

# CYNTHIA CROOT

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

**Columbia University**  
New York, NY

**Master of Fine Arts in Directing, 2001**  
Graduate School of the Arts, Theatre Program

**Washington College**  
Chestertown, MD

**Bachelor of Arts in Drama, 1991**  
Drama Department

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Department of Theatre Arts**  
Chair, Spring 2022-present  
Graduate Faculty, 2017-present  
Associate Professor, 2017-present  
Head of MFA Program 2018-2019  
Head of Performance, 2012-present  
Assistant Professor, 2011-2017

Introduction to Performance  
Acting I / Basic Acting  
Directing I  
Directing II  
Graduate Directing  
Seminar: Theatre and War  
Theatre and Collaboration  
Devising and Composition for the Stage

**Whitman College**  
**Drama Department**  
Assistant Professor, 2007-2011

Acting I and II  
Directing  
Voice and Movement  
Theory and Performance  
Theatre in the Arab World

**Bryn Mawr College**  
**Theatre Department**  
VAP, Fall 1998

Acting I  
Viewpoints Training

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### DIRECTING (\* Denotes New Works and World Premieres)

#### Touring Works and Reprised Productions

*Bad Activist* by Mai Khoi, Ben Swanton, Cynthia Croot.\*

An autobiographical piece performed by Vietnamese activist and musician Mai Khoi

2022 – Joe's Pub, The Joseph Papp Public Theatre, New York, NY

2022 – Black Mountain Institute, Area 15, Las Vegas, NV

2022 – TESOL International Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

2022 – Perry Traditional Academy, Pittsburgh, PA

2021 – Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

2021 – University of Pittsburgh, Pitt Arts, Pittsburgh, PA

2021 – Jazz Poetry Festival, Pittsburgh, PA

2021 – Baldwin High School, Pittsburgh, PA

2021 – Sewickley Academy, Pittsburgh, PA

- 2021 – The Oslo Freedom Forum  
 2021 – “Artful Wednesdays,” University of Pittsburgh
- RECOIL*, by Cynthia Croot and ensemble, a devised work exploring US gun culture.  
 2019 – ACCelerate Festival, Smithsonian Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.  
 2018 – University of Pittsburgh, PA.\*
- Mirror Butterfly*, a jazz opera Composed by Ben Barson, Libretto by Ruth Margraff\*  
 2018 – Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Washington D.C.  
 2018 – National Performance Network, Kelly Strayhorn Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA  
 2018 – CSA Series, New Hazlett Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA
- One Large*, Created by Cindy Croot and Joy Katz of collective Ifyoureallyloveme  
 2017 - Actor’s Theatre of Louisville, KY  
 2016 - TCG (Theatre Communications Group) Conference, Washington D.C.  
 2015 - Open Engagement, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA\*
- The Millay Sisters*, by Cindy Croot, Joan Jubett, Rachel Murdy, and Margi Sharp  
 2019 - Saco River Theatre, Bar Mills, ME  
 2019 - Arts Farmington, Farmington, ME  
 2018 - 53 Above Broadway, New York, NY  
 2018 – Steepletop (the home of Edna St. Vincent Millay) Austerlitz, NY  
 2016 - The Vanderbilt Republic, Gowanus Loft, Brooklyn, NY  
 2013 - Stonington Opera House, Stonington, ME  
 2010 - Orlando Cabaret Festival, Orlando, FL  
 2009 - Magis Theatre Company, Abingdon Theater Arts Center, New York, NY  
 2008 - Ancram Opera House, Ancram, NY  
 2007 - Don't Tell Mama Cabaret, New York, NY\*
- Irina’s Birthday Party*, by Cindy Croot with Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant  
 2013 - Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY  
 2013 - Mother Lodge Festival Louisville, KY  
 2012 – North American Culture Lab, Highland Lake, NY\*
- Venus*, by Suzan-Lori Parks  
 2014 - University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
 2007 - Staged reading featuring Andre De Shields, Jayne Houdyshell, and Arliss Howard. Harlem Stage at the Gatehouse, New York, NY  
 2002 - The Windybrow Theater, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 2002 - The Saartjie Baartman Women’s Center, Cape Town, South Africa  
 2001 - Staged reading featuring Tim Robbins, Kathleen Chalfant and Joe Morton. Joseph Papp Public Theatre, New York, NY
- Little West 12th Night*, By Peter Lettre and Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant  
 2012 - Underground Zero Festival, New York, NY  
 2010 - Site-specific performances in New York's Meat Packing District,

including Brass Monkey, Highline, Standard Hotel, New York, NY\*

*Buzz*, adapted by Cindy Croot and Sophia Skiles from “The War Lover” by John Hersey

2007 - NoPassport Conference, CUNY Grad Center, New York, NY

2001 - Performance Space 122, New York, NY

2001 - Ontological-Hysteric Theatre, New York, NY\*

*Isadora... No Apologies*, by Andrew Frank. Created by Lori Bellilove.

2004 - Mills College, Berkeley, CA

2004 - Symphony Space, New York, NY

*Three Sisters*, by Anton Chekhov, translation by Paul Schmidt

2002 - Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY

2002 - Chekhov Now Festival, Connelly Theatre, New York, NY

*Nightwood*, adapted by Cindy Croot, from the novel “Nightwood” by Djuna Barnes

1999 - Columbia University, New York, NY

1998 - *Nightwatch*. New York International Fringe, New York, NY\*

### **Live and Recorded Video Productions**

2021 *Melwezzle South*, a semi-autobiographical screenplay about disability and social stigma by Megan Moodie. Zoom recording screened at the American Association of Anthropology Conference at UC Santa Cruz.

*Bad Activist Video*, by Mai Khoi, Ben Swanton, and Cynthia Croot. An autobiographical performance piece performed by Vietnamese activist and musician Mai Khoi, recorded at City of Asylum, Pittsburgh, PA.

