

ELIZABETH KURTZMAN

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EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Professor	2025-2026
Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh	
Adjunct Professor	2025
College of Fine Arts, Carnegie Mellon University	

EDUCATION

PhD, Theatre and Performance Studies	August 2025
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	
<i>Immersive Practice Credential: Playwriting</i>	
<i>Dissertation: "Chilling Affect: Sensory Engagement and Participation in Immersive Horror Experiences"</i>	
<u>Dissertation Committee:</u> Michelle Granshaw, Patrick McKelvey, Kathy George, Michael Chemers	
MA, English (Literature)	May 2019
Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA	
<i>Thesis: "A Study of the Historical and Contemporary Influences of Poe's Shadows"</i>	
<u>Thesis Committee:</u> Katharine Cleland, Amanda Nelson, Shoshana Milgram Knapp	
BA, English (Writing)/ Theatre Arts	May 2011
Heidelberg University, Tiffin, OH	

AREAS OF RESEARCH

Horror Performance · Adaptation · Experiential Entertainments · Affect · Immersive Theatre · Spiritualism · Early Modern Theatre · Queer Horror Film · Sound Studies · Visual Rhetoric

PUBLICATIONS

"Blood, Sweat, and Fears: The Values of Work and Community in the Haunting Profession." In *The Figure of the Monster in Global Theatre: Further Readings on the Aesthetics of Disqualification*. Edited by Michael M. Chemers and Analola Santana, 1st ed. Oxford: Routledge, 2025: 93-103. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003432524>.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2025
University of Pittsburgh	
Graduate Student Research Award	2024
American Theatre & Drama Society	
Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship	2023-2024
University of Pittsburgh	
Humanities Engage Summer Fellowship	2022
Film Pittsburgh/ University of Pittsburgh	
Department of Theatre Arts Teaching Award	2022
University of Pittsburgh	
Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship	2020-2024

University of Pittsburgh	
Chermside Award for Outstanding MA Thesis	2019
Virginia Tech University	
Hoffman Teaching Award Finalist	2019
Virginia Tech University	

CONFERENCES

American Society for Theatre Research, Seattle, WA	November 2024
“Alien Invasion Narratives and Nature’s Fight Against Invasive Species”	
Festival of Monsters, Santa Cruz, CA	October 2023
“‘Til Death Do Us Part: The Preoccupation with Matrimony in Vampire Tales”	
Ann Radcliffe Conference, Pittsburgh, PA	June 2023
“The Spark of Adaptation: The Many Lives of Shelley’s Monster Onstage”	
American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans, LA	November 2022
“Queer Kinship and Monstrous Rebirth in Horror Podcasts”	
American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA	October 2021
“The Values of Work and Community in the Haunting Profession”	
UCLA QGrad: Queer Graduate Conference, Virtual	May 2021
“The Queer Gothic and the Horrors of Heteronormativity”	
Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Virtual	July 2020
“The Western Rage of <i>Wishmaster</i> ”	
Mid-Atlantic Pop Culture Conference, Pittsburgh, PA	November 2019
“Framing Violence: Revenge Tragedies as Early Horror Narratives”	
National Pop Culture Conference, Washington DC	April 2019
“Tinder and The Gamification of Dating: A Digital Interface Rhetorical Analysis”	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Carnegie Mellon University

Adjunct Professor	Fall 2025
<i>Film for Non-Majors: The Horror Film</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devised course which introduced students to the horror genre, including social, cultural, and historical context for the genre in general and some films in particular 	

University of Pittsburgh

Visiting Professor	
<i>Enjoying Performances</i>	Fall 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory course about performance studies and the elements of theater for majors and non-majors 	
<i>Playwriting I</i>	Fall 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper-level writing intensive course that introduced theatre and English writing students to the basics of playwriting and workshopping 	
Instructor of Record	
<i>Introduction to Dramatic Arts</i>	Fall 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to script analysis and dramatic structure for majors and non-majors 	
<i>Introduction to Performance</i>	Summer 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summer course about the foundations of acting and public speaking 	
<i>Introduction to Dramatic Arts</i>	Fall 2021
<i>Global Stages: Technology and the Changing Face of Horror</i>	Spring 2021

