

# BRITTNEY S. HARRIS

## Curriculum Vitae

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### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

#### **Master of Fine Arts in Acting**

University of Georgia

Areas of Emphasis: Performance, Cultural Enrichment, Diversity and Inclusion

#### **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting/Minor in Communications**

Old Dominion University

Areas of Emphasis: Performance

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE & INTERESTS

Background: Race and Performance, Theatre for Social Change, Solo Performance Development, Cultural Enrichment, and Youth Development

### MEMBERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (A.T.H.E)

Women of Color in the Arts (W.O.C.A)

A.E.A Equity Member Candidate (E.M.C)

Alpha Psi Omega (Theatre Fraternity)

### UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

#### **Old Dominion University**

August 2019- Present

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre*

- Instructor, **Acting One, THEA 152R**, 2 courses.
- Instructor, **Theatre Experience, THEA 241A**, 1 course.

#### **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)**

August 2018-June 2019

*Post-MFA Teaching Fellow*

- Instructor, **Introduction to Acting, TA 2024**, 4 courses.
- Instructor, **Intro to Applied Collaborative Technique (I-ACT)**, 4 courses. (*New Course*)  
Introductory performance class in acting skills and theories as a participant (actor) and observer (audience) for the non-majors.

### Workshops & Projects

#### **Living Beyond Southern Living: Personal Narratives from Southern Women, July 2019**

*Project Consultant, Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies at Virginia Tech*

A year-long creative project in development from the VT Feminist Theory grad seminar, writing creative non-fiction essay about their relationship to social justice causes and/or feminism to be read/performed at the yearly Women's and Gender Studies student showcase.

**Virginia Tech History Project: *Voice in the Stone*, January 2019-March 2019**

*Co-Collaborator with Dept. of Theatre and Cinema, Dept. of English, Dept. of History*

Long-term creative project in anticipation of the university's 150th anniversary in 2022; site-specific dance/theatre piece focused specifically on the narratives of the first Black women to attend Virginia Tech in 1966.

**Black Love Exhibit, *A Black Love Conversation*, March 2019**

*Co-Collaborator with Virginia Tech Women's Center*

Performative, audience-immersive projects comprised of pairing with the Perspective Student Gallery, Virginia Tech Women's Center, and Dept. of Theatre exploring the depths of embodying redemption through theatrical performance.

**Three Hysterical Women: *Explorations of Feminine Rage*, November 2018-January 2019**

*Co-Collaborator*

An original theatrical production that embodies creative resistance against oppressive stereotypes and violence. By curating three original solo pieces into one production, we explored issues of inclusion and social disparity, including imposed gender roles and racial stereotypes. The work is relevant to our students and campus communities with a cathartic response to the #MeToo and TimesUp Movement.

**Devising Performance, October 2018**

*Project Lead*

Laboratory course involving the collection of interviews, transcribing and creation of an oral history performance piece.

**Advancing the Human Condition Symposium, November 2018**

*Project Lead*

Engaging scholars, academics, and practitioners in transdisciplinary inquiry around the critical questions of our age, with equity premised as the driving force of our deliberations. *Collaborated with Dr. Madeleine Flint, Assistant Professor in Structural Engineering and Materials and Virginia tech students to develop a piece on structural sustainability and human involvement.*

**University of Georgia**

August 2015-May 2018

- Instructor, Acting for Non-Majors, THEA 2010, 3 courses.
- Instructor, Skills and Strategies Necessary for Success at College and Beyond, **1 course.** This course rests on the fundamental belief that student success is derived from students' individual self-awareness of and proactive engagement with understanding how learning works..

*Assisted Courses*

Graduate Apprentice, Community-Based Theatre, THEA 7710S *Under Dr. Emily Sabakian*  
Pedagogical Artistic Contributor, Hist. of African-American Theatre *under Dr. Amma Gharley Tagoe-Kootin*

Graduate Assistant, Theatre Appreciation, THEA 2000

## Workshops & Projects

### **Theatre for Young Audiences Program, Spring 2018**

*Project Lead and Co-Collaborator*

Service learning focused project, Community-based theatre, also known as theatre for social change, used Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed techniques and study the hallmark troupes and artists of the field. Co-taught service-learning component, students led workshops at Coile Middle School (Athens, GA), the Parkview Community Center (Athens, GA), and other sites.

### **Translating Identities, Queering Borders, Fall 2017**

*Co-Collaborator*

Original devised theatre project utilizing collected personal narratives to explore the particular issues facing LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff at UGA and in the Athens community.