### **Traditional Works for the Stage**

2021 *We Crossed the River*, libretto by Angie Cruz, music by Eric Moe. Opera/newmusic staging of “Testimonios” given by children detained at the southern border of the U.S. Recorded at City of Asylum, Pittsburgh, PA. Livestreamed to an international audience.

2018 *Hawaiian Voices*. By Peter Lettre, Center for Performance Research, NYC

2016 *Hair*. By James Rado and Gerome Ragni, and music by Galt MacDermot. University of Pittsburgh, PA

2015 *Curse of the Starving Class*. By Sam Shepard. University of Pittsburgh, PA  
*No Pressure*. By Matt Henderson. BUS 10, Bricolage Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA\*

2014 *The Ecologists*. By Gab Cody. Swan Day, No Name Players, New Hazlett Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA\*

*Lawrenceville 91*. By Molly Rice. Bricolage Urban Scrawl (BUS) 9, Bricolage Theatre Company, New Hazlett Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA\*

- 2013 *Seminar*. By Theresa Rebeck. Perseverance Theatre, Juneau, AK
- 2011 *Much Ado About Nothing*. By Shakespeare. Stonington Opera House, ME
- Funnyhouse of the Negro*. By Adrienne Kennedy. In collaboration with Esther Terry. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2010 *Women in a Holy Mess*. By Ai Nagai, translated by Andy Bragen. Staged reading, U.S. premiere, Japan Society, New York, NY
- The Sea*. By Edward Bond. Whitman College, WA
- The Secret Lives of Coats*. By Stephanie Fleischmann and Christina Campanella. Whitman College, WA\*
- 2008 *Our Town*. By Thornton Wilder. Whitman College, WA
- Apparition*. By Anne Washburn. Whitman College, WA
- 2007 *Julius Caesar*. By William Shakespeare. Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Boulder, CO
- The Ghost Sonata*. By August Strindberg. Whitman College, WA
- 2006 *Scenes from the Last Five Years*. By Tommy Smith. Theaters Against War, Culture Project Impact Festival, Baruch College, New York, NY\*
- Softcops*. By Caryl Churchill. Staged reading hosted by the International Foucault Society, The New School, New York, NY
- Empty Chalices*. By Judy Veramendi. Staged reading, Urban Stages Theater Company, New York, NY
- Sky/Nikita Mitskevitch*. By Andrei Rui. Staged reading from an Evening of Belarussian Plays, Culture Project, Baruch College, New York, NY
- The Three Hagi Sisters*. By Ai Nagai, translated by Loren Edelson. Staged reading, U.S. premiere, Japan Society, New York, NY
- 2005 *The Details of Silence*. By Nathalie Handal. Nibras and the Mahrajan Al-Fan Festival of Arab Arts, Symphony Space, New York, NY\*
- Reading List*. By Susan Miller. Vital Signs Festival, Vital Theatre Company, McGinn Cazale Theatre, New York, NY
- The Winter's Tale*. By William Shakespeare. Colorado Shakespeare, Boulder, CO

- Spring Awakening*. By Frank Wedekind. Whitman College, WA
- 2004 *Ubu Roi*. By Alfred Jarry, adapted by Christopher Carter Sanderson. Staged reading for Theaters Against War (THAW), Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY
- 2003 *The Designated Mourner*. By Wallace Shawn. Staged reading for Theaters Against War (THAW), Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY
- 2002 *Act of the Possessed*. By Haroldo de Campos. Brazil, Body and Soul Exhibit, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
- The Grand Design*. By Susan Miller. Starring Marsha Mason. Brave New World: America Theatre Responds to 9/11. Town Hall, New York, NY\*
- 2001 *Uncle Vanya*. By Anton Chekhov, translation by Paul Schmidt. Connelly Theatre, New York, NY
- 2000 *Trust*. By Steven Dietz. Blue Sphere East, Raw Space, New York, NY
- Slangrivier*. By Nina Steiger. New York International Fringe, New York, NY\*
- The House of Blue Leaves*. By John Guare. Perseverance Theatre, Juneau, AK
- 1998 *Machinal*. By Sophie Treadwell. Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
- Dynamo*. By Eugene O'Neill. HERE Arts Center, New York, NY
- Chance*. Twelve poems written and selected by Mac Wellman. The House of Candles, New York, NY\*
- 1997 *Freak Show*. By Tara Knel. Adobe Theatre Co, Ohio Theatre, New York, NY\*
- Daddy*. By Kenneth Finkle. Horace Mann Theater, Columbia U., New York, NY\*
- Waiting*. By Tara Knel. Shapiro Theatre, Columbia U., New York, NY\*
- Shooter*. By Nathan Parker. Expanded Arts, New York, NY\*
- 1996 *Swans*. By Kara Manning. Horace Mann Theater, Columbia U., New York, NY\*
- Wolf at the Door*. By Eric Ehn. Café Voltaire, Chicago, IL
- 1995 *Offending the Audience*. By Peter Handke. Bailiwick Theatre, Chicago, IL
- The Dream Which Silenced Rock & Roll*. By Scott Modesto. Emerging Artists Project, Café Voltaire, Chicago, IL

- 1994 *White Money*. By Julie Jensen. Splitting Image, Theatre Project, Baltimore, MD  
*The Essential / Sacrifice / Women / Love*. By Denise Gantt. BICC Gallery, Baltimore, MD  
*Encounter on a Train*. Young Playwrights Festival, Center Stage, Baltimore, MD
- 1993 *Cabaret Verboten*. By Jeremy Lawrence. Axis Theater, Baltimore, MD  
*Largo Desolato*. By Vaclav Havel. Axis Theater, Baltimore, MD  
*I Could Sail Away*. Young Playwrights Festival, Center Stage, Baltimore, MD
- 1992 *The Devil's Takeover*. Young Playwrights Festival, Center Stage, Baltimore, MD  
*Midsummer Night's Dream*. By William Shakespeare. New Summer Theater at Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD

