

Sam N. W. Blake

Curriculum Vitae

Ph.D. Candidate in Performing and Media Arts
Cornell University
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Ithaca, NY 14850
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Education

- Ph.D. CORNELL UNIVERSITY, expected 2023
Performing and Media Arts
Minor Certifications: Directing; Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Dissertation: *Mincing and Screaming: Male and/or Masculine of Center Identified Femme Performance*
Committee: Sara Warner (Chair), Debra Castillo, Nick Salvato, David Feldshuh
- M.A. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, 2016
Performance as Public Practice
Portfolio in LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies, Center for Women and Gender Studies
Thesis: *(Re)Building Grandmother's House: Exploring the Work of Queer Youth Theatre Facilitators, Their Goals, Methods, and Practice*
Committee: Paul Bonin-Rodriguez (Chair), Megan Alrutz, Kristen Hogan
- B.A. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, 2007
Drama & English Language and Literature
Minor: British History
Advisors: Martin Walsh, E. J. Westlake, Enoch Brater, Katherine Mendeloff

Teaching & Research Interests

Male/Masc. of Center Femme Performance	Queer Youth Theatre
Queer and Feminist Performance	Applied Theatre
Fat Studies and Performance	Performance Ethnography
Queer Migrant Performance	Shakespeare
Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	American Studies
Theatre and Performance Studies	Theatre History
Directing and Acting	Dramaturgy

Theatre Training & Competencies

Meisner Technique	Linklater Voice Method
Alexander Technique	Lecoq Physical Theatre
Red Nose Mask/Clown	Spolin Improvisation
Viewpoints	Puppetry
Tectonic Moment Work	Royal Shakespeare Co., UK, Apprenticeship

Awards, Honors, Grants, & Fellowships

- 2022 Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program Teaching Assistantship Award
Cornell University, “Introduction to LGBT Studies”
- 2021 Buttrick-Crippen Fellow Finalist
John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University
“Fourth Walls: Boundaries, Border, Barriers in Performance”
- 2021 The Marvin Carlson Award for Best Student Essay in Theatre or Performance
Honorable Mention for “Ghosting History: Queer Disappearance, Stage Specters,
and Minoritarian Performance in/of the Past”
- 2020 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2018 Cornell Council for the Arts Grant, Cornell University
In support of my production *An Evening at the Caffè Cino*
- 2017 Community Partnership Fellow, Cornell University
Public Humanities Grant to work with Ithaca’s Cherry Arts Theatre
Through Cornell’s Society for the Humanities and Humanities New York
- 2017 The Marvin Carlson Award for Best Student Essay in Theatre or Performance
Honorable Mention for “Spinning Webs: Queer Myth Making and the Utopian
Potential of Queer Youth Theatre”
- 2016 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2015 Igor Youskevitch Endowed Scholarship in Drama, University of Texas at Austin
- 2015 Lillian Barkly Scholarship, University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 Oscar G. Brockett Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Theatre History and Criticism,
University of Texas at Austin
- 2007 Dean James H. Robertson Award for Achievement and Excellence in Theatre,
University of Michigan

Conferences

- 2022 Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Performance and Panel Discussion
“Heading Into Night, A Clown Ode to Remembrance”

- 2021 American Society for Theatre Research, Working Group
“Ghosting History: Queer Disappearance, Stage Specters, and Minoritarian Performance in Paula Vogel’s *Indecent*”
- 2019 American Society for Theatre Research, Working Group
“‘They’re not women’s clothes, they’re mine. I bought them’: Restoring the Term Transvestite and the Comedy of Eddie Izzard”
- 2017 American Society for Theatre Research, Working Group Co-Convener
“(Em)bodied Exclusions: Considering Questions of Ethical Representation in Performance”
- 2016 American Society for Theatre Research, Working Group
“Imagining Futures: The Utopian Potential of Queer Youth Theatre”
- 2016 Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Working Session
“Employing Stages: The Work and Goals of Queer Youth Theatre Facilitators”
- 2016 Women's & Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference at UT Austin, Panel
“Dancing Out of Their Graves: The Performance of Health in Gunther von Hagens’ Body Worlds”
- 2015 Oral Historian Association Annual Meeting, Performance and Panel Discussion
“Performance Ethnography as Social Change”
- 2015 New Directions in Anthropology, Performance and Panel Discussion
“Performance Ethnography: Witnessing Truths Through Community, Advocacy and Performance”