### **Devising Performance, Fall 2016, 2017, & 2018**

*Project Lead*

Laboratory course involving the collection of interviews, transcribing and creation of an oral history performance piece.

### **Solo Performance Workshop, Spring 2017**

*Project Lead*

Interactive course traces and examines a selective history and development of Contemporary Solo Performance within the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century; invites students of all levels to explore creating and performing original theatre works.

### **Beauty Unchained, Spring 2016**

*Project Lead*

Director of Final Class Performance: "Beauty Unchained"- Our main preface for the project was to embody the essence of Black Theater.

### **Exploratory in Modern Dance Technique, Fall 2015**

Specialization in Hip-Hop, Modern, and Jazz technique.

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## **WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book**

Keep Calm and Create On: *Words of Encouragement from One Artist to the Next*

Publication Date: June 1, 2016

Self-Help/ Creativity, 80 pages, ISBN: 978-0997445800

### **Graduate Thesis**

*Performing the Role of Elspeth Begg in Rona Munro's The Last Witch.*

University of Georgia, M.F.A Thesis. Spring 2018

Committee: George Contini (chair), Dr. Freda Scott-Giles, Ray Paolino

## **CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

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### **National**

2019 Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance Conference, Penn State University

- Presented in session: “Breathing Life into the Black and White: *Performing Sandra Bland*”

33rd Annual Black Theatre Network Conference: *Unapologetically Black*, Winston-Salem, NC

- Presented/Performed in session: *Being B.A.D.* (Solo Performance)
- Presented in session: “Breathing Life into the Black and White: *Performing Sandra Bland*”

Women Theatre Festival Fringe 2019, Raleigh, NC

- Presented/Performed in session: *Being B.A.D.* (Solo Performance)

Gender, Bodies & Technology Conference: *TechnoLogics: Power and Resistance*, Roanoke, VA

- Presented/Performed in session: “Three Hysterical Women: *Embodying Resistance Through Theatre*”

GESA Conference: *4th Annual Kinship, Community, and Activism in the Cultural Production of the Black Diaspora Conference*, Howard University

- Presented in session: “Breathing Life into the Black and White: *Performing Sandra Bland*”

9th Annual African, African American, & Diaspora Studies (AAAD) Conference, James Madison University

- Presented in session: “Breathing Life into the Black and White: *Performing Sandra Bland*”

### **Regional**

2019 Virginia Theatre Association Conference 2019, Norfolk VA

- Presentation/Performance: *Being B.A.D.* (Solo Performance)
- Workshop:
  - Ensemble Devised Theatre for Teens

A Black Love Conversation: Virginia Tech Women’s Center History Month Event

- Panelist/Performer of *Being B.A.D.* (Solo Performance)

Virginia Thespian Conference 2019, Radford University

- Workshop: “Flying Solo: Your Story and Solo Performance Exploration”, 31 participants

2018 Advancing the Human Condition Symposium, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

- Presented/Performed in “Resilient Sustainability *Simplified*”: Coastal @ VT and Center for Communicating Science Collaboration

Virginia Theatre Association Conference 2018, Norfolk VA

- Panelist:
  - Artists of Color: The Diversity Gap in Modern Theatre
  - Telling Your Story: Devising Your Own Work from a Minority Perspective
  - Where Should I Go to School to Study Theatre?

- Workshops (2):
  - “Flying Solo: Your Story and Solo Performance Exploration”, 22 participants

Governor’s School for the Arts College Fair, Norfolk VA

- Workshop: Ensemble Devised Theatre for Teens, 14 participants

2017 Georgia Theatre Conference 2017, Carrollton GA

- Workshop: “Flying Solo: Your Story and Solo Performance Exploration”, 16 participants

Performance Studies Summer Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, Il.

- Performer/Presenter: *Improvisation, Narrative, & Beauty* workshops

Athens-Clarke County Public Schools, and Greater Atlanta Public Schools

- Workshop: UGA Audition Prep 101 Workshop, 130 participants

University of Georgia Athens, GA

- Workshop: “Improvisation in the Workplace”, 26 participants

2016 Athens-Clarke County Public Schools, and Greater Atlanta Public Schools

- Workshop: UGA Audition Prep 101 Workshop, 64 participants

University of Georgia & Athens-Clarke County Public Schools

- Workshop: “Youth and Your Creative Masks”, 22 participants

## **GRANTS/PROJECT FUNDING**

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2019              Conference Funding  
 (Conference: *9th Annual African, African American, & Diaspora Studies (AAAD) Conference*)

