

Payne Banister

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EDUCATION

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| August 2027
(expected) | Ph.D., Theatre & Performance Studies
University of Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Dissertation: “Messy Pleasure: Performances of Sexual Desire at the Gay Bathhouse” |
| 2022 | M.A., Theater and Performance Studies
Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Washington University in St. Louis: St. Louis, Missouri, USA
Thesis: “The Work of Working It: Exploring the Precarious Performance Labor of Drag Entertainers in St. Louis”
Advisor: Joanna Dee Das |
| 2015 | B.A., Theater and Drama
Concentration in Dramatic Theory and Criticism
Indiana University: Bloomington, Indiana, USA |

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

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| 2024 | Banister, Payne. “Masquerading Resistance: The Parasitic Tactics of the Mandrake Ball.” <i>Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism</i> 38, no. 2 (Spring 2024): 87–100. |
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HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

External

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| 2024 | Performance Studies Focus Group Emerging Scholar, Association for Theatre in Higher Education |
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Internal

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| 2026 | Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh |
| 2026 | Theatre Arts Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh |
| 2026 | Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Award, University of Pittsburgh |
| 2026 | Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences Summer Graduate Writing Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh |

2025	Theatre Arts Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
2024	Department of Theatre Arts Graduate Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh
2024	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
2023	Humanities Engage Immersive Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
2023	Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
2022	John Jutkowitz Memorial Prize in Performing Arts Performing Arts Department, Washington University in St. Louis

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference Planning Experience

2026	Eleanora Duse Society's Graduate Student Symposium Chair of Planning Committee University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
2025	Performance Studies Focus Group's Emerging Scholars Panel Graduate Student Representative and Session Coordinator Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Online Conference
2025	Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization's Graduate Expo Planning Committee Member University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
2025	Eleanora Duse Society's Graduate Student Symposium Chair of Planning Committee Theater Arts Department, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
2024	Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization's Graduate Expo Chair of Planning Committee University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
2023	"Theatre Archives as a Site of Hope: American Theatre Archive Project Workshop". Co-Convener with Ken Cerniglia American Society for Theatre Research Conference, Providence, RI

Papers Presented

2026	"To Question Nostalgia and Think of Mourning as a Joyful Thing": Staging Queer Temporality and Performing Anemoia in <i>Bathhouse.pptx</i> "
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Panel: “Other Bodies”
Mid-America Theatre Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

- 2025 Staging Queer Temporality and Nostalgia in *Bathhouse.pptx*
Eleanora Duse Society’s Graduate Student Symposium
Theater Arts Department, University of Pittsburgh, PA
- 2024 “Thicc Description: Cruising Toward a Fat/Crip/Queer Phenomenology in the Bathhouse Stairwell”
Performance Studies Focus Group Emerging Scholars Panel
Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Atlanta, GA
- 2023 “The Werk of Working It: Drag Entertainers’ (Precarious) Labors of Love”
Working Group: “Rethinking Potentiality”
American Society for Theatre Research Conference, Providence, RI
- 2022 “Masquerading Resistance at the Mandrake Ball.”
Working Group: “Playing in the Ruins.”
American Society for Theatre Research Conference, New Orleans, LA
- 2021 “Mom Jeans: Critical Camp and Performances of Critique and Identity.”
Working Group: “Ritual Reversals”
American Society for Theatre Research Conference, San Diego, CA

GUEST LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Invited Teaching Presentation

- Spring 2026 “Reza Abdoh’s Theatre of Visceral Connection”
Ways of Seeing: Theatre History
Instructor: Ryan Yu
School of Drama, Carnegie Mellon University
- Fall 2025 “Reflecting on the Challenges and Hopes in staging *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*”
Introduction to Performance
Instructor: Mohammad Karambeigi
Theatre Arts Department, University of Pittsburgh
- Fall 2025 “Staging Adaptations of *Iphigenia*”
Greek Tragedy and Modern Responses
Instructor: Andrew Korzeniewski
Classics Department, University of Pittsburgh
- Spring 2025 “Drag Performance”
Social Theory
Instructor: Joshua Warren

Sociology Department, University of Pittsburgh

- Spring 2025 “Queer Nightlife”
 Queer Performance, Activism, and Resistance
 Instructor: Will Bonfiglio
 American Culture Studies Department, Washington University in St. Louis
- Spring 2023 “Ballroom Culture and Performance”
 Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies course
 Instructor: Courtney Colligan
 Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- Spring 2023 “Contemporary (Mainstream) Drag Performance”
 Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies course
 Instructor: Courtney Colligan
 Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- Panel Discussions**
- Fall 2026 “Navigating Graduate School at Pitt”
 Panelist
 Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
- Summer 2026 “Navigating Graduate School Today: A Roundtable”
 Panelist
 American Theatre and Drama Society Post-Conference
- Fall 2024 “An Evening with Alaska 5000”
 Moderator/Interviewer
 Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh

TEACHING

University of Pittsburgh

Introduction to Dramatic Arts (Instructor of Record: Spring 2025)

- A survey course that introduces major and non-major theater students to dramatic script analysis (~24 students)

