

Dr Jessi Lee Clayton BA, MA, PhD

+44 7747 739440 | drjessileeclayton@gmail.com | jessileeclayton.com

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT (2024)

earthly beings | TV Sci-Fi Drama Pilot | 10 x 60 | Bound by a hidden legacy of dark necromantic magic, estranged friends must reunite in their rural Donegal hometown to discover who is hunting their coven, save their families, and stop the destruction of the global peatlands.

Rare One Spotted | TV Thriller Drama Pilot | 8 x 60 | Two queer birdwatchers camping in the South of England accidentally witness an upper-class landowning family's twisted, carnivorous cult rituals. The women plot to expose the cult at the village Solstice Hemp Festival, but their differences with the locals threaten their lives.

You Can Trust Us | Folk Horror Feature | 90 Minutes | When an environmental scientist is sent to a remote research post with a heritage organisation she discovers the dark lengths conservationists go to in preserving the tax write-off homes of wealthy families – to her own peril.

Head Heart Hands Health | TV Drama Pilot 10 x 60 | Heartbreak High meets The Wild West in this teen drama following a small South Texas town's 4-H club. Shilo and Jessica both want to compete for their school's rodeo title - but there is only budget for one. Finding out who it will be might cost them their relationship, friendships, family, and beloved horses.

Separatist Diet | TV Fantasy Drama Pilot | 10 x 60 | When a 5000-year-old vampire is cursed to leave her lesbian-separatist commune and illegally feed on men or die, she must set out on a cross-country road trip to find who cursed her. Along the way she faces old lovers, frenemies, and new foes while rediscovering empathy, human connection, and love.

The (Mis)adventures of Corrie & Finnegan McShambles | TV Animated Children's Pilot | 20 x 20 | 10-year-old Corrie must cowboy-up and adventure into the mycelial network through lands unknown to save her best friend -Finnegan McShambles the cat – from the dark forces of climate change (and make it back to Dartmoor by the end of half-term or else her Nan will be fumin').

TV, FILM & THEATRE WRITING

Freelance Artist | Playwriting, Screenwriting, and Dramaturgy Workshop Delivery | Reading Rep Theatre | Current

Co-Writer & Co-Director | BUTCH JESSI & TERRY THE KID'S TRAVELLING HONKYTONK FOR COMMUNISTS, COWBOYS, AND QUEERS | Supported by Royal Holloway University of London & Farnham Maltings | Ongoing

Writer | LGBTQIA2S+ Short Stories | Hack Publishing | Upcoming Publication Summer 2024

Creative Developer & Script Editor | Days of Awe | Tom Joseph | 3 Arts Entertainment | 2022

Writer's Room Assistant & Runner | Netflix | Various Artists Limited | Adam Kay | 2022

Co-Artistic Director & Co-Writer | Free School Lunch Theatre | Multiple Runs at Camden Fringe, Camden People's Theatre, Craftory Workshop London, and Karma Sanctum SOHO | Camden Fringe & Offy Nominated Working-Class & Queer Theatre Company | 2017-2023

Director & Co-Writer | but i'm a... | Camden People's Theatre | 2019

Director & Dramaturg | *Great Expectations: Amy Terry After Acker* | Camden People's Theatre | 2019

Assistant Director & Dramaturg | *Cry Up Liberty*, Birkbeck University Of London | 2019

Assistant Director & Dramaturg | *The Human Voice*, Gate Theatre | 2018

Director & Dramaturg | *The Duchess Of Malfi*, RADA Studios | 2017

EDUCATION

PhD (Practice-Based Playwriting with full Critical Component) | Birkbeck, University of London

Department of English, Theatre, and Creative Writing

Thesis: *Rural Lesbian Subjectivities & Writing with the Nonhuman: Feminist Dramaturgical Practice*

Supervisors: Dr Louise Owen & Dr Katherine Angel

Examiners: Dr Mojisola Adebayo & Dr Laura Bissell

MA | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art & Birkbeck University of London

Course: Text and Performance

Focus: Directing, Acting, Playwriting and Dramaturgy

Award Level: Distinction with Oberon Publishing Award for Best Performance Text Practice-Based Dissertation

BA | Midwestern State University Texas

Major: in English Literature, Language, and Creative Writing

Minor: in Dramatic Arts and Performance

Award Level: Cum Laude (Hons)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer, Birkbeck, University of London | 2023

Course: MA Text & Performance, MA Dramaturgy, MFA Directing

Responsibilities: Develop and deliver 60-minute lecture with interactive elements on potential experimental performance writing forms and the potential for interdisciplinary practice-based research in higher education and the performance industry.