2018              Emerging Leaders Independent Project Funding, \$475.00, Principal Investigator  
 (Project Funding: G.L.A.M: *Girls Leadership and Mentors of Athens*)

2016              Arts in Community Grant, \$1,500.00, Principal Investigator  
 (Presentation: Atlanta Fringe Festival)

                    Sylvia Pannell Travel Grant, \$900.00, Principal Investigator  
 (Presentation: Atlanta Fringe Festival)

2014-2015        American Honda Foundation Grant, \$5,000.00, Assisted.  
 (Project Funding: EUREKA! S.T.E.M-based program, Girls Inc. of the Greater Peninsula)

2014              U.S.A Swim, \$2,500.00, Assisted.

(Project Funding: Girls Inc. Minority Learn to Swim Summer Camp Program, Girls Inc. of the Greater Peninsula

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

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### *Arts-Based*

2018

#### *Honoree*

August Staub Graduate Student Award in Theatre, University of Georgia

#### *Honorable Mention*

K.C.A.C.T.F National Short Play Award, *How to Tie a Tie*

#### *1<sup>st</sup> Place*

K.C.A.C.T.F Region IV: National John L. Caubel Short Play Award, *How to Tie a Tie*

2017

#### *Participant/Performer (Selected)*

Performance Studies Institute at Northwestern University: Narrative, Beauty, and Improvisation

### *Service-Based*

2017-2018

University of Georgia, Graduate Emerging Leader

## **PROFESSIONAL & SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)**      August 2018- May 2019

**Outreach and Recruitment Advocate**, Department of Theatre and Cinema Studies

- Promote the social, academic, and aesthetical benefits of theatre involvement on a collegiate level and to boost non-major/major audition and technical crew participation.

**G.L.A.M. (Girls Leadership and Mentors of Athens)**

February 2018- April 2018

**Program Lead/Project Coordinator**

- *G.L.A.M is a pilot youth empowerment program sponsored through the Emerging Leaders Program at the University of Georgia:*

- Developed a 6-week program designed to serve about 20 African-American female teens in personal development, community-based philanthropy, and financial literacy, and stress management
- Coordinated the development of each programmatic focus area, with a unique affinity for personal development curriculum
- Served as the main coordinator for obtaining workshop space/facilities, guest speakers, community-based projects.

**University of Georgia**

August 2015-May 2018

**Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator, Department of Theatre and Film Studies**

- Promote the social, academic, and aesthetical benefits of theatre involvement on a collegiate level and to boost non-major/major audition and technical crew participation.
- Provide assistance with event planning including supervision of undergraduate student workers
- Support departmental processes related student recruitment including contacting prospective students, creation of marketing materials, peer advising/mentoring, conducting campus tours and orientation activities, and delivery of presentations

- **Behind the Scenes at UGA Theatre**

Created and managed the current outline of this program. Participant engagement and recruitment primarily stems from outreach in the Greater Athens-Clarke County and Atlanta area; as well as attending all state level literary and performance conferences and competitions

Our one-day workshop Behind the Scenes is designed to give high school students an interactive experience of our Theatre and Film Studies Department. Behind the Scenes activities are, but not limited to, the following: Tour of the Fine Arts Building and Theatre; Learn about majoring in Theatre at UGA; Lunch meet up with UGA Theatre majors; Parent/Guardian Talkback with UGA Theatre Administration Rep and much more!

- **Audition Prep Workshop 2.0**

Designed workshop outline and curriculum based on needs assessment on the local high school demographic.

This interactive workshop is designed to raise awareness about the UGA's thriving and exciting Department of Theatre and Film Studies and preparing for the professional world of theatrical auditions. Through this 1-hour intensive master class, the students will receive real-world advice and several critical tips for doing their personal best for the next audition. Our workshop objective is preparing young actors to bring their 'A' game to casting directors by learning audition techniques, how to put their best foot forward in the casting room and, how to be in the mindset of a working actor.

**Assistant Director of Summer Academy @ UGA (2016)**

- Help oversee operations of multiple specialty camps during the summer months
- Student and parent communication (pre-camp emails, phone calls, daily check-in and check-out, etc.)

**Girls Incorporated of the Greater Peninsula**

May 2014-August 2015

**Director of Quality Assurance & Special Projects**

- Responsible for the organization accountability and team that promotes customer satisfaction, positively impacting the financial performance of Girls Inc. of the Greater Peninsula.

- Enforced Standard Operating Procedures with the goal of maintaining compliance in accordance to the organization standards based on current regulations and up to date programs development procedures.
- Worked with CEO in developing department's goals and objectives to support Girls Inc. of the Greater Peninsula aimed at planning-related community involvement projects.

