

Amanda Washington

Curriculum Vitae

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Objective:

I am striving to break barriers and set new standards in academia and the professional world of theatre. I achieve this goal through collaboration, the intention to understand, and the willingness to evolve from every encounter.

Education

University of Southern Mississippi

Master of Fine Arts, Directing, 2020

Specialized training:

Shakespeare Text Analysis and Performance with Monica Hayes

Dramatic and Performance Theory with Louis Rackoff

Brenau University

Bachelor of Arts, emphasis in Directing, Minor in History, 2017

Specialized training:

Theatre for Social Change with Celeste Morris

Devised Solo Performance with Jim Hammond and Ryan Conarro

Professional Development Workshops, Intensives, and Internships

Mentalhaus Devised Theatre Company

October 2020 Digital Workshop

Theatrical Intimacy Education: Choreography (6 hours of training)

September 2020 Digital Workshop

Theatrical Intimacy Education: Race, Intimacy, and Consent (2 hours of training)

August 2020 Digital Workshop

Theatrical Intimacy Education: Best Practices (6 hours of training)

August 2020, Digital Workshop

Theatrical Intimacy Education: Studio Techniques, Casting and Policy (6 hours of training)

July 2020, Digital Workshop

Light Designing for Zoom Performance with Helen Garcia Alton

July 2020, Women's Theatre Festival, Digital Workshop

Aggressive Movement for Non-Dancers and Dancers with Nicole Lawson

July 2020, Women's Theatre Festival, Digital Workshop

Virtual Theatre: Technology & Technique Juliana Valente

July 2020, Women's Theatre Festival, Digital Workshop

Object Performance in Plays by African American Women with Alva Roger and Paulette Richards

July 2020, Women's Theatre Festival, Digital Workshop

Praxis & Activism in Art Making with Nicole Lawson

July 2020, Women's Theatre Festival, Digital Workshop

Theatrical Intimacy Education: Best Practices (16 hours of training)

February 2020 Los Angeles, California

My Story, My Rules: Changing the Perspective to Challenge Racism seminar with Sonja Parks

February 2020 Spartanburg, South Carolina

Directing Intern *Beauty and the Beast* directed by Jon Ludwig at Center for Puppetry Arts

May - June 2019 Atlanta, Georgia

Blaine Quarnstrom Playwrighting Series- Playwright in Residency Robert Icke

January 2019 Hattiesburg Mississippi

Blaine Quarnstrom Playwright Series- Playwright in Residency Jeffrey Sweet

January 2018 Hattiesburg Mississippi

Research Intern *Saints of Failure* directed and performed by Ryan Conarro

Fall 2016 Gainesville, Georgia

Lead Administrative Intern for Synchronicity Theatre

May – August 2016 Atlanta, Georgia

Viewpoints Workshop with Ryan Conarro

Fall 2013 Gainesville, Georgia

Teaching Experience

Friends University/Guest Speaker

Intimacy Education: The Foundation

November 2020

In this hour long virtual, but still interactive experience I talk students through the foundational steps to start a consent-based practice within the rehearsal hall. This course covers how to establish boundaries (verbally, physically, and mentally) and how to create even after boundaries have been established.

[Kennesaw State University/Assistant Professor](#)

Multicultural Perspectives in Performance

August 2020 – December 2020

This course will examine the history, theory, and practice of Multicultural theatre and performance from the 20th century to the present. Expansive in its scope, this course highlights significant plays and playwrights. The course will concentrate on the root of what may have inspired the playwrights, either consciously or subconsciously, their culture. Through the study of scripts, the playwright, and the culture the work embodies, students will be able to identify elements that comprise that culture. With this distinction, students will be able to approach future projects with a greater understanding of traditions and cultural norms outside of their own. The class will interact with terms such as “multiculturalism,” “explicit and implicit bias,” “critical race theory,” “diversity,” “color-blind/conscious casting,” and “white lens.” We will experiment with different artistic methods/approaches to understand marginalized cultures and histories that have had an indelible impact on the Western Theatre and Performance.