- Class of my own design that examined the relationship between technology and globalization in the horror genre
- Introduction to Performance* Fall 2019
- Taught two sections of an introductory acting class for majors and non-majors
- Teaching Fellow/ Teaching Assistant
- Seminar in Theatre Arts: Shakespeare* Spring 2025
- Analyzed Shakespearean plays, as well as adaptations and productions, with seniors in the department
- Seminar in Theatre Arts: Dramaturgy* Spring 2023
- Reviewed the responsibilities and the possibilities of dramaturgical research with upper-class theatre majors
- World Theatre History: 1890-Present* Fall 2022
- Explored the development of dramatic forms, theatre practices, and performance
- Enjoying Performances* Spring 2022
- Enjoying Performances* Fall 2020
- Playwriting I* Spring 2020

Virginia Polytechnic University

Instructor of Record

- Writing from Research* Fall 2019
- Taught two sections of a secondary composition course that focused on rhetoric and ethical research methods
- Introduction to University Writing* Spring 2018/ 2019
- Taught three sections of an introductory composition course, covering the basics of college writing and rhetoric
- Writing Center Coach Fall 2017
- Worked with undergrad and graduate students on specific issues of grammar, composition, and argument

MENTORSHIP

- Dramaturgy Mentor for Pitt Stages 2025
- Served as the mentor for undergraduate dramaturgs on university productions

INVITED TALKS

- Duse Graduate Symposium February 2025
- Presented my research on the performative design of escape rooms
- StokerCon Horror Writers Conference June 2023
- Part of the “Welcome to the Darkive” panel about the Romero Archive
- Emerging Voices in Horror October 2022
- Part of a panel sponsored by Pitt’s Horror Studies Working Group
- Spooky Spouses*
- Podcast interview about my research and area of study January 2021

INVITED WORKSHOPS

- Public Speaking Workshop for Pitt Public Health Department 2024
- Romancing the Gothic August 2021
- Led online playwriting workshop via Zoom

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

Jarman Lab Film Bootcamp May 2024
University of Pittsburgh and the Derek Jarman Institute

CONSULTING

Feasibility Study for EIC Adaptive Reuse Theatre Designs 2023

SERVICE AT UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

University Service

Horror Studies Working Group Member 2021-2024
Queer Horror Week Committee Member 2022-2024
Queer Horror Conference Planning Committee 2024

Departmental Service

Theatre Arts Graduate Teaching Mentor 2022-2023
President of Duse Grad Student Theatre Society 2022-2023
Graduate Representative to the Season Selection Committee 2021-2022
Graduate Representative for the Curriculum Committee 2020-2021
Business Manager Duse Society 2019-2020
Pitt Stages Lab Search Committee 2019-2020

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Stoker Conference Volunteer 2023
Film previewer for Film Pittsburgh 2022 -2023

ARCHIVAL WORK

Pitt Archives and Special Collections Archival Assistant 2024

- Sorted the papers of Robert McCully and created digital records for the archive
- Processed nearly two decades of the Marilyn Horne collection

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

American Theatre and Drama Society First Book Boot Camp Graduate Assistant 2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Theatre Research 2020-2025
Association for Theatre in Higher Education 2024-2025
Horror Studies Working Group 2021-2025
Duse Society 2019-2025

THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Playwriting

Last Call – A staged reading at the University of Pittsburgh

March 2022

Dramaturgy

Spark – University of Pittsburgh Stages

December 2021

Stage/ Project Management

Poe's Shadows—Virginia Tech's Moss Arts Center

October 2018

Xanadu—Imagine Productions, Columbus OH

March, 2015

Sunset Boulevard—Short North Stage, Columbus, OH

October 2014

Death of a Salesman—SRO Theatre, Columbus, OH

November 2013

State of Control—ABC Production, Columbus, OH

September 2013

Taming of the Shrew—New Players Theatre, Columbus, OH

Summer 2013

Henry IV, Part I—New Players Theatre, Columbus, OH

Summer 2013

Directing

New Works Series—University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2020

The Music Man—Shelby High School

Spring 2012

*Acting experience also available upon request

REFERENCES

Michelle Granshaw, Professor

Department of Theatre Arts

University of Pittsburgh

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631-513-9099

Patrick McKelvey, Professor

Department of Film, Television, and Theatre

University of Notre Dame

pmckelv2@nd.edu

857 205 2988

Michael M. Chemers, Professor and Chair

Department of Performance, Play & Design

University of California, Santa Cruz

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