TheNeoGriot.com • [TheNeoGriot@gmail.com](mailto:TheNeoGriot@gmail.com)

# **Education/Training**

### Columbia University, MFA Directing (2018)

* ***Principal Mentors:*** Anne Bogart, Brian Kulick, Gregory Mosher,

David Henry Hwang, Christian Parker, Arnold Aronson

### Rutgers University, BFA Acting (High Honors, 2005)

* ***Principal Mentors:*** Barbara Marchant, Kevin Kittle, Israel Hicks,

Lenard Petit, Debrah Hedwall

### Rutgers Conservatory at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, London (2003-2004)

* ***Principal Mentors:*** Mike Alfreds, Stewart Pearce,

Glenn MacDonald, Mark Rylance

### Boston University, Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics (1999-2002)

* **Areas of Intimate Knowledge:**
* Text Analysis
* Meisner Technique
* Chekhov Technique
* Viewpoints
* Laban Technique
* Alexander Technique
* Williamson Movement Technique
* Linklater Vocal Technique
* Shakespeare/Classical Drama
* Theater History (esp. American/African American)
* **Relevant Skills:**
* Foreign Language Proficiency
* Swahili (Advanced)
* Spanish Language (Intermediate)
* Martial Arts Expert (32 years)
* Wushu (Black Belt), Tae Kwon Do (2nd Degree Black Belt), Capoeira, Kickboxing
* Ethnography and Cultural Research
* Semiotics

# **Theater Directing**

## Productions

*The Escape* William Wells Brown Lenfest Center for the Arts, NYC

*King Lear* William Shakespeare Columbia University, NYC

*The Cherry Orchard* Anton Chekhov Schapiro Theater, NYC

*The Mytilenean Debate* (Spring 2022) Quan Barry Forward Theatre Co., WI

*Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* Nathan Alan Davis Source Theatre, DC

*The Henry Dumas Project* Henry Dumas (Selected) Columbia University, NYC

*Julius Caesar* William Shakespeare University Theatre, WI

*Sonnets for an Old Century* Jose Rivera University Theatre, WI

*A Haunting* Santino DeAngelo Schapiro Theater, NYC

*Fires in the Mirror* Anna Deavere Smith Howard University, DC

*Blood Knot* Athol Fugard Company 608, DC

*Marisol*  Jose Rivera Rutgers Theater Company, NJ

*Topdog/Underdog* Suzan-Lori Parks Rutgers Theater Company, NJ

*Like Father, Like Son* Dominique Butler Young Playwrights’ Theater, DC

*Movin’ On* Tom Minter Forum Theatre, DC

## Readings and Workshops

*Hooded* Tearrance A. Chisholm Kennedy Center, DC

*She Gets Naked in the End* Brian Daniel Oglesby Kennedy Center, DC

*Annie Jump* Reina Hardy Kennedy Center, DC

*The Orbit of Mercury* Bob Bartlett id Theater, NYC

*The Shipment* Young Jean Lee Theater Alliance, DC

*The Love Experience* papi kymone freeman African Continuum Theater, DC

*White Baby Jesus* Dane Edidi Figueroa Spooky Action Theatre, DC

The Mytilenean Debate Quan Barry Forward Theater Company, WI

# **Assistant Directing**

Ms. Blakk for President Steppenwolf Theatre Co., IL Dir. Tina Landau

Broke-ology Theatre Alliance, DC Dir. Candace Feldman

Not About Nightingales Howard University, DC Dir. Eric Ruffin

# **Acting**

## Productions

*The Whipping Man* John Theater J: JenniferNelson *Much Ado About Nothing* Borachio Shakespeare Theatre, DC: Ethan McSweeny

*In the Red and Brown Water* Elegba Studio Theatre, DC: Serge Seiden *Fly* Oscar Ford's Theatre: Ricardo Khan*The Shipment* Various Forum Theatre: Psalmayene 24*The Persians* Xerxes People's Light and Theatre: Jade K. Carroll*Yellow Face* Lead Theater J: Natsu Onoda Power*Twelfth Night* Orsino Shakespeare's Globe Theatre: Mike Alfreds *Fahrenheit 451* Holden Round House Theatre: Sharon Ott*Cinderella: The Remix* Chocolate Ice Imagination Stage: Psalmayene 24

*White Rabbit/Red Rabbit* Actor Theater Alliance: Colin Hovde*Jason Invisible* Sam Waldron Kennedy Center: Rosemary Newcott*The Wings of Ikarus Jackson* Teacher/Pigeon Kennedy Center: Devanand Janki*Fly*  J. Allen Vineyard Playhouse: Ricardo Khan*The Rant* Charles Simmons New Jersey Rep: Jesse Ontiveros*The History Boys* Crowther Studio Theatre, DC: Joy Zinoman*My Children! My Africa!* Thami Studio Theatre, DC: Serge Seiden*Blood Knot* Zachariah Company 608: Mark H.*Blues for Mister Charlie* Lorenzo Turtle Shell Productions: Brad Malow*Topdog/Underdog* Lincoln Rutgers Theater Company: Mark H. *Play to Win* Jackie Robinson Theatreworks USA, NYC*Woodlawn*  Young Man Young Playwrights' Theater: David Snider

## Readings and Workshops

*The Wind and the Breeze* Shantell The Kennedy Center, DC

*Saturday Night/Sunday Morning* Bobby Arena Stage, DC *Bengal Tiger at The Baghdad Zoo* Tom Arena Stage, DC*The Good Negro* Pelzie Arena Stage: Liesl Tommy*Smart People* Jackson Moore Baltimore Center Stage