#### **Devised, Adapted, and Original Works**

- 2018 *A Snowball's Chance* Company-written. Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant. Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, OH\*
- 2016 *9AM*. By Cindy Croot and Ensemble. Devised workshop, part one of "RECOIL," University of Pittsburgh, PA\*
- 2014 *Border Car*. Conceived by Cindy Croot with Dror Yaron. Part of Israeli, Palestinian, and U.S. exhibition "Sites of Passage: Borders, Walls & Citizenship." Curated by Tavia LaFollette /Art Up and the Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA\*
- Dis Place*. By Maureen Monaghan. Bricolage Theatre, Pittsburgh PA\*
- Illyria/Loisaida*. By Peter Lettre and Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant. University Settlement, New York, NY\*
- The Herald Angels Fling*. Company-written. Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant. Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, OH\*
- 2013 *City of Asylum*. Conceived and created by Cindy Croot with writers Khet Mar (Burma), Israel Centena (Venezuela), Huang Xiang (China), and Horacio Castellanos Moya (El Salvador). University of Pittsburgh, PA\*
- 2012 *The Secret Social*. By Cindy Croot and Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, OH\*
- 2011 *Home for the Hollandaise*. Company-written. Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant. Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, OH\*

- The Mothership Landing*. Company-written. Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant. In collaboration with Paul Bargetto, Irondale Center, New York, NY
- The Walls*. Conceived and created by Cindy Croot. Whitman College, WA\*
- 2010 *Feast of Miracles*. Company-written. Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant. Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland, OH
- Midsummer Feast*. Company-written. Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant, American Repertory Theater, Club Oberon, Cambridge, MA
- 2009 *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*. Adapted by Cindy Croot, from “Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith,” by Gina Nahai. Whitman College, WA\*
- 2008 *Whispering Voices on the Phone*. Based on “Apparition” by Anne Washburn. With video artist Kristen Hutchinson. Blackfish Gallery, Portland, OR\*
- 2007 *Insurgency/Counterinsurgency, a Collaborative Weekend of Art-Making and Policy Making*. Company-created. Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and School of the Arts, part of the Columbia University Forum on Political Violence, New York, NY\*
- 2006 *Cold*. By Liz Blocker and the Present Tense Theatre Ensemble. Bank Street Theatre, New York, NY\*
- 2004 *A Teacup Full of Vodka*. Adapted from the short stories of Anton Chekhov by Cindy Croot. Chekhov Now Festival, Connelly Theatre, New York, NY\*
- War Bride*. By Cindy Croot. Bric-a-Brac Series, Brick Theatre, Brooklyn NY\*
- 2000 *Mata Hari*. By Cindy Croot, Rebecca Herman, Alvaro Mendoza and Aida Croal. La Mama First Street Theatre, New York, New York\*
- 1998 *Hamlet and Ophelia*. Adapted by Cindy Croot from “Hamlet” by William Shakespeare. Columbia University, New York, NY\*
- Workshops and Developmental Readings**
- 2019 *Recoil / South Africa*. Workshops on gun culture in South Africa and solo performance development in collaboration with Nicholas Spagnoletti
- Market Lab, Johannesburg, South Africa
  - The Drama Factory, Cape Town, South Africa
  - Theatre Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017 *Sea Point Story*. Opera by Bongani Ndodonda-Breen and Nicholas Spagnoletti, workshop in cooperation with the Eastern Cape Opera Company, Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa\*

*99 Faces of God*, Glenn Odom, Battersea Arts Center, London, UK\*, a newly devised work exploring the lives of Syrian refugees, hosted by Roehampton College, London, UK.

*Hawaiian Voices*. By Peter Lettre, New York, NY

*Irina's Birthday*. By Cindy Croot, New York, NY

*Tar Beach*. By Tammy Ryan, University of Pittsburgh, PA

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## SOUND PROJECTS

2021 *Appalachian Paris*, an historic walking tour of Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, devised in collaboration with University of Pittsburgh graduate and undergraduate students.

2018 *OverHear*, a collaboration between Ifyoureallyloveme and IonSound Project, was a series of site-specific sonic events and mini-performances throughout the city of Pittsburgh, PA, culminating in a live concert.\*

2009 *Venus on Radio* with TIRENA Theatre and The Women's Room, Zagreb, Croatia. Gathered audio material for documentary on contemporary trafficking.

2005-7 *THAW (Theaters Against War) on the Air*. Conceived and created by Cindy Croot with THAW, hosted by Janet Coleman on WBAI. A series of shows airing on 99.5 Pacifica Radio in New York, NY, in response to the Iraq War. Collaborators included: Butane Group, Drilling Company, Guerilla Girls, Erik Ehn, Lightbox Theatre Company, Tommy Smith, Emergency Broadcast Artists, Caridad Svich, Howard Zinn, Clay McCleod Chapman, and Nibras Theatre Company.

1999 *Air Traffic*. Conceived and directed by Cindy Croot, Performed at Perseverance Theatre in Douglas, AK. Aired statewide on KTOO 104.3 FM, Juneau, AK.

### Program 1: Where Did You Go?

*Stonehenge and the Louvre Were Cool* by Carol Lucci Wisner; *The Lost Moment* by Kenneth Koch; *Val and Coogan* by Jack Cannon; *Rainier Thompson*, *Possible Psychotic* by Richard Foreman

### Program 2: Falling

*Violette & Walker* by Jack Cannon; *End of the World* by Peter Cook; *Adventure* by Sherwood Anderson, from "Winesburg, Ohio"; *Falling Stars* by Gerry Sharp

### Program 3: Other Worlds

*Focusing* by W.A. Mathieu, from "The Listening Book"; *In the Storm of Love* by Kenneth Koch; *Gabriella & Franklin* by Jack Cannon; *Love Play*



by Kenneth Koch; *A Letter to Andrei* by Benjamin Dean

Program 4: Holy Cow

*A Short History of Indians in America* by Thomas King; *Gospel Toothbrush* by Kenneth Koch; *Divine New York* by Richard Housden; *White Men Can't Drum* by Sherman Alexie

1998 *Kiki und der Baker*. By Kurt Nickisch, Caterina Klusemann. Klagenfurt, Austria\*

1997 Manhattan Theatre of the Ear, WKCR 89.9 FM, New York, NY

*Number 10*. By Samuel Beckett

*Night and He's Left*. By Harold Pinter

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Chapter

2019 "Taking Refuge: A case study in interdisciplinary and community-based diversity research." Diversity Dialogs, David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership, University of Pittsburgh, PA, Information Age Publishing.

