

MEREDITH A. CONTI

University at Buffalo, SUNY
Department of Theatre and Dance
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EMPLOYMENT

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| 2017-present | Assistant Professor of Theatre University at Buffalo, SUNY, Department of Theatre and Dance Buffalo, NY |
| 2012-2017 | Assistant Professor of Theatre James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance Harrisonburg, VA |
| 2011-2012 | Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance Harrisonburg, VA |

EDUCATION

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| 2011 | Ph.D. in Theatre History and Performance Studies University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA Dissertation: <i>Stages of Suffering: Performing Illness in the Late-Nineteenth-Century Theatre</i> Ph.D. Special Option in Performance Pedagogy 4.0 GPA |
| 2007 | M.A. in Theatre History and Performance Studies University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 4.0 GPA |
| 2001 | B.F.A. in Theatre Performance Denison University, Granville, OH <i>summa cum laude</i> |
| 1999 | Certificate of Completion British and American Drama Academy, London, England |

EDITORIAL WORK

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| 2016-2017 | Editorial Board, <i>Journal of American Drama and Theatre</i> |
| 2016-present | Book Review Editor, <i>Theatre Annual</i> |
| 2015-2016 | Assistant Book Review Editor, <i>Theatre Annual</i> |
| 2016 | Solicited Referee, International University Theatre Association |

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Playing Sick: Performances of Illness in the Age of Victorian Medicine (forthcoming Routledge, June 2018).

Articles and Book Chapters

[Under Review] "What if This Bullet is My Legacy?": *Hamilton*, Firearms, and Theatricalizing the Origins of American Gun Culture."

"Ungentlemanly Habits: The Dramaturgy of Drug Addiction in Fin-de-Siècle Theatrical Adaptations of *Sherlock Holmes* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*," in *Victorian Medicine and Popular Culture*, edited by Tabitha Sparks and Louise Penner (London, England: Pickering and Chatto Press: 2015).

"'I am not suffering anymore': Tragic Potential in the Nineteenth-Century Consumptive Myth," *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* (fall 2009), 59-82.

"I Remember Mama: La Mama's Past and Present in the 2006 *The Tooth of Crime* Revival," *Journal of American Drama and Theatre* 20, no. 1 (2008), 53-74.

Works in Progress

Manuscript: "Gunpowder Plots: A Cultural History of Firearms and the American Theatre."

Article: "After Birth: The World's Columbian Exposition, Susan Manak, and the Racialized Postpartum Body."

Article: "Variations on Kin Selection and Maternal Altruism in Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage* and Lynn Nottage's *Ruined*."

Book Reviews

Review of Jill A. Sullivan's *The Politics of Pantomime: Regional Identity in the Theatre, 1860-1900* for *Theatre History Studies* 34 (2015), 110-113.

Review of Elizabeth Maddox Dillon's *New World Drama: The Performative Commons in the Atlantic World* for *Comparative Drama* 49, no. 2 (2015), 236-239.

Review of Women's *Romantic Theatre and Drama: History, Agency, Performativity*, edited by Lilla Maria Crisafulli and Keir Elam for *Theatre Survey* 54, no. 1 (2013), 168-70.

Review of Barbara Wallace Grossman's *A Spectacle of Suffering: Clara Morris on the American Stage* for *Theatre Journal* 62, no. 4 (2010), 698-700.

Double Review of Kimberly Rhodes' *Ophelia and Victorian Visual Culture: Representing Body Politics in the Nineteenth Century* and M. Susan Anthony's *Gothic Plays and American Society, 1794-1830* for *New England Theatre Journal* 20 (2009), 152-54.

Review of Michael Chemers' *Staging Stigma: A Critical Examination of the American Freak Show* for *Theatre Journal* 61, no. 3 (2009), 503-05.

Review of Paige Reynolds' *Modernism, Drama, and the Audience for Irish Spectacle* for *Theatre History Studies* 29 (2009), 215.

Review of Leigh Woods' *Transatlantic Theatre Stars of Variety and Vaudeville: Celebrity Turns* for *Theatre Journal* 60, no. 2 (2008), 326-28.

CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Panels Convened

"From the Curious to the Quantum: Bodies at the Intersection of Science and Performance," co-convened with Vivian Appler, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Atlanta, GA, (November 2017).

"Transfusions and Transductions: Science and Performance as Permeable Disciplines," co-convened with Vivian Appler, American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, MN, November 2016.

"Working Chicago: Theatrical Labor from the White City to the Twenty-First Century," Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Chicago, IL, August 2016.

Conference Presentations

"After Birth: The World's Columbian Exposition, Susan Manak, and the Racialized Postpartum Body," American Society for Theatre Research, Atlanta, GA (November 2017).

