

Thornton J. Parker-Young
345 W 13th Ave, Homestead, PA 15120
thorn.young@gmail.com
832.348.9906

Education

MFA, Texas State University, 2017

Emphasis: Dramatic Writing

Thesis Production: Lyon's Den

Research Emphasis: Queer Theory and African American Theater

Department of Theater and Dance Graduate Student of the Year, 2016

B.A., University of Texas – San Antonio, 2010

Emphasis: English

Employment in Higher Education

Westminster University – Theatre Department

Adjunct Professor of Theater Arts (August 2018 – May 2019)

Texas State University – Department of Theatre and Dance

Graduate Lecturer (January 2016 – May 2017)

Teaching Assistant (August 2014 – December 2015)

Instructor on Record

Westminster College, Adjunct Professor (August 2019 – May 2020)

Introduction to Theatre

- *An examination of the process by which dramatic literature becomes theater. The course examines the forms of comedy, tragedy, and their offshoots as well as the elements of theater – structure, character, language, scenography – and the style of theater with an emphasis on modernism and post-modernism.*

Playwriting Workshop/Introduction to Playwriting

- *The course is aimed at developing the composition of short plays (10-minute and One Acts) and monologues by student writers interested in the story telling that is found within live theater. By examining the difference between theater and other storytelling mediums, there is an emphasis on theatrical elements and an understanding of the development process within the class. By the end of the course, students will leave with a small portfolio of writings that have been workshopped during the semester.*

Texas State University, Adjunct Professor (January 2016 – May 2017)

Introduction to Fine Arts

- *An introductory course designed to give the student a fundamental understanding of the creation and appreciation of diverse modes of expression through the visual and performing arts. An emphasis is placed on critical thinking and written examination of theatre, dance, music, and visual arts.*

Playwriting

- *A study of the fundamentals of written theatrical work. By examining the structure, dialogue, character development, and the mechanics of playwriting. Through*

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script analysis, performance evaluations, and discussion around student written work, the class serves as a workshop setting for the development of new plays. Includes playwriting techniques, dramaturgical feedback, guidance through the re-write process, and script analysis of both text and scripts in performance.

Webseries Creation

- *This participatory workshop-style class is an exploration of the creative and logistical challenges in creating an episodic web series. The course focuses on the fundamentals of developing a web series, including pitching a concept, planning episodes, writing episodes, budgeting for production, creating a basic production plan, and opportunities for funding and monetization.*

Teaching Assistant

Texas State University, (May 2014 – December 2015)

Introduction to Fine Arts

- *Administered exams, graded all written papers, input grades, tracked attendance, met with students concerning comprehension of taught materials, and assisted in any writing related concerns the students might have had concerning the course.*

Additional Teaching

City Theater, Pittsburgh, PA (2018 – 2019)

Teaching Artist

- *As part of the City Theater Young Playwrights Program, I instructed students between 5th and 8th grade on the basics of playwriting, storytelling, character development, critical analysis of works, and basic workshop techniques and etiquette. They learn about the life of a play, from conception to production, and the creation of their own plays is integrated within their school lessons to support their understanding of theater and literature.*

Monologue Project

- *In collaboration with the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, a two-week residency was executed in conjunction with their Summer education programming. Two male units were exposed to the art of monologue writing and through open dialogue developed monologues representing their experience as youth in Pittsburgh.*

Quantum Theater – Pittsburgh, PA (2019)

Head Teaching Artist

- *I created the educational materials for students ranging from 5th grade to 12th grade that were implemented by myself and two other teaching artists. I spearheaded the creation of five devised pieces that were in response to the themes and characters present in Quantum Theater's production of King Lear.*
- *Organized and implemented Education Day with the participating schools and production team*

SUNY Oswego – Spring 2020

Guest Lecture

Bowie State University - Spring 2020

Guest Lecture

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Dramaturgical Work

Black and Latino Playwright Festival (2017)
City Theatre: Young Playwrights Festival (2019 – Present)

Regional Theater Positions

Quantum Theater (February 2018 – July 2019)