Theatre in Society

August 2020 – December 2020

This interactive course examines the role of theatre in society through the study of dramatic works and performance events within their cultural and historical contexts. Course assignments promote understanding of the creative process and develop skills in critical analysis, global perspectives, and collaboration

[The Core of Acting Virtual Intensive/ Instructor and Co-Founder](#)

A Director's Approach to Script Analysis

July 2020 – August 2020

The Core of Acting Three Day intensive will evaluate and grow the actor's skills in: auditioning, how to create in the rehearsal process, keeping the performance engaging (in person and virtually) and provide insight in the professional and collegiate world of theatre. Students will walk away with tools on how to tackle the ever-evolving world of theatre. I was in charge of building curriculum for the intensive and teaching quick effective ways to use script analysis.

[University of Southern Mississippi/ Instructor of Record](#)

THE 100: Theatre Appreciation

Fall 2018 – Spring 2020

Theatre Appreciation is an introduction class for non-majors. My responsibilities included instilling the students with basic theatre terminology, covering broad strokes of theatre's origin, exposing students to different theatre styles, and analyzing live performances with the students. I accomplished these responsibilities through project-based learning intermingled with class discussions. The students' final project was to write, design, and perform a one-act play based on a fairytale. This class made a smooth transition to an online format during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Audition Process Workshop

September 2019

Audition Process was a one-day workshop taught to actors of all levels about the etiquette of auditioning and how to ensure the monologue has a lasting impression.

University of Southern Mississippi/ Teaching Assistant

THE 320: Fundamentals of Directing

Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

Fundamentals of Directing is an introductory course offered to undergraduate students. The course covered script and character analysis, along with scene work. My duties included assisting the students with their scene by giving constructive criticism. This class made a smooth transition to an online format during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Directing Experience

| <u>Show</u> | <u>Company</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Metamorphoses</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | 2020 |
| <i>Harlem Duet</i> | KCACTF Region IV SDC fellowship | 2020 |
| <i>Gem of the Ocean</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | 2019 |
| <i>Tut!Tut! a beat by beat musical</i> | Midsummer Musical Theatre Experience | 2019 |
| <i>The Empty Space</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | 2019 |
| <i>Blues for an Alabama Sky</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | 2019 |
| <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | 2018 |
| <i>Three by Ives</i> (a selection of David Ives <i>All in the Timing</i>) | University of Southern Mississippi | 2018 |
| <i>Tomas and the Library Lady</i> | Brenau University | 2017 |
| <i>Boy Meets Girl</i> | Brenau University | 2016 |

Assistant Directing Experience

| <u>Show</u> | <u>Company</u> | <u>Director</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Neat</i> (virtual) | Actors Express | Eric J. Little |
| <i>Emma</i> (world premiere) | American Shakespeare Center | Stephanie H. Earl |
| <i>Peter and the Starcatcher</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | Jodye Underwood |

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Galileo</i> | University of Southern Mississippi | Louis Rackoff |
| <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> | Gainesville Theatre Alliance | Elisa Carlson |
| <i>Flyin' West</i> | Gainesville Theatre Alliance | Dr. Lundeana Thomas |
| <i>The Last Time We Were Here</i> | Synchronicity Theatre | Jennifer Alice Acker |
| <i>Nightingale Rose</i> | Gainesville Theatre Alliance | Elisa Carlson |

Producing Experience

“Crossroads” – Actor’s Express Podcast

November 2020 – Present Day

A part of my responsibilities as the National New Play Network Producer in Residence at Actor’s Express (AE) was to strengthen the theater’s connection to artists within the Atlanta community. I created the Crossroads podcast series. This series is loosely inspired by FDR’s “Fireside Chats” during World War II; AE would effectively drop in with its audiences weekly with a story told in audio form. Actor’s Express commissioned six early-career Atlanta-based BIPOC playwrights to collaborate on this project. The writers chosen, represent what we believe is the future of Atlanta theatre. Their voices and aesthetic points of view will combine to create a BIPOC-centered experience; all six are also artistically adventurous and highly collaborative. This project aims to develop, produce, and preserve the distinctiveness of each voice while creating a cohesive whole. Aside from lead producer, I served as the lead coordinator on this project.

