

ALISON M. MAHONEY

Department of Theatre Arts
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EDUCATION

- 2026
(expected) University of Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Ph.D., Theatre & Performance Studies
Immersive Practice Credential: Disability Artistry
Dissertation: “Nonspeaking: Performances of Crip Collectivity”
(Committee: Patrick McKelvey, Michelle Granshaw, Kathleen George, Hershini Bhana Young)
- 2020 Ulster University: Derry, Northern Ireland (Magee Campus)
M.A. with Distinction, Contemporary Performance Practice
Thesis: “Sensory Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences During COVID-19”
- 2014 Northwestern University: Evanston, Illinois, USA
B.S., Theatre & Gender Studies
Theatre for Young Audiences concentration
Summa cum laude

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**External**

- 2024 Dwight Conquergood Award, Performance Studies International
- 2021 Performance Studies Focus Group Emerging Scholar, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- 2021 Theatre History Focus Group Debut Panelist, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- 2019 George J. Mitchell Scholarship, US-Ireland Alliance
- 2019 Winnifred Ward Award for Outstanding New Children’s Theatre Company (Received on behalf of Bluelaces Theater Company as Artistic Director), American Alliance for Theatre and Education

Internal

- 2024 Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
- 2024 Women’s International Club/Nationality Rooms & Intercultural Exchange Program Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh
- 2024 International Studies Fund Grant, University of Pittsburgh
- 2024 European Studies Center Graduate Student Professional Development Grant, University of Pittsburgh
- 2024 European Studies Center Graduate Student Small Grant, University of Pittsburgh
- 2024 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

- 2023 Department of Theatre Arts Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh
- 2023 Humanities Engage: Film Pittsburgh Summer Immersive Fellow, University of Pittsburgh
- 2023 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
- 2022 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021 Dick Thornburgh Disability Service Award, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021 Humanities Engage: CO/LAB Theater Group Summer Immersive Fellow, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021 Grad Expo Outstanding Presenter Prize: “Queer/Crip Intersections: Drag Syndrome’s Collective De/Politicization of Disability,” University of Pittsburgh
- 2020 Provost Humanities Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

PUBLISHED:

- 2024 “‘Severe’ Sensory Theatre: Building Relational Disability Politics During UK COVID Lockdowns.” *Theatre Research International* 42, no. 2 (2024): 171-87.

SUBMITTED:

- 2024 “‘This Song is a Failing’: Learning Disability, Error, and Access Aesthetics in *Corsicana*.” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, submitted September 25.

Journal Articles (Not Peer-Reviewed)

PUBLISHED:

- 2021 “Oily Cart’s *Space to Be*: Exploring the Carer’s Role in Sensory Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences during COVID-19,” in “Notes from the Field: Remembering Times of Crisis,” *Theatre Survey* 62, no. 3 (September 2021): 19-22.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers Presented

- 2024 “Midget Village on Strike: Collective Action at the Chicago Century of Progress International Exposition,” Performance Studies International, London.
- 2024 “Building Cultures of Access in University Theatre: Reflections on *Corsicana* at the University of Pittsburgh,” Mid-America Theatre Conference, Madison.
- 2023 “Building Cultures of Access in University Theatre: Reflections on *Corsicana* at the University of Pittsburgh,” Disability Performance Cultures Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research Conference, Providence.

- 2023 “Staging Freak Performers in a New Disability Theatre: John Belluso's *Traveling Skin*,” Performance and Disability Working Group, International Federation for Theatre Research, Accra [virtual].
- 2022 “The ‘Original Siamese Twins’ Across Time: Casting and Embodiment in John Belluso’s *Traveling Skin*,” Disability Performance Cultures Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research Conference, New Orleans.
- 2022 “Devising Access Intimacy: Lessons from Oily Cart’s ‘Un-Cancellable’ Season.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Detroit.
- 2021 “Performing Fetal Drag: Drag Syndrome’s Queer/Crip (Re)Imagining in Grand Rapids.” Queer Nightlife Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research Conference, San Diego.
- 2021 “Oily Cart’s ‘Un-Cancellable Season’: Sensory Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences During Covid-19.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference [virtual].
*Performance Studies Focus Group Emerging Scholar Panelist
- 2021 “Embodying the Eugenic Atlantic: Audience Engagement with Minstrel Performance.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference [virtual].
*Theatre History Focus Group Debut Panelist
- 2021 “Oily Cart’s ‘Un-Cancellable Season’: Sensory Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences During Covid-19.” Performance and Disability Working Group, International Federation for Theatre Research Conference [virtual].
- 2021 “Queer/Crip Intersections: Drag Syndrome’s Collective De/Politicization of Disability.” University of Pittsburgh Grad Expo.
- 2021 “Oily Cart’s ‘Un-Cancellable Season’: Sensory Theatre for Neurodiverse Audiences During Covid-19.” UCLA Theatre & Performance Studies Graduate Student Conference [virtual].