### Journal Articles

2016 "Venus Embodied," Theatre Forum. Volume 49. UC San Diego press, 2016.

2009 "This Tool We Dream Through - Roundtable: Theatre in New York and the Arab Middle East" New York Theatre Review, 2009.

2006 A Letter from Syria, Theater. Vol. 36, No. 1, Duke University Press, 2006.

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## GRANTS, COMPETITIVE RESIDENCIES, AND AWARDS

### Individual Honors and Awards

2022 \$5000 Hewlett Award for researching *Bad Activist* in Vietnam.  
Creative Capital grant finalist for *Bad Activist*.

2021 Orchard Project Play Development for *Bad Activist*, NY (ongoing).

2019 *Wozzeck*, Metropolitan Opera observership, NYC, attended rehearsals directed by South African artist William Kentridge.

\$3200 – Hewlett Award for work in South Africa on *RECOIL*

\$750 – Global Studies Award for continued development of the opera *Mirror Butterfly*

2018 Finalist for Marion International Fellowship for creation of new work.

- \$3800 – Provost ACCelerate funding to restage *RECOIL* at the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C.
- 2017      \$2000 – Provost’s Year of Diversity Fund, in support of “Taking Refuge II” being organized for Spring 2018, University of Pittsburgh, PA.
- \$3700 – Awarded for *Taking Refuge* from the Year of Diversity, Global Studies, Film Studies, Classics, Theatre Arts, and the Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2016      \$1,250 – Artist Opportunity Grant from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council for travel to South Africa to direct the new opera “Sea Point.”
- \$1,075 – Awarded to bring Noor Theater artist Lameece Issaq to campus for a reading of the play NAHDA in coordination Muslim Identity course offered by Global Studies. Funding from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Theatre Arts, and Global Studies, University of Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2014      \$2,000 - John G. Bowman Faculty Grant, University of Pittsburgh, PA. Awarded for travel to France to research the life and letters of Jacques Verges for *Verges / I Choose Crazy*.
- Finalist for Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement, University of Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2013      Invited to join Sites of Passage Art Up Research Residency in Israel and Palestine, to culminate in U.S., Israeli and Palestinian exhibition at the Mattress Factory Museum, Pittsburgh, PA.
- \$1,900 - Humanities Center Collaborative Research Grant for “Investigating Venus,” Lecture and Panel Discussion, October 2013. Awarded from the Humanities Center and Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2010      \$1000 – Stipend for Mellon Foundation-supported Global Studies seminar entitled “Deviant Bodies.” Whitman College, WA.
- 2007-2009      \$22,500 - NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and Theatre Communications Group, New York, NY
- 2008      \$3,000 - TCG/ITI Eastern Europe Travel Grant from Theatre Communications Group. International Theatre Institute awarded for travel to Zagreb, Croatia with The Venus Project Worldwide.
- \$5,000 - Innovation in Teaching Award from Whitman College, WA, for

- 2006 research residency in Damascus, Syria to explore cultural exchange.  
Residency Award from the New Pacific Studio, Vallejo, CA
- 2004-5 Center for International Conflict Resolution, U.S. Delegate in U.S./Syria Cultural Exchange. Selected to represent emerging U.S. artists as part of a four-person delegation to Syria funded by the U.S. State Department and CICR. Exchange included meetings with Noam Chomsky, U.S. and Syrian ambassadors, religious leaders, dignitaries, academics and artists.
- 2002 Residency Award from the U Cross Foundation, Sheridan, WY
- Residency Award with the Kazbah Project for research in preparation for *Venus* in South Africa, from Arts International, New York, NY. Award covered travel and lodging for three weeks in Durban, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Mafikeng.
- 1999 Shubert Fellowship to create *Air Traffic* at Perseverance Theatre, AK, Columbia University, New York, NY
- 1998 Shubert Fellowship to assist Anne Bogart on *Culture of Desire*, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Directed Research Fellowship, Columbia University, New York, NY

#### **Awards for Ifyoureallyloveme**

- 2016 \$500 - Theater Communications Group, subsidized conference attendance for performance of *One Large* at Conference in Washington D.C.
- 2015 \$1,000 - Sprout Fund Grant for Social Practice Artists, Pittsburgh, PA for the project *One Large*. Open Engagement Conference, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

#### **Awards for Conni's Avant Garde Restaurant**

- 2014-2015 \$7,500 - New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Grant for development of *Irina's Birthday Party* and *Illyria/Loisada*.
- 2013-2014 University Settlement, New York, NY. Company granted competitive Resident Artist Award for development of *Illyria/Loisada*.
- 2012 North American Cultural Laboratory (NACL). Competitive residency awarded for development of *Irina's Birthday Party*.
- Commissioned by Cleveland Public Theatre to create *The Secret Social*, a new work devised with local actors. Cleveland Public Theatre, OH.
- Top Ten Best Shows of 2012 for *The Secret Social*. Cleveland Plain

Dealer, Cleveland, OH.