Special Based Projects

Hands up – Racial Healing Through Art

October 2020

This conversation focused on the impact of racism and the cultural trope of the “strong Black woman” on the lives of Black women. Join artists, healers, and mental health professionals for a discussion of artistic pathways that support activist work around women’s issues and promote healing from racial trauma. Hosted by the Alliance Theatre

Evergreen Theatre Collective

September 2020

Illuminate the Text virtual masterclass, creating vocal and movement choices that forge a compelling and dynamic performance. The class dissected work from magical fables such as Lewis Carroll's poem *Jabberwocky*, honing in on the words to emphasize during a performance. Afterward, actors will devise movement and dynamic vocal choices that flow with the text to bring the work to life for themselves and the audience.

Yokohama International School High School Drama Festival

September 2020

Illuminate the Text virtual masterclass, creating vocal and movement choices that forge a compelling and dynamic performance. The class dissected work from magical fables such as Lewis Carroll's poem *Jabberwocky*, honing in on the words

to emphasize during a performance. Afterward, actors will devise movement and dynamic vocal choices that flow with the text to bring the work to life for themselves and the audience. Actors will then get the opportunity to create the same type of work from text given to them, but within smaller groups. This ensemble-based rehearsal process will show students how to revitalize text and construct an illuminating and thought-provoking performance.

THEATRE FROM MY VIEW

June 2020 – Present Day

In the wake of COVID-19, I started a YouTube channel called “Theatre from my View.” On the channel I discuss, plays I would like to direct, artist in the theatre industry, and share directing tips with my viewers. The purpose of this channel is to keep my skills as a director sharp and enlighten people on the director’s elusive, mysterious role.

Metamorphoses Research presentation

April 2020

Due to COVID-19, I was unable to present my thesis, *Metamorphoses*. The show was supposed to run April 23rd – 26th at the University of Southern Mississippi. Not wanting the work to go in vain, I gave a YouTube live research presentation of the work, the designers, actors, and I did on the project. In the presentation, I discussed my process as a director collaborating with designers and actors.

Revelry – School of Performing and Visual Arts

Viewpoint: The African-American Theatre Experience – February 2020

Revelry is a 13-day event hosted by the School of Performing and Visual Arts consisting of performances, exhibitions, guest artists, lectures, masterclasses, and workshops at the University of Southern Mississippi. I directed and coordinated select scenes from African-American authors and playwrights to be performed during the festival.

Blaine Quarnstrom Playwright Series

Robert Icke’s *Oresteia*: Stage Reading – January 2019

Working personally with Robert Icke, I directed a staged reading of his adaption of Aeschylus's *Oresteia*. This stage reading is a part of the Blaine Quarnstrom Playwright Series hosted by the Theatre Department at University of Southern Mississippi.

Revelry – School of Performing and Visual Arts

Blues for an Alabama Sky – February 2019

Revelry is a 13-day event hosted by the School of Performing and Visual Arts consisting of performances, exhibitions, guest artists, lectures, masterclasses, and workshops at the University of Southern Mississippi. I directed *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, the opening night of the show was the headliner event of the festival.

Black History Month Artist Spotlight

February 2018

During the month of February, a weekly email was sent out to the student body of the University of Southern Mississippi theatre student body to spread awareness about prevalent African-American artists in the theatre industry.