"Loaded Acts: Spectacles of Gunplay in American Performance," American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, MN, November 2016.

- "Fair Labor in the White City: Commodified Bodies-at-Work at the World's Columbian Exposition," Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Chicago, IL, August 2016.
- "Spectacle and Smoke: Guns and the American Theatre," Pitch-Your-Book Session, Mid-American Theatre Conference, Minneapolis, MN, March 2016.
- "The Devil's in the Derringer: Contemporary Visual Depictions of the Lincoln Assassination," Institute for Visual Studies, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, November 2014.
- "The Masks We Wear: Confronting Campus Stereotypes Using Italian Commedia dell'Arte," May Symposium, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, May 2014.
- "Taming the Hydra: Professors and Librarians Helping Students Navigate Through Multidisciplinary Research," Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, FL, August 2013.
- "In, Out, Around, and Through: Corporeal Permeability in Victorian Female Mediumship," American Society for Theatre Research, Contaminating Bodies Working Group, Nashville, TN, November 2012.
- "Contagious Speculation: Actresses and Illness in Victorian Public Discourse," American Society for Theatre Research, Contaminating Bodies Working Group, Montreal, CA, November 2011.
- "Pugilism in Print and the Ibsen Controversy: Reevaluating the Codes of Victorian Debate at the *fin de siècle*," Fighting Victorians: Disunion, Polemic, Controversy; Northeast American Victorian Association, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 2010.
- "Performative Pathologies: Actresses and Illness in Victorian Public Discourse," Mid-America Theatre Conference; Cleveland, OH, March 2010.
- "Conducting Archival Research," Theatre Arts Research and Professional Development Committee, University of Pittsburgh, 2010.
- "From the Studio to the Scrapbook: Multivalent Meanings of Nineteenth-Century Freak Photography," Instruction, Amusement and Spectacle: Popular Shows and Exhibitions 1800-1914, Center for Victorian Studies, University of Exeter, England, April 2009.
- "Saloon Socialization to Theatre Stagnation: Cognitive Insights into Spatiality of the Victorian Music Hall," American Society for Theatre Research, Cognitive Studies Working Group, Boston, MA, November 2008.

"I am not suffering any more': Tragic Potential in the Nineteenth-Century Consumptive Myth," Literature and Pathology Conference, University of California – Davis, CA, March 2008.

"I am not suffering any more': Tragic Potential in the Nineteenth-Century Consumptive Myth," University of Pittsburgh Arts and Sciences Grad Expo, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2008.

"At Face Value: Scientific Approaches to Ethnic Performance in the Age of Physical Acting," American Studies Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 2007.

"I Remember Mama: La Mama's Past and Present in the 2006 *The Tooth of Crime* Revival," Association for Theatre in Higher Education, New Orleans, LA, July 2007.

"At Face Value: Scientific Approaches to Ethnic Performance in the Age of Physical Acting," University of Pittsburgh Arts and Sciences Grad Expo, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2007. Prize for Outstanding Paper Presentation.

"Performing Mortality: Agency, Identity and the Construction of Legacies on the Scaffolds of Tutor and Stuart England," Comparative Drama Conference, Los Angeles, CA, March 2006.

Invited Presentations, Roundtables, and Panel Discussions

"Pedagogies of Gender and Labor: Women Working Backstage and Behind the Scenes," Roundtable, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Chicago, IL, August 2016.

"Surviving and Thriving During the Dissertation," ASTR Career Session, American Society for Theatre Research, Baltimore, MD, November 2014.

"GTHEA 210 Course Alignment Summer Grant," General Education Committee, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, October 2014.

"Using Assessment Data to Improve Student Learning," Center for Assessment and Research Studies, James Madison University, June 2014.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Mid-America Theatre Conference

Co-Chair, Pitch-Your-Book and Articles-in-Progress Sessions 2016-present

American Society for Theatre Research

Membership Sub-Committee 2013-2015

University at Buffalo, SUNY

University Service

Graduate School, Graduate Grievances Committee 2017-present

Department Service

Graduate Committee 2017-present

Theatre Studies Committee 2017-present

James Madison University

University Service

Assessment Advisory Council 2012-2017

Faculty Research Council 2014-2017

School of Theatre and Dance Leadership and Service

Assessment Coordinator 2012-2017

Program assessments rated "Exemplary" for all years

Advisor for mainstage student dramaturgs 2011-2017

Chair, General Education / THEA 210 Task Force 2012-2017

Chair, Part-Time Faculty Evaluation Committee 2014-2017

Tom Arthur Scholarship Committee 2012-2017

Freshman Advisor 2012-2015

Average number of advisees per year: 60

Master's Program Task Force 2012-2013

Season Selection Committee 2011-2012, 2015-2016

Theatre Studies Committee 2011-2017

Governance and Policies Committee 2016-2017

College of Visual and Performing Arts Service

Diversity Council 2012-2013

University of Pittsburgh

Conference organizer for Theatre and Cognitive Studies Conference

Graduate student representative to Assessment and Curriculum Committee

Graduate student representative to Departmental Search Committee

President of Duse Society (departmental graduate student organization)