Invited Speaker & Workshops

- 2022 Intro to LGBT Studies, Cornell University
Guest Lecture: “Drag: LGBTQ+ Performance, Culture, and Activism”
- 2018 Society for the Humanities, Cornell University
Invited Talk: “Dramaturgy as a Public Humanities Practice”
- 2016 LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies Portfolio Research Colloquium, University of Texas at Austin
Invited Talk: “Queer Myth Making in Queer Youth Theatre”
- 2015 Introduction to Theatre, University of Texas at Austin
Guest Lecture: “Dramaturgy & Shakespeare: Research, Script Editing, and Audience Engagement”

2015 Introduction to Feminist Research Methods, University of Texas at Austin
Workshop: “Artistic Practice as Research: Situating Yourself in Your Work”

2014 Theatre History Through the Eighteenth Century, University of Texas at Austin
Guest Lecture: “The Origins and Structures of English Renaissance Drama”

Teaching

Cornell University:

Instructor:

Exploring Drag Performance, First Year Writing Seminar
(Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)
Fourth Walls: Boundaries, Borders, and Barriers in Performance
First Year Writing Seminar (Fall 2021)
Making Theatre: Rehearsal and Production Techniques (Fall 2021)
Playing (with) History: Reviewing the Past Through Performance
First Year Writing Seminar (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant:

Introduction to LGBT Studies (Spring 2022)
Introduction to American Studies (Spring 2021)
Introduction to Acting (Fall 2018)
Fundamentals of Directing (Spring 2018)

University of Texas at Austin:

Teaching Assistant:

History of Theatre: Eighteenth Century to the Present (Spring 2016)
Introduction to Theatre (Spring 2016)
Languages of the Stage (Fall 2015)
The Power of Story (Spring 2015)

Teaching Certifications & Enrichment

2018-19 Pizza and Pedagogy Program for First-Year Writing Seminar Instructors
John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University

2017-18 Peer Mentorship Program for First-Year Writing Seminar Instructors
John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University

2015 Inclusive Classrooms Leadership Certificate for Excellence in Teaching
Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, University of Texas at Austin

- 2015 Activating Learning Through the Arts Certificate Program
 Summer Institute, University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 First-Year Interdisciplinary Learning Certificate
 Undergraduate Studies Department, University of Texas at Austin

Service

- 2021-22 Graduate Representative, Cornell PMA Department Faculty Meetings
 Responsibilities: Represent graduate student interests and concerns to faculty,
 distribute minutes and report to graduate students about faculty meetings
- 2019-22 Affiliated Choruses of Ithaca Executive Board
 Responsibilities: Represent chorus membership, approve budgets, develop and
 implement Covid-19 policy for member choruses
- 2019-20 Graduate Representative, Cornell PMA Performance and Events Committee
 Responsibilities: Help select 2020/2021 season for Performing and Media Arts
 Department, represent graduate student interests on committee
- 2018-22 Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus Steering Committee
 Responsibilities: Set budget, concert planning, Liaise between other choruses,
 conductor selection, develop and implement Covid-19 policy
- 2018-19 President, Cornell Graduate Researchers in Media and Performing Arts
 Responsibilities: Set agenda, lead meetings, facilitate/moderate discussion, plan
 and coordinate events, fundraise
- 2017-18 Graduate Mentor, Cornell Graduate Researchers in Media and Performing Arts,
 Responsibilities: Mentor and support first-year graduate students in PMA
- 2016-23 Member, Cornell Graduate Researchers in Media and Performing Arts
- 2015-16 Performance as Public Practice Colloquium Planning Committee, UT Austin
 Responsibilities: Selecting, inviting, and coordinating diverse guest artist and
 scholar visits; planning and coordinating interdepartmental events
- 2015 Planning Committee, NYU Hemispheric Institute Graduate Student Initiative
 Convergence, University of Texas at Austin
 Responsibilities: Generating conference theme, writing call for papers, planning
 conference panels, inviting guest speakers, conference logistics
- 2015 Co-Chair, Subcommittee for Artist and Participant Affairs
 NYU Hemispheric Institute Graduate Student Initiative Convergence at UT Austin
 Responsibilities: Create guide to UT and Austin; plan off campus activities;
 orchestrate simultaneous interpretation in three languages; coordinate volunteers