Received two New York Innovative Theatre Awards for:  
“Outstanding Ensemble” and “Outstanding Performance Art Piece”  
for *Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant Returns in: The Mothership Landing*  
Irondale Center, 2011, New York, NY

2011 Irondale Center/Booth Ferris Foundation Space Subsidy Grant, a  
competitive residency awarded to *Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant* for  
production *The Mothership Landing*

2009-2010 \$22,500 Phases 1-4 of The Field’s Economic Revitalization for  
Performing Artists Program, Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant.

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## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Presentations

2022 Roundtable Moderator, NAST (National Association of Schools of Theatre)  
Conference, Baltimore, MD.

2019 “What Happens in the Restaurant Stays in the Restaurant” Devised Theatre Panel  
Presenter. Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL

2017 Organizer of *Taking Refuge* – an international collaboration highlighting the  
situation of Syrian refugees. Events hosted by the University of Pittsburgh;  
Louisiana State University; Colgate University; College of Charleston SC;  
Roehampton University UK; Indiana University of Pennsylvania,  
Washington College, College of the Holy Cross; and Noor Theatre, NYC.

2016 “The Collaborative Relationship between Director and Vocal Coach:  
Synergy II” Presented in collaboration with Professor Stacey Cabaj. South  
Eastern Theatre Conference, Greensboro, NC

“One Large.” Featured Artist and Discussion Leader. Theatre Communications  
Group Conference, Washington, DC

2014 “Devised Solo Performance: Creating Work from Scratch.” Presenter. South  
Eastern Theatre Conference, Mobile, AL

“The Collaborative Relationship between Director and Vocal Coach: Synergy.”  
Co-presenter with Stacey Cabaj. South Eastern Theatre Conference, Mobile, AL

2012 “Adapting *Nightwood* for the Stage.” Special guest, co-presented with April  
Sweeney. Djuna Barnes Conference, University of London, Bloomsbury, UK.

- 2010 Arts, Service Initiatives: Africa/Africa-US / Panelist. Art and Peacebuilding / Panelist. Arts in the One World Conference, Brown University, Providence RI.
- 2009 Theatre Communications Group Conference, Baltimore MD / Featured Guest. Portfolio displayed as Fellow of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program.
- 2007 NoPassport Conference –Dreaming the Americas, CUNY, NY. Session Moderator “Intercultural Illuminations: Practice and Performance.”
- 2005 Amnesty International Firefly Project Conference, NYC / Co-organizer *And So Forth: a Post-Election Assembly for Artists and Activists*, New York, NY.  
  
 “Representation and Perception in War Time – Close Up: Syria.” Co-presented with Nathalie Applewhite, Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting. International Institute for Peace Educators, Rhodes, Greece.  
  
 “A Letter from Syria.” Harper College International Affairs Symposia Series on Syria, Chicago IL
- 2003 Radical Alternative Theatre International Conference. Collaborator at El Rayo International Experimenta (Roasario, Argentina). Taught bi-lingual introductory Viewpoints workshop (Spanish and English).

### **Invited Talks and Workshops**

- 2021 “Venus Onstage” Hosted by Dr. Nadine Knight of Africana Studies and the English Department. College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.  
  
 Featured Speaker in the Pitt Honors Dean's OCC Badge Podcast Series: Diversity Across the Disciplines. Interviewed by Dr. Audrey Murrell, University of Pittsburgh. (<https://youtu.be/7KenGgoYsuY>)
- 2019 “Taking Refuge.” Invited speaker at the College of Charleston, hosted a film screening of work by Rana Kazkaz followed by an interview with the artist.
- 2018 Viewpoints Movement Workshop, Washington College, Chestertown, MD.
- 2016 “Clarify: The big issues, minus the noise.” Sponsored by Spotify, Mic and HeadCount and WeShouldDoItAll. Spotify-hosted exhibition and conversation exploring the connections between music, art, and income inequality. SPACE Gallery. Pittsburgh, PA
- 2014 “After the Freak Show and Still on Display.” Hosted by Africana Studies and the English Department. College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- 2013 “Investigating Venus” Organizer and Panel Moderator with Laura Anderson Barbata, Bridgit Antoinette Evans, and Lisa S. Parker, in support of theatrical

- production of *Venus* by Suzan-Lori Parks, University of Pittsburgh, PA
- 2012 Barnard College Summer Program. Guest Artist discussing collaborative work on *Pearl*. New York, NY.
- 2011 Reza Abdoh Film Screenings and Discussion. Organizer and Panel Moderator. Iranian Theatre Festival. Brick Theatre, Brooklyn.
- 2010 “Arab Theatre.” Faculty Forum, Whitman College, WA
- 2009 “Theatre in the Arab World from a U.S. Point of View.” Featured speaker. Fadjr International Theatre Festival, Dramatic Arts Center of Iran, Tehran, Iran.
- 2004 “Contemporary U.S. Actor Training Practices.” Higher Institute for Theatrical Studies, Damascus University, Syria.
- 2002 “International Theatre Collaboration and the Challenges of Intercultural Dialogue.” Co-presented with Bridgit Antoinette Evans. Columbia University Graduate Theatre Program, New York, NY.
- 2001 “Imagining Peace: A Training for Artists in the Wake of September 11.” With the Kazbah Project, Columbia University, New York, NY.

### **Conference Attendance**

- 2015 “Projection Design and Audio Masterclass” Attendee. South Eastern Theatre Conference, Chattanooga, TN
- The Field Conference. Guest Artist. Washington, D.C.
- 2012 GSPIA Peace Building Conference. University of Pittsburgh, PA
- 2009 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Conference. Washington DC,
- 2001 Radical Theatre Conference. Bread and Puppet Theatre, Glover, VT

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## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

### **Ifyoureallyloveme Artist Collective (2015-present)**

Ifyoureallyloveme is an artist collective using word, music, and performance, combined with pro-beauty and anti-racist strategies, to create art in Pittsburgh and other cities. Co-founded in 2015 with Joy Katz. [www.ifyoureallyloveme.org](http://www.ifyoureallyloveme.org)

### **Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant Theatre Company – New York, NY (2009-present)**

*Resident Director 2012-present, Affiliated Artist 2009-present*

Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant (Time Out New York favorite, Village Voice Choice,

and winner of two New York Innovative Theatre Awards) is not a locale, but “an elite group of adventurous theatrical performers. Our events mix the ingredients of fine food, drink song, dance, text, spectacle, and audience. Hailed as “devilish dinner theatre” by the New York Daily news, the company has steadily gained popular and critical success, and has played to (and fed) thousands in New York, Boston, Cleveland, and Nashville.

