for Immigration Writing
 - Grantee, 2023
- East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame
 - Emerging Writer Award, 2022
- Critical Language Scholarship, U.S. State Department
 - Swahili Scholar, Virtual; 2022
- Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
 - Certificate of Merit, Playwriting; 2022
- Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
 - Peacemaker Award, 2018
- Community Shares Tennessee
 - Artist of Change Award, 2016
- Henley Rose Playwright Competition for Women
 - Finalist, 2015
- John Lewis Fellowship for Civil and Human Rights
 - Fellow, 2015
- UTK Eleanora Burke Award for Nonfiction
 - First Prize, 2015
- Critical Language Scholarship, U.S. State Department
 - Arabic Scholar in Nizwa, Oman; 2013
- College Scholars Program, University of Tennessee
 - Scholar, 2014-2016
- Haslam Scholars Program, University of Tennessee
 - Scholar, 2012-2016

ACTING

Margaret & The Wampus Cat by Caitin Myers

Margaret, The Emporium, June 2019

One Slight Hitch by Lewis Black

Melanie, Theatre Knoxville Downtown, April 2019

WALLS: A Play for Palestine by Summer Awad

Diaspora Child, Modern Studio, September 2017

In the Next Room (Or the Vibrator Play) by Sarah Ruhl

Sabrina Daldry, All Campus Theatre, Fall 2014

The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler

UTK Women's Coordinating Council, 2013 & 2014

POETRY PERFORMANCE

- Water Rocks! Earth Day Poetry Slam
 - 2022 Finalist
- Big Ears Festival
 - 2018 Poetry Slam Champion
- Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest
 - 2012 East Tennessee Regional Finalist
 - 2011 Tennessee State Champion



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WRITING

PLAYWRITING

WALLS: A Play for Palestine

POETRY PUBLICATION

"Confluence"

About Place, Vol. VII Issue III "On Rivers": June 2023

"Stuck, or home"

*Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel, Vol. 23 "Appalachian Edge":
Fall 2020*

"Pandemic"

Writers Resist, April 2020

"Morbid Curiosity"

*Exposition Review, Flash 405 Contest Second Prize,
June 2019*

ACADEMIC

"How Schools Can Promote Healthy Development for
Newly Arrived Immigrant and Refugee Adolescents:
Research Priorities"

Clea A. McNeely, DrPH; et al

Journal of School Health, February 2017

ESSAY

"This Is Not A Success Story"

UTK Eleanora Burke Award for Nonfiction, 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2021 - PRESENT

- Instructor of Record:
 - Speech Comm 212: Fundamentals of Public Speaking
 - Honors 322A: Refugee Resettlement in the U.S.
- Workshop Instructor:
 - English 207: Introduction to Creative Writing

PREFERRED COMMUNITIES CASE MANAGER

BRIDGE REFUGEE SERVICES | OCTOBER 2020-JULY 2021

- Provide intensive case management services to clients with particular vulnerabilities or barriers to adjustment

CASE MANAGER

BRIDGE REFUGEE SERVICES | MAY 2017 - SEPTEMBER 2020

- Connect newly-arrived refugees and asylees with financial, medical, and cultural resources to assist them on their journey to self-sufficiency
- Plan and coordinate Congolese cultural support groups
- Plan and teach financial literacy classes to refugee and asylee clients
- Build community partnerships and provide trainings about refugee and asylee clients

SERVER

DRAKE'S (BLUEGRASS HOSPITALITY GROUP) |
JANUARY 2016-MAY 2017



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LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

CO-CHAIR

SEXUAL EMPOWERMENT AND AWARENESS AT TENNESSEE
2014-2015 (EXECUTIVE BOARD 2013-2016)

- Plan and execute Sex Week, an annual weeklong event consisting of 30+ seminars and workshops on sexuality health education

COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

DNC Delegate

Bernie Sanders Delegate, TN Congressional District 2

Flying Anvil Theatre

Board of Directors, February 2020-2022

Knoxville City Council Movement

Core Member, 2017 - 2021

SKILLS

- Technical and Creative Writing
- Public Speaking
- Canva Design (flyers, presentation aids, etc.)
- Copy Editing
- Social Media Management
- Basic Website Building (GoDaddy)
- Event Planning
- Group facilitation
- Teaching
- Theatre Production
- Community Organizing
- Needs assessments and SMART Goals

LANGUAGES

English



Swahili (Congo)



Oral Proficiency Interview Advanced Mid

Arabic (Levant)



Oral Proficiency Interview Advanced Low