World Theatre History 1: 500 BCE-1640 (Teaching Assistant: Fall 2024 and Spring 2026)

- Part of a three-course series covering global perspectives on theater histories for theater majors and non-majors. (40-50 students)
- Taught classes on ancient Greek comedy and Japanese noh theatre

Global Stages: Queer Nightlife (Instructor of Record: Spring 2024)

- Special topics undergraduate global studies course, which I designed around the topic of queer nightlife. (15-20 students)

Enjoying Performances (Teaching Assistant: Spring 2023) (Instructor of Record: Fall 2023)

- Performance studies survey course for theatre majors and nonmajors (~40 students)

Introduction to Performance (Instructor of Record: Fall 2022, 2 sections)

- Introductory level acting for theatre majors and non-majors (~16 students per section)

Washington University in St. Louis

Courses

Introduction to Theater Production (Teaching Assistant: Spring 2022)

Movement and Meaning: Dance in a Global Context (Teaching Assistant: Fall 2021)

Workshops

Theater for Social Change Workshop (Facilitator): McClure High School, St. Louis, MO (Spring 2022)

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh

2025-2026 AY	Graduate Student Representative: Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor of History, Literature, and Criticism, Department of Theater Arts
2024-2026 AY	Graduate Teaching Mentor: Department of Theater Arts
2025-2026 AY	President: Eleanora Duse Society, Department of Theatre Arts
Summer 2025	Administrative Assistant: Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
Summer 2025	Chair: Summer Research Grants Committee, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
2024-2025 AY	Member: Graduate Student Expo Committee, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
2024-2025 AY	Member: Bylaws Committee, Graduate and Professional Student Government
2024-2025 AY	Vice President of Communications: Eleanora Duse Society, Department of Theatre Arts
2024-2025 AY	President: Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
Summer 2023	Member: Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts
2023-2024 AY	Chair: Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Expo Committee, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization

2023-2024 AY	Vice President and Graduate Student Expo Committee Chair: Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization
2023-2024 AY	President: Elenora Duse Society, Department of Theatre Arts
2022-2023 AY	Member: Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Department of Theatre Arts
2022-2023 AY	Member: Call to Action Committee, Department of Theatre Arts
2022-2023 AY	Department Representative: Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization

Washington University in St. Louis

Fall 2022	Discussion Co-facilitator (Performing Arts Department): Graduate Student Mentored Teaching Orientation, Center for Teaching and Learning
2021-2022	Graduate Student Representative: Performing Arts Department's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group
2021-2022	Performing Arts Department Graduate Student Senator: Graduate Student Senate
2021-2022	Member: Washington University Graduate Council
2021	Member: University Student Affairs Advisory Board

PERSONAL SERVICE

2025-2026	Member at Large, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Performance Studies Focus Group
2024-2025	Graduate Representative, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Performance Studies Focus Group
2024	Graduate Administrative Assistant, American Theatre and Drama Society's First Book Bootcamp
Summer 2023	Humanities Engage Fellow, Pittsburgh Queer History Project
2022-2024	Steering Committee Member, American Theater Archive Project
2019-2023	Assistant Literary Manager, Constellation Stage and Screen (Formerly Bloomington Playwrights Project)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jan-Dec 2021 Exploring Practices in the Classroom. Center for Teaching and Learning, Washington University in St. Louis
Completed a year-long workshop for graduate students on developing pedagogical approaches.

CREATIVE RESEARCH

Theater Production Work

Fall 2025 Director. *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* by Ellen McLaughlin. University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2024 Dramaturg. *Morning Reckoning* by Kelly Trumbull. Directed by Ashley Martin. University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2024 Assistant Director: *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl. Directed by Kelly Trumbull. University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2023 Assistant Director: *Cheating Fate* by Karim Chebli. Directed by Karim Chebli. University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2022 Assistant Director: *Bull in a China Shop*. Directed by Annamaria Pileggi. Washington University in St. Louis

Drag Performance (Selected)

2016-2020 Cast Member/Artist in Residence: The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2020 Co-Producer and Co-Host: "Fangirl Friday," The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2016-2020 Guest Artist (annual): "Hallowqueen," The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2016-2020 Guest Artist (annual): "The Disney (Inspired) Show," The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2019 Co-Producer and Co-Host: "Fame," The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2018-2019 Guest Artist (annual): "Bloomington Pridefest," Bloomington Pride, Bloomington, IN

2018 Guest Artist: "Cirque Berserk," The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2018 Co-Producer and Co-Host: "Drag Race: The New Class," The Back Door, Bloomington, IN

2016 Co-Producer: “Argenta’s Drag Race: Season 3,” The Back Door,
Bloomington, IN

AREAS OF INTEREST

Historiography; Queer and Feminist Studies; Contemporary Performance; Queer Nightlife;
Popular Entertainment; Queer Performance Aesthetics; In-Yer-Face Theatre; Performance
Activism; Temporality; Queer Avant-Garde Theatre; Queer Sexuality; Disability Studies

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Theatre and Drama Society. Member since 2026
Mid-America Theatre Conference. Member since 2026
Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Member since 2024
American Society for Theater Research. Member since 2020