**Program Coordinator/Youth Liaison**

Virginia Air and Space Center

- Managed and executed youth STEM-based programming for over 100 girls ages 7-12

**Program Director/ Special Projects Coordinator**

L.I.F.T (Leadership Institute for Teens)

- Developed and coordinated a comprehensive 36 weeks program designed to serve over 50 male and female teens in youth development, philanthropic, and healthy peer-to-peer interaction.

**Program Director/ Special Projects Coordinator**

EUREKA! STEM, Girls Incorporated

- Designed and managed the curriculum for the comprehensive 28 weeks program; program served over 70 female teens in academic and youth development

**Volunteer Coordinator (Youth & Adult)**

- Developed, promoted, and maintained a wide range of volunteer opportunities with each Girls Inc. site for teens (13-18) and young adults (18-22).
- Organized and participated in volunteer recognition programs and special events: Field Day, Girls Inc. Summer Camp and After-School Program.
- Evaluated all aspects of volunteer programs to ensure effectiveness and to recommend/implement changes as appropriate.
- Maintained accurate records and provide timely statistical and activity reports on volunteer participation for annual reporting and grant funding.
- Conducted and/or arranged for volunteer orientation and training.

**Y.W.C.A of South Hampton Roads**

June 2013- March 2014

**Outreach/Community Advocate & Coordinator**

- Coordinated services and trainings to area university/college staff and students on sexual assault awareness, gender-equality, sexual and relationship assault trauma responses.

**Community Outreach Advisor/ Intern Advisor**

Norfolk State University

*Advised 6 college-level interns; served and provided workshops to over 1,000 undergraduate students on campus and online*

- Supervised: 6 college-level interns
- Developed programming geared towards entering freshmen and upperclassmen on the benefits of bystander intervention.
- Created volunteer program materials (policies and procedures, applications, volunteer agreements, orientation handbooks

- Worked with social, civic and local organizations to develop partnerships, where appropriate, to develop and/or utilize volunteers.
- Mentored and trained new volunteers/interns; developed volunteer position descriptions.
- Screened interviews and matching volunteers to organizational needs and opportunities.

### **Keynote Speaker/ Community Coordinator**

Norfolk Public Schools; Virginia Beach Public Schools, & Portsmouth Public School

*Served over 900 students and student volunteers over the course of two months*

- Topics addressed: Preventative Health Initiatives and Healthy Peer Relationships
- Introduced special outreach programs to department chair in effort to increase institution's interest in community service.
- Occasionally worked in a classroom setting helping with life skills development

### **Workshop Coordinator/ Presenter**

Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney's Office & Norfolk Karate Academy

*Managed 12 working professionals and leaded 4 workshops serring over 100 participants*

- Topics Addressed: Healthy Peer Relationships; D.V. Prevention & Community Resources
- Introduced prgms to departments in effort to increase institution's interest in comm. service

### **Registration/Volunteer Coordinator**

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual YWCA of South Hampton Roads Walk-A-Mile

- Trained and provided orientations for volunteers
- Mentored and trained new volunteers/interns; developed volunteer position descriptions.
- Screened interviews and matching volunteers to organizational needs and opportunities.

### **Annual Day of Unity – Night of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil**

July 2013-October 2013

### **Chairperson/ Volunteer Coordinator & Event Planner**

*Planned and coordinated the 2013 event; developed volunteer and committee team of fundraisers*

- Supervised: 30 allied professionals and 16 teen advocates for this event
- Introduced special outreach programs to department chair in effort to increase institution's interest in community service.
- Created boardroom and courtroom multimedia presentations including video and text-sync'd depositions for enhanced understanding.

### **T.W.P. (Teens With A Purpose)**

Summer 2012 & 2013

### **Educator/ Advisor**

*Worked with teens between the ages 12-18 on the values of Cultural Arts and Public Speaking*

- Supervised: 4 youth educators
- Successfully improved student participation in the classroom/workshop through integration of creative role-playing exercises.
- Introduced special outreach programs to department chair in effort to increase institution's interest in community service
- Taught lessons on relevant children's books, poems, and themes to promote student interests.

**Norfolk Botanical Gardens**

March 2013-December 2013

**Youth Educator/ Intern Supervisor**

- Supervised: 10 high school and college-level interns
- Successfully improved student participation in the classroom/workshop through integration of creative role-playing exercises.
- Introduced special outreach programs to department chair in effort to increase institution's interest in community service.