- Patron Services Coordinator – *Working closely with the production team, I created and planned the patron experience for each site-specific performance. This included the coordination of volunteers and the assurance of ADA compliance within the existing blueprint of the locations. Also, I crafted a talk back session and a follow up community-based event for the production of THE GUN SHOW (Feb. 2019)*
- Community Engagement Coordinator – *Met with a variety of community leaders and organizations to form show specific collaborations. Under my tenure in the position, the community night went from an event that rarely filled 25% of the performance's capacity to being a sold-out event.*
- Head of Education – *Coordinated class room visits and schedules for myself and two other teaching artists, oversaw the planning and execution of education day with 80 students.*

Bricolage Production Company (July 2019 – Present)

- Facilities and Administrative Coordinator – *Assisting the Managing Director in daily operations of the production company including creation of contracts for actors, crew, and other temporary employees, tracking and updating budgets, reporting for grants and endowments, project specific research, city permitting, inquiry of rights for productions, logistical planning of events, and database upkeep. Also, all facilities related needs – including rentals – are under my purview.*

Editing

The Performing Artist's Guide to Mental Wellness by Dr. Bill Crawford and Kaitlin Hopkins (2016)

Conference Presentations

Texas State International Research Conference

- 2015 – *Death of a Salesman and the Mentally Unstable Willy Lowman*
- 2016 – *Torch Song Trilogy* and the Emergence of Homonormativity

Publications

Plays

- Young, TJ. NO. 6. Samuel French (2017)

Online

- Parker-Young, TJ. Hearing Each Other Over the Gun Fire. HowlRound Theater Commons. <https://howlround.com/hearing-each-other-over-gun-fire> (2019)

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Print

- The Dramatist, Contributing Writer
- Texas Theater Monthly, Contributing Writer/Reviewer

Plays

Full Length

- BIRDS/BEES (In Development)
- STROKE (In Development)
- WASH (In Development)
- Dark Skinned Pavement
- Lyon's Den
- White House Boys
- NO. 6
- Cupid
- The Frontlines
- The Guys You Slept With

One-Act

- Hell Is Empty
- Hop and Griz
- Ruby's Baby Blue

10-Minutes

- Pan
- Stuffed
- Lilies
- Before The Fire
- Rocks the Cradle
- Effie

Other Projects/Work In Progress

- Head Writer and Co-Creator, *Latent Specters -An Interactive Narrative Podcast* (In Development)
- *Untitled Narrative Podcast* (In Development)
- Writer and Director, *Death Rhymes with Orange*, Short Film (2017)
- Creator, Writer, and Director, *Intimate Bits*, Webseries (2016)

Awards

- Inaugural inQbator Reading, LYON'S DEN, Quantum Theater (2019)
- Artist Spotlight, Throughline Theater Company. (2019)
- Herold and Mimi Steinberg Playwriting Award, Distinguished Play, LYON'S DEN, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (2018)
- In-Progress New Play Reading Series Finalist, LYON'S DEN, Unicorn Theatre (2018)
- Festival Selection, BEFORE THE FIRE, Fade2Black Play Festival (2018)

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- Ken Ludwig Scholarship for Best Body of Work, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (2017)
- Herold and Mimi Steinberg Playwriting Award Winner, NO. 6, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (2017)
- New Works Festival Finalist, LYON'S DEN, Kitchen Dog Theater (2017)
- John Cable Short Play Regional Selection, HELL IS EMPTY, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (2017)
- John Cable Short Play Regional Selection, RUBY'S BABY BLUE, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (2016)
- Gary Garrison 10-Minute Play Regional Selection, HALLMARK, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (2016)
- 10 Minute Play Winner, HALLMARK, TETA Playfest (2016)
- Best New Play, FRONTLINES, The Rose Theater Co., (2014)

Workshops

From Concept to Character, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 2 Festival 52 (2020)

Good Feedback with Dr. Toby Malone, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 2 Festival 52 (2020)

Writing into Conflict, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 2 Festival 51 (2019)

Professional Memberships

Dramatist Guild of America (DGA)
Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)
Playwright's Center
Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF)

Service

Panelist/Selection Committee, New Hazlett New Work Development (2020)
Graduate Capstone Advisory Board, Carnegie Mellon Arts Management (2020)
Board Member, Pittsburgh New Works Festival (2018 – Present)
Dramatist Guild Regional Co-Representative (2019 – Present)
Vice-Chair of National Play Program – Region 2, KCACTF (2019 – Present)
Playwrights Foundation National Reading Committee (2019 – Present)

References Available Upon Request