Founder and editor of Duse Society newsletter

University of Pittsburgh Graduate Student Organization

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

James Madison University

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| Provost's Faculty Diversity Curriculum Development Grant, 2016 | \$3000 (group) |
| College of Visual and Performing Arts Summer Research Grant, 2015 | \$5000 |
| Grant Director, GTHEA 210 Course Alignment Summer Grant, 2014 Awarded by General Education Committee | \$3160 (group) |

University of Pittsburgh

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| Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 2009-2010 | \$22,000 |
| Faculty of Arts and Sciences Teaching Mentor, 2008-2009 | |
| Department of Theatre Arts PhD Teaching Award , 2008-2009 | |
| Department of Theatre Arts Summer Fellowship, 2008 | \$3,000 |
| Teaching Fellowship, 2008-2011 | Tuition / stipend |
| Teaching Assistantship, 2006-2007 | Tuition / stipend |
| Graduate Student Assistantship, 2005-2009 | Tuition / stipend |
| Outstanding Paper Award, Grad Expo, 2007 | |

American Society for Theatre Research

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| Thomas Marshall Graduate Student Award, 2008 | \$800 |
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Denison University (1997-2001)

Reese and Sheckleford Theatre Scholarship
 Jeanne Vail Scholarship
 Harriet King Shepardson Scholarship
 Shepardson Award
 Jane Morrissey Award
 Denison Alumni Award

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo, SUNY

Advanced Dramaturgy (fall 2017)
 Introduction to Theatre (fall 2017)

James Madison University

American Theatre (THEA 485)
 Theory and Performance Studies (THEA 481)

The European Theatre Tradition from 1800 (THEA 316)
 The European Theatre Tradition to 1800 (THEA 315)
 Dramaturgy (THEA 303)
 Performance Analysis (THEA 211)
 Introduction to Theatre (THEA 210) and Honors Introduction to Theatre (THEA 210 H)
 Introduction to Visual and Performing Arts (ARTS 100)

University of Pittsburgh

World Theatre II: 1640-1890
 Introduction to Dramatic Art
 Introduction to Shakespeare
 Acting I: Fundamentals of the Stanislavski System
 Introduction to Performance
 Introduction to Theatre Arts (T.A.)

Denison University

Development of Dramatic Art (T.A.)
 Stage Combat (T.A.)

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Faculty advisor: Honors projects and senior theses, student directors, and student dramaturgs
 Book Indexer, Lynne Conner's *Pittsburgh in Stages: Two Hundred Years of Theater* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007)
 Reader and Proofreader, Kathleen George's *A Measure of Blood* (MysteriousPress / Open Road, 2014).
 Company Manager, Pandora's Box Theatre Company, 2007
 Research Assistant for Bruce McConachie, Attilio Favorini, Kathleen George, and Lisa Jackson-Schebetta

DRAMATURGY

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| <i>Wild Party</i> | Dir. Kate Arcchi | James Madison University | 2016 |
| <i>Finding Zeus</i> | Dir. Kiara Pipino | ATHE New Play Workshop | 2015 |
| <i>Machinal</i> | Dir. Terry Dean | James Madison University | 2014 |
| <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> | Dir. Ingrid De Sanctis | James Madison University | 2013 |
| <i>For Sale</i> (world premiere) | Dir. Roger Hall | James Madison University | 2012 |
| <i>Sweeney Todd</i> | Dir. Kate Arcchi | James Madison University | 2012 |
| <i>Count Dracula</i> | Dir. Stephen Coleman | Pitt Repertory Theatre | 2009 |
| <i>The Clean House</i> | Dir. Tommy Costello | Pitt Repertory Theatre | 2008 |
| <i>The Recruiting Officer</i> | Dir. Holly Thuma | Pitt Repertory Theatre | 2007 |

DIRECTION AND ASSISTANT DIRECTION

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| <i>Angels in America: Perestroika</i> (AD, Dir. CT Steele) | Pitt Repertory Theatre | 2009 |
| <i>Widower Houses</i> | Studio Theatre, NYC | 2003 |
| <i>'Night, Mother</i> | Denison University | 2001 |

Acting and fight choreography credits available upon request

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research
Association for Theatre in Higher Education
American Theatre and Drama Society
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies

LANGUAGES

German

Demonstrated graduate-level translation ability on written proficiency tests
Intermediate speaking skills