**The Venus Project Worldwide – New York, NY (2001-2010)**

*Director of Venus by Suzan-Lori Parks, Founding Member and Researcher*

Projects included research residencies in South Africa and Croatia, readings at the Public Theatre and Harlem Gatehouse, and a touring production of Suzan-Lori Parks *Venus* in South Africa.

**Under the Radar Festival, Public Theater, New York, NY (2009)**

*Assistant to Mark Russell, Artistic Director*

Under the Radar is an internationally acclaimed festival of new works held concurrently with APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, each year.

**Tinderbox Theatre Group – New York, NY (2001-2004)**

*Founder and Artistic Director*

Co-founded with David M. Barber and Aga Kunska, Tinderbox produced several critically-acclaimed shows in New York City, including Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya* and *Three Sisters*.

**Axis Theatre Company – Baltimore, MD (1992-1994)**

*Artistic Associate*

Helped inaugurate critically-acclaimed Baltimore theatre company producing new and established texts. Directed Vaclav Havel’s *Largo Desolato* and *Cabaret Verboten* by Jeremy Lawrence.

**Center Stage – Baltimore, MD (1991-1992)**

*Dramaturgy and Education Intern*

Prepared study guides, taught Shakespeare in local schools, and observed rehearsals with Michael Greif, Irene Lewis and Lisa Peterson.

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Washington College, Chestertown, MD, 2017**

Viewpoints workshop instructor for undergraduate theatre students.

**International Rescue Committee Refugee Resettlement Program, Bronx, NY, 2006**

Guest instructor in after-school theatre program with refugees aged 14-19 from Sierra Leone, Uganda and Guinea. Curriculum based on social theatre model (Augusto Boal) incorporating personal narratives and English vocabulary skills.

**Peace Education Center, Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC, Fall 2005**

Guest Workshop Instructor for the Afghan Institute for Learning, founded by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Sakena Yacoobi. Explored theatre skills and conflict resolution training for use in schools in Afghanistan.

**Theaters Against War / Hunter College, New York, NY, April, 2004**

Helped facilitate Resistance 101: a Creative Peace and Justice Teach-In including speakers, panel discussions, and performances from prominent civil libertarians, academics, journalists, students, and theater activists.

**East Harlem Middle School at Exodus House, New York, NY, Spring 2003**

Designed curriculum and team-taught collaborative playwriting and acting classes culminating in a performance of the student-created play *Destination Station*.

**Washington College, Chestertown, MD, 2002 - 2005**

Viewpoints instructor in workshop for undergraduate theatre students and professors. An improvisational movement system for actors, choreographers and directors, the Viewpoints were developed by Anne Bogart.

**Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, October, 2001**

Guest artist with Susan Miller, hosted by the Women's Studies Department. Staged Miller's Obie Award-winning play *My Left Breast* to mark breast cancer awareness month. Informal and formal talks with drama students and campus community.

**Center Stage, Baltimore, MD 1991**

Making Shakespeare Fun: A Classroom Demonstration of the Folger Shakespeare Theatre Curriculum. Team-taught with Lisa Wilde.

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**SERVICE – NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**

2020 Routledge Publishing, Peer Book Proposal Reviewer

Coordinated University of Pittsburgh site for a "Women in the Arts" Meetup in collaboration with the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

Invited to lead a *Recoil* writing workshop at the Allegheny prison, Pittsburgh, PA (on-site work indefinitely delayed)

2019 Carnegie Mellon University, provided external pre-tenure review of materials for candidate in Theatre department.

2016 University of California, San Francisco, consultant with Lara Miller and the Pre-term Birth Project to build drama workshop for patients in their Rwanda ANC program.

Louisiana State University, Thesis Committee, MFA Caitlin Morrison.



- 2015 Routledge Publishing, Peer Book Proposal Reviewer
- 2014 Pittsburgh City Theatre, Audio Descriptor for visually impaired and blind audience members, *Grounded*
- 2013 Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, Advisory Board Member
- Pittsburgh City Theatre, Audio Descriptor for visually impaired and blind audience members, *Little Gem*
- Pittsburgh City Theatre, Young Playwrights Festival Adjudicator
- 2012 Pittsburgh City Theatre, Audio Description for the Blind Course
- Theatre/Practice, online journal of the Acting/Directing Symposium of the Mid America Theatre Conference, Consulting Editor
- Hibakusha Stories, New York Theatre Workshop, with Chiori Miyagawa and Shigeko Sasamori. Exploring the legacy of the atom bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki through stories shared by survivors with students from East Side Community High School.
- 2011 Whitman College, Deviant Bodies Seminar – Co-organizer and collaborator.
- 2007 Nibras ASWAT: Voices of Palestine, New Play Festival. Directed readings to aid in festival selection process.
- 2003-9 Theaters Against War (THAW) – New York, NY, Steering Committee and Organizer of THAW (Theaters Against War), a grassroots collective with over two hundred member theaters and over one thousand listserv participants worldwide. Activities included monthly pro-peace cabarets, teach-ins, post-show discussions, march contingents, youth outreach initiatives, calls to action and town hall meetings intended to be replicated in local communities to promote engaged citizenship and artist-driven activism. Recipient of Village Voice OBIE Grant 2004. Projects included the THAW Collaboration weekend with the Culture project, Freedom Follies, THAW on the Air on WBAI Radio, a Benefit for Al-Rowwad Palestinian children's Theater, and the THAW Scholarship, granting funds to artists working in conflict zones.
- 2003 New York University – New York Student Shakespeare Festival, Adjudicator.