Unheard Voices: a devised script delving into sex trafficking in Georgia

Spring 2017

Unheard Voices was a devised script that my classmates and I created for our Theatre for Social Change course at Brenau University. During this course, I met with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation directly to gain information on sex trafficking in the Gainesville, Georgia community. The script was presented as a staged reading for the final in the class.

Brenau University Women's Leadership Colloquium

Spring 2016

I was a guest singer for the conference.

Saints of Failure with Ryan Conarro

Fall 2016

A devised script performed and directed by Ryan Conarro. I was a research intern for project.

Services to the University, College, Department, and Community Leadership Roles

Student Ambassador

Gainesville Theatre Alliance a part of Brenau University 2016 – 2017

I served as a recruiter for prospective students in the theatre department. My duties included planning recruiting activities, events, and corresponding to with parents about the theatre program.

Historian for Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society

Alpha Beta Kappa Cast 2015 – 2016

I served as an event documenter. My duties included photographing events in the theatre department, researching and publicizing the lineage of Alpha Psi Omega, Alpha Beta Kappa cast, and running the website.

Philanthropy Chair for Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society

Alpha Beta Kappa Cast 2016 – 2017

I served as the liaison between the Alpha Psi Omega and the Gainesville community. My duties included creating and hosting events between the honor society and the community. I was also in charge of planning annual cabarets. Entrance to the cabarets included canned good donations that went to the Atlanta Foodbank. I also coordinated letters to be sent from Alpha Psi Omega to servicemen and women deployed overseas during the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Resident Assistant

Brenau University Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

As resident assistant, I served as the monitor for the sorority house that I lived in during my junior of college. My duties included making sure the building was up to safety codes, and the students/residents were following university rules and procedures.

Box Office Supervisor

University of Southern Mississippi Fall 2017 – Spring 2019

As a box office supervisor, I was in charge of theatre practicum students working in the box office. My duties included scheduling students' work hours, training students on how to use the software system, tracking students' grades, and handling with customer service.

Honors, Awards and Nominations

Outstanding graduate student of the year

University of Southern Mississippi Spring 2020

Award by the faculty and staff of the University of the Theatre department

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region IV

Nomination for Directing

Production *Metamorphoses* produced by University of Southern Mississippi April 2020

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region IV

Nomination for Directing

Production *Gem of the Ocean* produced by University of Southern Mississippi October 2019

Featured in VoyageATL Magazine

ShoutOut series June 2020

Featured in VoyageATL Magazine

Hidden Gem series January 2019

First winner of Brenau's Got Talent Spring 2015

Singing performance of "They just keep Moving the Line"
from the television show SMASH

Professional Affiliations

National New Play Network

Actor's Express Producer in Residence October 2020 – Present Day

NNPN established its Producers in Residence program to support season-long residencies at NNPN Core Member theaters for those who wish dedicate their careers (or the next phase of their careers) to the creation and production of new work. Selected producers are given a home within a professional theater in which they can supplement their skills, increase their knowledge of the day to day operations of a company focused on new work, and be introduced as theater-makers to a community. My work specifically included interacting with new playwrights, Atlanta based artist, and cultivating inventive opportunities to bring their work to the Actor's Express stage.

Alpha Lamda Delta

Brenau University Chapter Spring 2014

An academic honor society that recognizes scholastic excellence in the first year at a college or university.

Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society

Alpha Beta Kappa Cast 2015 – present

A National Theatre Honor Society for participants in collegiate theatre.

Professional References

Louis Rackoff, Head of MFA Directing Program

louis.rackoff@usm.edu

Robin Aronson, Professor of Voice and Acting

robin.aronson@usm.edu

Lundeana Thomas, Professor Emeritus, Director

lundeana.thomas@louisville.edu

Monica Hayes, Professor of Theatre, Head of Performance,

monica.hayes@usm.edu

Jon Ludwig, Artistic Director at the Center for Puppetry Arts

jonludwig@puppet.org

Elisa Carlson, Professor of Voice and Movement

elisa.carlson@ung.edu