Guest Lecturer & Associate Artist (Directing, Acting & Dramaturgy), Oxford University | 2022

Course: BA University College Oxford student members Oxford University Dramatic Society and OxBAME Global Majority Theatre Society

Responsibilities: Developed curriculum with colleagues and delivered two weekly 40-minute lectures and two weekly three-hour rehearsal or seminar groups for 35 students mounting a site-specific production of an adaptation of *Gabriel*. Utilised site-specific, queer, and working-class dramaturgies to assist the playwright, Clare Bayley, to adapt the text in a way that responded to how the actors worked with the text in the rehearsal space. Used a personal feedback-based approach to pastoral care and took a dual approach with group and individual marks for written and practical final assessments.

Course Co-Leader, Oxford Playhouse | 2022

Course: Dramaturgy workshop series for BA and MA level students across disciplines in partnership with University College Oxford with a focus on reaching disabled, 2SLGBTQIA+, working-class, and/or global majority students.

Responsibilities: Designed a series of access-focused workshops to equip student playwrights and directors with dramaturgical skills to use in a professional rehearsal room or filming set. Demonstrated how

our own experience as professional creative writers and dramaturgs might feed into specialisations in research and critical writing.

Workshop Course Leader, Birkbeck University of London | 2019

Course: BA and MA level students working towards a feminist adaptation of *Paradise Lost* with a professional director and playwright.

Responsibilities: Acted as a dramaturg and mentor alongside the director and writer of the show to create one weekly hour-long lecture and two weekly two-hour practical sessions to equip students to carry out individual practice-as-research projects based on the text for the production as well as mount a scratch of the newly adapted text.

Guest Educator, Wichita Falls Independent School District | 2014-2017

Course: Public School Drama, Directing & Acting for years 7-12 for city-wide school district

Responsibilities: Created lesson plans and assessments for 5 classes of 30 students based on main teacher's curriculum and state standards of education. Provided pastoral support when needed. Carried out marking and assessment to state recommended standard.

TRAINING

Teaching in Higher Education | Birkbeck, University of London | 2021

Physical Performance for Creating Text: European Movement Practices | [Jüri Nael](#) | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art | 2017

Laban Movement Analysis for Directors & Playwrights | [Darren Royston](#) | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art | 2017

Dramaturgy & Directing with Viewpoints and Active Analysis | [Gerald Paul Skelton](#) | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art | 2018

Voice for Writers & Directors | [Adrienne Thomas](#) | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art | 2018

Dramaturgy for Playwriting | [Katalin Trencsényi](#) | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art | 2017

Voice for Writers & Directors: Fitzmaurice Voicework | [Julia Moody](#) | Royal Academy of Dramatic Art | 2017

PUBLISHED WRITING

Graduate Research in Theatre: Performance Research Conference | Birkbeck, University of London | 'How Eco Somatic Feminist Practice Might Alter Rural Lesbian Representations in Performance Art' | 2022

Life of Pi West End Director's Interview | [Den of Geek](#) | 'Life of Pi: Inside the West End Phenomenon' | 2022

Shakespeare's Globe Education Department, Library & Archives | Medieval & Early Modern History Blog | 'A Shakespeare Christmas' | 2019

The Human Voice: Oberon Modern Plays | Dramaturg & Assistant Director | Adapted by Daniel Raggett for Gate Theatre | 2019

The Human Voice: Rehearsal Blogs | Dramaturg & Assistant Directing Blogs | Weeks 1 & 2 | 2018