# **Dramaturgy**

## Productions

*Deep Blue Sea/What Problem?* Bill T. Jones/Mark H. Park Avenue Armory, NYC

# **Artistic Producing**

*We Are Proud to Present a Presentation…* Jackie Sibblies Drury Steppenwolf Theatre Co., IL

# **Teaching Experience**

***University of Wisconsin Madison, WI***

***Assistant Professor of Directing and Acting July 2019-Present***

* Responsible for teaching directing and acting classes to undergraduate and graduate students at this large Research I public university.
* Research
* Service to university, the theater profession and the public

***Barnard College New York, NY***

***Teaching Assistant, Acting Workshop 1 September-December 2016***

* Assisted the teacher in setting up and striking the work space, and leading group physical and vocal warmups, classroom exercises and discussions
* Taught fundamentals of acting, theater games, and script analysis to undergraduate students
* Collaborated with the teacher and students in staging final scenes, and shaping the overall final presentation
* Supported the teacher in tracking student progress and making final assessments

***Institute of Reading Development Washington, DC/New York, NY***

***Reading Teacher April 2015-August 2016***

* Taught reading skills to hundreds of students ranging in age from pre-school to Adult working professionals
* Taught fundamentals of reading, note-taking and study skills and speed-reading techniques
* Tracked students’ progress through detailed notes and assessments of reading speed and comprehension
* Instructed parents in techniques to support children’s learning at home

***Duke Ellington School of the Arts Washington, DC***

***Substitute Acting Teacher Fall 2014***

* Instructed high school students in the fundamentals of acting, taught script analysis techniques, and facilitated group discussions

***Ford’s Theatre Washington, DC***

***Teaching Artist Fall 2012***

* Traveled to various DC-area schools priming students for Ford’s Theatre performances by providing historical background, teaching theater etiquette, and leading students in theater games and exploratory exercises.

***Paradise Cove Community Group Washington, DC***

***Zulu Language Teacher Winter 2013***

* Taught a weekly class in basic Zulu grammar, vocabulary and culture to a DC community language group.

***Dennis Brown Shaolin Wushu Academy Mitchellville, MD***

***Martial Arts Instructor 1996-1999***

* Led students through physical and mental warmups, taught proper Chinese Wushu techniques and philosophies, assessed and monitored student progress, and motivated students to push beyond comfort and strive for excellence.

***Jhoon Rhee Tae Kwon Do Hyattsville, MD***

***Martial Arts Instructor 1991-1994***

* Led students through physical and mental warmups, taught proper Tae Kwon Do techniques and philosophies, assessed and monitored student progress, and motivated students to push beyond comfort and strive for excellence.

# **Apprenticeships and Internships**

***Steppenwolf Theatre Company Chicago, IL***

***Artistic Apprentice August 2018-June 2019***

* Performed various administrative duties including working the office reception desk, compiling and organizing performer headshots and bios, designing season spreadsheets, and creating artistic team meeting agendas and minutes.
* Participated in season planning discussions, design meetings and casting sessions.
* Facilitated post-show discussions.

***The New Group New York, NY***

***Education Intern February-May 2018***

* Assisted in coordinating logistical needs such as group communications, travel, scheduling and tracking attendance for The New Group’s Scene 1 program for high school students.
* Assisted the primary teaching artist in classroom exercises, and helping students devise a final presentation of original scenes.
* Led students in rehearsals and workshops in the teaching artist’s absence.

***Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company New York, NY***

***Artistic Intern January-May 2018***

* Collaborated with Bill T. Jones and his company in devising and workshopping a performance piece.
* Researched, interpreted and compiled text and music to be incorporated into rehearsals and workshops.

# **Relevant Professional Experience**

***Hudson Theater, Broadway New York, NY***

***Front of House June 2018-August 2018***

* Ensured a fantastic and seamless experience for guests to Broadway’s Hudson Theater by serving as a warm and approachable ambassador and first point of contact with the company, providing directions and historical information about the theater, and being attentive and proactive in serving guests needs.
* Teamwork
* Minimal theater maintenance duties

***Metropolitan Opera New York, NY***

***Development Associate June 2018-August 2018***

* Fundraising
* Data entry

***Schapiro Theater, Columbia University New York, NY***

***Theater Space Crew August 2016-September 2017***

* Prepared and maintained the main theater and studio spaces at Columbia’s busy Schapiro Theater
* Provided technical assistance for productions in the various performance and rehearsal spaces
* Tracked theater inventory
* Updated and maintained employee work calendar

***Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center College Park, MD***

***Artistic Programming and Marketing Assistant December 2013-May 2014***

* Compiled marketing materials (artist photos, bios, etc.)
* Edited and formatted season brochures and playbills
* Corresponded with artists' agents and managers to coordinate travel and performance logistics

***Studio Theatre Washington, DC***

***Assistant House Manager June 2007-October 2007***

* Provided guests of the theater with a wonderful experience
* Trained ushers
* Theater maintenance
* Data entry

# **Fellowships & Awards**

***Steppenwolf Fellowship*.** Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 2018-2019.

* The Steppenwolf Fellowship is a professional development program for early-career people of color interested in working in theatre. Fellows are given paid professional development opportunities both in and out of Steppenwolf Theatre.

***Dean’s Fellowship*.** Columbia University, 2015-2017.

* A merit-based fellowship awarded to one student per concentration showing exceptional artistic and academic promise

***FLAS Fellowship*.** Yale University, 2017.

* A fellowship awarded to support intensive foreign language study abroad. This fellowship allowed for my two-month Intermediate/Advanced Swahili language study in Tanzania.

***Dean’s Travel Grant*.** Columbia University, 2017.

* Awarded to assist with my travel to Tanzania for research into Swahili theater and East African performance cultures.

# **Union Affiliations**

***Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC)***, Associate Member since 2018