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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

TCG – Theatre Communications Group (2022- present)

NAST – National Association of Schools of Theatre (2022- present)

LoNyLa, Associate Artist (2010-present) Founded by J. Dakota Powell, LoNyLa is "a global network and transatlantic lab that links London, NY and LA to help artists connect, collaborate and develop material for stage, film and television."

League of Professional Women of the Theater (2008 - present)

Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (2008 - present)

NoPassport Coalition – New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA (2005 - present)

Member of pan-American theatre coalition with an emphasis on US Latina/o and Latin American writing.

Amnesty International Firefly Project – New York, NY (2003 - 2007)

Member of Amnesty International chapter using the arts to respond to global injustice.

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## **SERVICE – UNIVERSITY**

### **Dissertation Committee Member**

Christopher Staley, PhD Candidate, University of Pittsburgh

Andrea Gunoe, PhD Candidate, University of Pittsburgh

Le’Mil Eiland, PhD Candidate, University of Pittsburgh

Amanda Olmstead, PhD Candidate, University of Pittsburgh, successfully defended, 2021

Vicki Hoskins, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, successfully defended, 2020

Kristin O’Malley, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, successfully defended, 2019

### **Graduate Thesis Committees**

Sean Cook, MFA Performance Pedagogy – successfully defended, University of Pittsburgh 2020

Teisha Duncan, MFA Performance Pedagogy – successfully defended, University of Pittsburgh 2018

Brittany Bara, MFA Performance Pedagogy – successfully defended, University of Pittsburgh 2018

Julian Stetkevych, *Creating Character: A Psychophysical Approach*, MFA Performance Pedagogy– successfully defended, University of Pittsburgh, 2016

Rachel Jackson, *Teaching Boal, Inspiring Change: Applying Theatre of the Oppressed in the Classroom*, MFA Performance Pedagogy– successfully defended, University of Pittsburgh, 2015

### **Graduate Independent and Directed Studies**

Alison Mahoney, *Appalachian Paris*, Spring 2021

Le’Mil Eiland and Brittany Bara, *Devising Practice in Contemporary Theatre*, Spring 2018

Kristen O’Malley, *Observation of Peter and the Starcatcher*, Spring 2017

Kristen O’Malley, *Experiments in the Classics*, Fall 2015

*City of Asylum*, Spring 2012-Spring 2013

Maria Enriquez –Directing and Devising

Vivian Appler –Directing and Devising

Rachel DeSoto –Directing and Devising

### **Graduate Directing Project Mentorship**

*Oblivion* – Spring 2020

*The Verge* – Spring 2020

*Woyzeck* – Spring 2019

*On Trial* – Spring 2019

*Rhinoceros* – Spring 2016

*Machinal* – Spring 2013– Fall 2013

*Compleat Female Stage Beauty*– Fall 2013

*Bedtime Stories* – Fall 2012

### **Mainstage Production Advising**

*Miss You Like Hell*, Fall 2020

*Inside the Zoom*, Fall 2020

*Spark*, Spring 2020

*Appropriate* – Spring 2020

*She Kills Monsters* – Fall 2018

*Our Town* – Fall 2017

*Parade* – Fall 2017

*Peter and the Starcatcher* – Spring 2017

*Intimate Apparel* – Fall 2016

*Nine* – Spring 2016

*The Gammage Project* – Spring 2012

### **Lab Production Advising**

*The Last Five Years* – Fall 2018

*Bethany* – Fall 2018

*The Author's Voice* – Fall 2018

*Antigone* – Spring 2019

*[title of show]* – Fall 2017

*Roustabout* – Fall 2017

*Water Eyes* – Fall 2016

### **Undergraduate Project Mentorship, Independent and Directed Studies**

*Miss You Like Hell, Fall 2020*

*Inside the Zoom, Fall 2020*

*Spark, Spring 2020*

*Anon(ymous), Spring 2020*

*Appalachian Paris, Spring 2020*

*Film Production Independent Study, Spring 2020*

Pedar Garred

*Theatre and Social Justice Independent Study, Spring 2020*

Ariana Starkman

*Into the Woods, Spring 2019*

*Flyin' West*

Sydney Dubose

Maya Boyd

Brenden Peifer

*The Tempest (at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre), Spring 2019*

Julia de Avilez-Rocha

*She Kills Monsters, Fall 2018*

Landon Bryant

Nicole Friedberg

Kayla Frutowski

Jessical Israel

Jenna Tiplitzky

John Tolentino

Bonnie Klopfer

*Much Ado About Nothing, Fall 2018*

Katrina Dagenais

Julia de Avilez Rocha

Megan McGill

Adam Nie  
Josie O’Connell  
Madalyn Lenahan  
Alexis Primus  
Ariana Starkman

*The Author’s Voice*, Fall 2018  
Bradley Keller

*Directing I*, Fall 2018  
Chloe Torrence  
Zev Woskoff

*Hair*, Fall 2016  
Chloe Torrence – Assistant Director  
Daria Sullivan – Performer  
Fenice Thompson – Performer  
Mason Trinkle – Performer  
Matthew Vitullo – Performer  
Hamilton Weaver – Performer  
Jessica Israel – Assistant Choreographer

*Curse of the Starving Class*, Spring 2015  
Amy Wooler– Performer

*Directing II*, Spring 2014  
Jacke Saporito – Performer

*Venus*, Spring 2014  
Bryant Edwards – Assistant Director  
Chelsea Faber, Directed Study on ASL Interpretation

The Glass Bank  
Project Mentor and co-applicant on behalf of Joseph Spinogatti, awarded  
\$1,700. Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity.