Workshops Presented

- 2023 “PittStages Access Training.” University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh.
- 2019 “Lincoln Center’s Big Umbrella Festival.” The University of Kent’s Autism Arts Festival, Canterbury.
- 2019 “Snapshot: Job Training for High School Students with Developmental Disabilities.” The Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability, Denver.
- 2019 “Inclusive Teaching Techniques for Individuals with Dementia and Caregivers: Two-Day Lab” Co-organized with Miranda Hoffner. Lincoln Center Education’s Summer Forum, New York.
- 2019 “Lincoln Center’s Access Ambassadors: Self-Reflection and Peer Review Practices for Teens with Developmental Disabilities.” Arts in Education Roundtable’s Face to Face Conference, New York.
- 2019 “Lincoln Center’s Access Ambassadors: Careers in the Arts for Teens with Developmental Disabilities.” Berklee College of Music’s ABLE Assembly, Boston.
- 2018 “Under the Big Umbrella: Autism and the Arts: Two-Day Lab.” Co-organized with Paul Brewster. Lincoln Center Education’s Summer Forum, New York.
- 2017 “Arts Accessibility in New York City.” Seesaw Theatre’s Inclusive Theatre Festival, Northwestern University, Evanston.

Panels Organized

- 2023 “The Praxis of Care: Performing Access Intimacy and Asserting Aesthetic Agency in Intersectional Dance Communities” (panel moderator). Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Austin.
- 2022 Performance Studies Focus Group Emerging Scholars Panel. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Detroit.
- 2019 “Beyond the Relaxed Performance: Expanding Theatrical Opportunities.” Co-organized with Becky Leifman, Aliza Greenberg, and Sara Morgulis. The Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability, Denver.
- 2019 “Cultural Organizations as Places of Opportunity for Neurodiverse Individuals.” Co-organized with Michelle Gorenstein, Aliza Greenberg, Vincent Mazzone, Sara Morgulis, and Constance Stienon. CUNY Neurodiversity Conference, New York.
- 2019 “Creating Inclusive Spaces.” Mark Morris Dance Group, Brooklyn.
- 2018 “Building a Pipeline: Accessible Training in the Arts to Build Inclusive Organizations.” Co-organized with Rhoda Bernard, Aliza Greenberg, Arielle Lever, and Sara Morgulis. The Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability, Atlanta.
- 2017 “Supporting Transitions: Creating Meaningful Internships for Individuals with Autism and Developmental Disabilities” Co-organized with Katie Fanning, Holly Harmon, Aliza Greenberg, and Morgan Spatola. The Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability, Austin.
- 2017 “Supporting Transitions: Including and Engaging Adults with Autism and Developmental Disabilities” Co-organized with Aliza Greenberg. Arts in Education Roundtable’s Face to Face Conference, New York.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- Spring 2023 Enjoying Performances: Introduction to Performance Studies (University of Pittsburgh)
- Fall 2022 Contemporary Global Stages: Disability and Performance on the Global Stage (University of Pittsburgh)
- Spring 2022 Introduction to Performance (University of Pittsburgh)

Teaching Assisting

- Spring 2024 Queer Theatre Now: History, Politics, Theory, Aesthetics (University of Pittsburgh, Professor Patrick McKelvey)
- Fall 2021 Enjoying Performances (University of Pittsburgh, Instructor: Andrea Gunoe)

Invited Talks

- 2024 Theatre for Young Audiences (Undergraduate Seminar)
Instructor: Renata Townsend, Monclair State University, October 22.

- 2022 Inclusive Practices in the Arts (Graduate Seminar)
Instructor: Aliza Greenberg, City College of New York (CCNY), November 1.
- 2022 Theatre for Young Audiences (Undergraduate Seminar)
Instructor: Renata Townsend, Montclair State University, October 11.
- 2021 Inclusive Practices in the Arts (Graduate Seminar)
Instructor: Aliza Greenberg, City College of New York (CCNY), November 11.
- 2020 Inclusive Practices in the Arts (Graduate Seminar)
Instructor: Aliza Greenberg, City College of New York (CCNY), November 4.