**Corinthian Colleges Inc.**

November 2011- December 2012

**Career Service Representative/Professional Development Coach**

- Provided coaching to graduates in all aspects of their job search including job search strategies, personal marketing, interview skills and resume writing.

**Centerstage Inc. Children's Theater**

August 2008- January 2010

**Program Director/Drama and Speech Instructor**

- Introduced special outreach programs to department chair in effort to increase institution's interest in community service.

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**REPRESENTATIVE CREATIVE WORK****Acting (Limited)**

2019	<i>Being B.A.D.</i>	Kendra Foster	Black Theatre Network Conference '19
2019	<i>Being B.A.D.</i>	Kendra Foster	G.B.T. Conference, Roanoke VA
2019	<i>The Intersection</i>	Sandra Bland	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual AAAD Conference, JMU
2019	<i>Three Hysterical Women: One-Woman Show Collective</i>	Kendra Foster	Virginia Tech (Solo Performance)
2018	<i>Resilient Sustainability Simplified</i>	Self	Virginia Tech, Communicating Sciences
2018	<i>Barbarism: Story of Medea</i> Jason		University of Georgia (Reading)
2017	<i>The Last Witch</i>	Elspeth Begg	University of Georgia
2017	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	Lavinia	University of Georgia
2017	<i>Being B.A.D</i>	Kendra Foster	University of Georgia (Solo Perf.)
2017	<i>The Intersection</i>	Sandra Bland	University of Georgia (Solo Perf.)
2016	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Jane Eyre	University of Georgia
2016	<i>Fires in the Mirror</i>	Ntozake Shange	University of Georgia
2015	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Ms. Miriam Kirby	University of Georgia
2015	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Ruth Younger	K.T.C Productions, VA
2013	<i>Extremities</i>	Marjorie	Iron Street Productions, LLC., VA
2013	<i>Fraction of Light</i>	Nettie	Virginia Playwriting Forum, VA
2013	<i>Raising Awareness/ Raising Hope</i>	Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	Venue on 35th Street Theatre, VA
2012	<i>The Trial of One Short-Sighted: Black Woman...</i>	Judge	Venue on 35th Street Theatre, VA
2011	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Portia/Calpurnia	Virginia Stage Company (Workshop)
2011	<i>Chaos in the House</i>	Juju	James McNeil Person Productions, VA

2011	<i>Fragments</i>	Solider	Old Dominion University
2010	<i>Intimate Apparel</i>	Esther	Old Dominion University
2009	<i>Persephone Wept</i>	Persephone	Old Dominion University
2009	<i>For Colored Girls...</i>	Lady in Purple	Virginia Commonwealth University
2008	<i>Negras Eros</i>	Principal	Shaffer Street Playhouse, VA
2006	<i>Abolitionist Museum</i>	Harriet Tubman	Juneteenth Festival Players, VA
2005	<i>Goody Creatures</i>	Chorus	Virginia Stage Company

### **Film/Television**

2014- Pres.	<i>Traffick Stop (Pilot)</i>	Officer Kimberly Ball	Traffick Stop Productions
2013- Pres.	<i>Precinct 757</i>	Officer LaTia Britton	FulCamp Productions
2015	<i>Wicked Attraction- Ep. 303</i>	Co-Star	M2 Pictures
2015	<i>22:42</i>	Lead	Dir. Amena Anderson
2014	<i>The Homecoming</i>	Lead	Dir. Russ Fulmore
2014	<i>Charades</i>	Lead	Dir. Russ Fulmore
2014	<i>Bad Service</i>	Principal	Dir. Chris Abaya
2013	<i>I Dated a Psycho- Ep. 1.5</i>	Principal	M2 Pictures
2012	<i>Miracle of the Murders</i>	Principal	Dir. Joseph Baum
2011	<i>FBI Criminal Pursuit- Ep. 402</i>	Supporting	M2 Pictures
2011	<i>Ellie</i>	Supporting	M2 Pictures
2010	<i>Happily Never After- Ep. 110</i>	Featured	M2 Pictures

### **Writing (Plays)**

2018	<i>The Amazin' Jason</i>	10-Minute	Official Selection, <i>Fade to Black</i> Play Fest 2019
2017	<i>How to Tie a Tie</i>	Short Play/One-Act	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Winner, KCACTF Region IV
2017	<i>The Request</i>	One Act	
2016	<i>Being B.A.D.</i>	Short Play	
2016	<i>The Intersection</i> ( <i>The Sandra Bland Project</i> )	Short Play/One-Act	
2012	<i>Fourth</i>	Full-length	