*Verges/ I Choose Crazy* Summer 2014-Spring 2015  
Ellen Connally – Researcher

Community-based Research Fellowship – Spring 2013-Fall 2013  
Ellen Connally – “Fall HOST Drama Troupe Course Design and  
Production”

*City of Asylum* – Spring 2013  
Bryant Edwards – Performer  
Melissa Italiano – Performer

Rebecca Jacobsoen – Performer

### **Teacher Training**

2020 Revised Training for Teachers of Introduction to Performance

2012-18 Training for Teachers of Introduction to Performance

### **Student Workshops**

2020 Self-Tape Workshop for Auditioning

Table Reading Presentation of screenplays in collaboration with Carl Kurlander, University of Pittsburgh Film Studies.

2019 Self-Tape Workshop for Auditioning

Ally Sheedy On-Camera Workshop. Organized by Carl Kurlander, Theatre Arts and Film Studies, University of Pittsburgh.

Academia Dell'Arte Commedia Workshop, Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh

2013 Maggie Kate Coleman Guest Visit from the O'Neill Center

### **Fundraising, Events, and Guest Artists**

2022 Pitt Day of Giving, highest number of donations in the Dietrich School.

2016 Anne Bogart Guest Lecture at Carnegie Mellon University. Facilitated Pitt student attendance.

NAHDA – Lameece Issac of Noor Theatre Company, NYC. Staged reading from the play funded by Dean of Undergraduate Students, Global Studies, and Theatre Arts was performed by Lameece Issac and Pitt students. Performance and discussion coincided with the Global Studies mini course on Muslim Identity (Funds raised: \$1100)

South Eastern Theatre Convention – Organized student attendance, fundraised to cover undergraduate costs, and attended conferences from 2014-present. (Funds raised in 2015: \$1,500. Funds raised in 2016: \$4,500)

2015 Screening of National Theatre Production of *Hamlet*, student attendance cost raised through fundraising requests to Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Theatre Arts (Funds raised: \$1050)

2014 Investigating Venus / Laura Anderson Barbata, Bridgit Antoinette Evans, Lisa S. Parker in panel discussion following performance of *Venus* by Suzan-Lori Parks

The Repatriation of Julian Pastrana: Transdisciplinary/Transnational Social Art

Practice lecture by Laura Anderson Barbata, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center in collaboration with the Department of Theatre Arts (Funds raised: \$1,900)

- 2013 Funding for undergraduate attendance at KCACTF raised through the Dean of Undergraduate Studies (Funds raised: \$3,000)

Christopher Durang Guest Lecture at Carnegie Mellon University. Facilitated Pitt student attendance.

- 2012 Distinctively Dutch Festival, WUNDERBAUM Theatre Company, hosted by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

### **Committee Service**

#### **2021-22**

Chair, Marketing Committee  
Member, Call to Action Committee  
Humanities Council  
Member, Search Committee for VAP in History, Literature and Criticism  
Humanities Engage Grant Reviewer (could not serve due to conflict of interest in a colleague's application).  
Dietrich School Council (could not serve due to Fall FMLA leave).  
Dietrich School Tenure Council (could not serve due to Fall FMLA leave).

#### **2020-2021**

Chair of Season Selection Committee  
Member of the Five-year Diversity Plan Committee  
Member of the Call to Action Working Group  
Elected to University Research Council, but unable to serve due to scheduling conflicts.

#### **2019-2020**

Chair, Lab Selection Committee  
Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report  
Member, Task Force on Re-opening of Theatre Arts  
Member, Search Committee for Musical Theatre Lecturer

#### **2018-2019**

Chair, Search Committee for TT Line in Performance Area  
Visiting Assistant Professor in His/Lit/Crit Committee  
Graduate and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
Strategic Planning Committee

#### **2017-2018**

Chair, Season Selection Committee  
Chair, Search Committee for TT Line in History, Literature and Criticism

in support of the MA and PhD programs  
Member, BA Curriculum Committee  
Alternate, Tenure and Promotion Committee  
Alternate, Humanities Council

**2016-17**

B.A. Curriculum Committee  
Departmental Liaison, Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education  
Member, Honors College Faculty Advisory Committee for Academic Community Engagement

**2015- 2016**

Chair, Subcommittee for NAST Accreditation  
Marketing  
Curriculum Committee  
Departmental Liaison, Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education  
Member, Honors College Faculty Advisory Committee for Academic Community Engagement

**2014-2015**

Chair, Lab Season Selection Committee  
Member, Honors College Faculty Advisory Committee for Academic Community Engagement  
Departmental Liaison, Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education  
OAFAs Admissions Event Speaker

**2013-2014**

Chair, Search Committee for TT Head of MFA Performance/Pedagogy  
Chair, Graduate Recruitment and Admission to MFA Performance Pedagogy Program  
Chair, Season Selection Committee  
Member, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater Committee  
Member, Honors College Faculty Advisory Committee for Academic Community Engagement  
Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee  
Departmental Liaison, CIDDE

**2012-13**

Chair, Search Committee for Set Design and Scenic Artist Lecturer  
Member, Curriculum Development  
Member, University of Pittsburgh Nominating Committee  
Member, Teaching Artist Search Committee  
Member, Visiting Professor Search Committee  
Member, Season Selection Committee



Member, Ad Hoc Diversity Committee  
Member, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater Committee  
Departmental Liaison, Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education

**University of Pittsburgh Training - Attendee**

Fostering a Diverse and Inclusive Workplace: Special Session for Advisors and Mentors with Cheryl Ruffin, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Fall 2020

BMI Filmmaking Intensive Workshop, Spring 2019

Faculty Interdisciplinary Diversity Research Retreat, Spring 2017

Grading on Spec, Workshop, Winter 2015

Provost's Diversity Training with Susan Marine, Spring 2015

Provost's Diversity Training with Ralph Bangs, Spring 2015