Non-University Teaching

- 2024 Project Manager & Teaching Artist, Evolve Coaching Future Camp, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015-19 Teaching Artist, Bluelaces Theater Company, New York, NY
- 2016-19 Teaching Artist, CO/LAB Theater Group, New York, NY
- 2015-16 Teaching Artist, Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, New York, NY
- 2014-15 Teaching Artist, Yachad - National Jewish Council for Disabilities, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013 Education Intern, Lifeline Theater, Chicago, IL
- 2012 Education Intern, Children's Theater Company, Minneapolis, MN

THEATRE PRODUCTION

- 2025 Access Coordinator, *Sensorium Ex* (dir. Jay Scheib & Jerron Herman)
VisionIntoArt & Beth Morrison Productions, Common Senses Festival, Omaha, NE, May.
- 2023 Director, *Corsicana* by Will Arbery
PittStages (University of Pittsburgh), Pittsburgh, PA, November.
- 2022 Director, Staged Reading: *Very Berry Dead* by José Perez IV
PittStages (University of Pittsburgh), Pittsburgh, PA, October.
- 2021 Assistant Director, *Appalachian Paris* (dir. Cynthia Croot)
PittStages (University of Pittsburgh), Pittsburgh, PA, April.
- 2020 Associate Director, *Hamlet: Prince of Derry* (dir. Conall Morrison)
Stage Beyond/RTÉ, Derry, Northern Ireland, July.
- 2020 Devising company member, *Bad News* (dir. Karl Tizzard-Fleischer)
Derry, Northern Ireland, September - December.
- 2020 Original Concept, *SUDS*
Bluelaces Theater Company/Lincoln Center Education, New York, NY, February.
- 2018 Original Concept, Artistic Consultant, *SUDS*
Bluelaces Theater Company/American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, MA, June.

- 2018 Director, *SUDS*
Bluelaces Theater Company, Brooklyn, NY, February.
- 2018 Associate Director, *Up & Away* (dir. Leigh Walter)
Trusty Sidekick Theater Company/Lincoln Center's Big Umbrella Festival, New York, NY, April.
- 2017 Director, *Out There!*
Bluelaces Theater Company, Brooklyn, NY, May.
- 2017 Autism Resource Specialist, *Campfire* (dir. Spencer Lott)
Trusty Sidekick Theater Company/Lincoln Center Education, New York, NY, April.
- 2016 Actor & Deviser, *Please Bring Balloons* workshop (dir. Sara Morgulis)
New York City Children's Theater, New York, NY, October.
- 2016 Director, *Out There!*
Bluelaces Theater Company/University Settlement, New York, NY, May.
- 2015 Assistant Director & Understudy, *Up & Away* (dir. Jonathan Shmidt Chapman)
Trusty Sidekick Theater Company/Lincoln Center Education, New York, NY, April.
- 2014 Actor, *And Then Came Tango* (dir. Lindz Amer)
New York Fringe Festival, New York, NY, August.

ARTS ADMINISTRATION

- 2014-19 Co-Founder & Artistic Director
Bluelaces Theater Company, New York, NY.
- 2017-19 Manager, Accessibility
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY
- 2015-17 Family Programming Assistant
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY
- 2016-18 Project Manager, Supporting Transitions
Museum, Arts, and Culture Access Consortium (MAC), New York, NY

CONSULTING

- 2022-23 Big Umbrella Festival Accessibility Consultant, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
- 2022-23 Disability Justice Education Project, Museum, Arts, and Culture Access Consortium (MAC)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2023-24 Health Insurance Task Force, Graduate & Professional Student Government, University of Pittsburgh
- 2023-24 Teaching Mentor, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh

- 2022-23 Budget Committee, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2022-23 Vice President of Communications, Eleanora Duse Society (Theatre Arts Graduate Student Organization), Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021-22 Call to Action Committee (formerly DEI Committee), Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021-22 Business Manager, Eleanora Duse Society (Theatre Arts Graduate Student Organization), Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh
- 2020-21 Season Selection Committee, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2022-24 Member at Large, Performance Studies Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- 2021-22 Graduate Student Representative, Performance Studies Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2023 Creating a Culture of Access Seminar
Jessie Male, V. Jo Hsu, Jay Dolmage, Bojana Coklyat, Amy Jo Burns, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2023 Audio Description for Dance Summer Workshops
Krishna Washburn, Dark Room Ballet, New York, NY.
- 2023 Humanities Engage Summer Workshop
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2019 Disability Arts New York (DANT) Bootcamp
Simi Linton & Kevin Gotkin, New York, NY.
- 2018 Training Institute for Artists and Administrators in Creative Aging
The Creative Center at University Settlement, New York, NY.
- 2014 Sensory Theatre Training
Tim Webb & Claire de Loon (Oily Cart), New York, NY.

LANGUAGES

Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking facility with Spanish
 Basic reading, writing, and speaking facility with French

AREAS OF INTEREST

Disability/Neurodiversity and Performance, Disability Activism, Crip Theory, Freak Studies, Queer & Feminist Studies, Contemporary Performance, Sensory Theatre, Immersive & Participatory Theatre, Theatre for Young Audiences, Infrastructural Performance Studies

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Performance Studies International. Member since 2024.

American Society for Theatre Research. Member since 2021.

Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Member since 2020.

International Federation for Theatre Research. Member since 2020.

Upfront Performance Network, London, UK. Member since 2014.