Theatre Production Experience (select credits)

Directing/Devising	Credit	Company
<i>Seven Homeless Mammoths</i> <i>Wander New England</i>	Director	PMA Department, Cornell U. (2021)
<i>An Evening at the Caffè Cino</i>	Director	PMA Department, Cornell U. (2019)
<i>The Shirt/Civility</i>	Director	10 Min. Play Festival, Cornell U. (2018)
<i>Two Truths and Allie</i>	Director	PMA Department, Cornell U. (2017)
<i>Climates of Change</i>	Devisor	PMA Department, Cornell U. (2017)
<i>Our Friends from After Orlando</i>	Director	Civic Ensemble/Cultura Ithaca/ Teatrotaller (2016)
<i>Spring Cleaning</i>	Director	10 Min. Play Festival, Cornell U. (2016)
<i>Emma When You Need Her</i>	Devisor	Vortex Repertory Co. (2014)
“	“	Cohen New Works Festival (2014)
<i>String Up the Moon</i>	Director/Devisor	Fratellanza Theatre Co. (2012)
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Asst. Director	Purple Rose Theatre Co. (2008)
<i>Fade to Dark</i>	Director	Purple Rose Theatre Co. (2008)
<i>The Tempest</i>	Asst. Director	Shakespeare in The Arb (2007)
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Director	Rude Mechanicals (2006)
<i>Family Voices & other Pinter Shorts</i>	Director	RC Drama Dept., U of Mich. (2006)
<i>A Man For All Seasons</i>	Director	RC Players, U of Mich. (2005)
<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Director	RC Players, U of Mich. (2005)
<i>The Mousetrap</i>	Director	RC Players, U of Mich. (2004)
<i>Testiclease</i>	Asst. Director	RC Players, U of Mich. (2003)
<i>Watchdog</i>	Devisor	Acting Out (2003)

Dramaturgy	Credit	Company
<i>Heading Into Night</i>	Devisor/Dramaturg	Cherry Arts, Ithaca (2023)
Ten Minute Play Festival, 2020	Dramaturg	Cornell University (2020)
<i>What Happens Next?</i>	Dramaturg	Cherry Arts, Ithaca (2017)
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Dramaturg	UT Dept of Theatre and Dance (2015)
<i>Vino Veritas</i>	Dramaturg	Purple Rose Theatre Co. (2007)
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Dramaturg	Shakespeare in The Arb (2006)

Additional Performance Experience

- 2017 Producer, Ten Minute Play Festival, Cornell University
- 2017-23 Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus
- 2017-20 Ithaca Community Chorus and Chamber Singers
- 2016-18 Graduate Researchers in Media and Performing Arts Play Reading Group
 Read and discussed plays with the purpose of assessing how we might approach
 these text with undergraduates onstage and in the classroom.
- 2011-12 Founding Member of Chicago Director's Junto
 A group through which emerging Chicago area directors met, discussed,
 experimented, played, read, and in all ways attempt to better our craft.
- 2009-12 Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
- 2003-05 Founding Member of Acting Out
 A theatre troupe dedicated to social change through performance. Used
 theatre to protest Iraq war. Used street/guerrilla theatre, devised productions.

Additional Theatre Education and Training

- 2013 Puppet Workshop, Detroit PuppetART
 Instructors: Igor Gozman, Irena Barannovskya
- 2010-12 The School for Theatre Creators, Chicago
 Red Nose Mask/Clown
 Lecoq Fundamentals of Movement
 Instructors: Paola Coletto, Mark Frost
- 2007-08 Purple Rose Theatre Company
 Actor/Director Lab
- 2007-08 Purple Rose Theatre Company
 Purple Rose Theatre Company Apprentice
 Work in: Dramaturgy, stage management; sound design; board operation;
 backstage crew; house management; box office; script selection
- 2005 Royal Shakespeare Company, United Kingdom
 University of Michigan RSC Apprenticeship
 Mentors: Michael Boyd and Greg Doran

Professional Affiliations

2015-23 American Society for Theatre Research

2015-23 Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Member