

Jason T. Fitzgerald

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor

University of Michigan, 2020-present — Department of English

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Pittsburgh, 2018-2020 – Humanities Center, affiliation: Dept of Theatre Arts

Adjunct Professor

Purchase College, SUNY, Fall 2017 - Liberal Studies and Humanities

Yale University, Spring 2018 – Lecturer with the Yale Residential College Seminar Program

Columbia University, Spring 2018 – English and Comparative Literature

EDUCATION

Columbia University

PhD (2017), MPhil (2013), MA (2011), Theatre (Dpt of English and Comparative Literature)

Dissertation: “Exiting Eden: U.S. Avant-Garde Theatre’s Humanist Controversy”

(W.B. Worthen, Julie Peters, Bruce Robbins; outside readers: Elin Diamond, Marc Robinson)

Yale School of Drama

M.F.A. 2008, Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism

Harvard University

A.B. 2004, History and Literature, magna cum laude

Other

Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, 2018

Modern and Contemporary Studies Initiative (MCSI) Summer Institute, Penn State U, 2017

School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, 2013

Harvard Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Harvard University, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Works in Progress

“The Beast and the Magician: History vs. Human in Amiri Baraka’s *The Black Mass*” (article)

Theatre at the End of Humanism: Staging Agency and Politics in the Radical Sixties (book)

Peer-Reviewed

“Climate Staged: The Place of Theatre in *The Great Immensity*” (forthcoming, *ISLE*)

“Ratifying the Myth of Eden: The Open Theater’s Critique of Humanism,” *Modern Drama* 61.4
(Winter 2018)

Short Essays, Interviews, Book and Performance Reviews (Academic)

“The Possibility of Progress: An Interview with Bruce Robbins” (forthcoming, *boundary 2*)

“Baraka, Amiri (LeRoi Jones)” in *Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context* (forthcoming May 2021)

“Showstoppers,” *Lights Camera Action Committee*, lightscamera.org, December 2019

“Homo Defeatist?,” review of Yuval Harari, *Homo Deus. Politics/Letters*, August 2017.

“The Lesson of David Greenspan,” *PAJ* 103 (2013).

“I Had a Dream: ‘Rose’s Turn,’ Musical Theatre, and the Star Effigy,” *Studies in Musical Theatre* vol. 3, no. 3 (2009)

“Rancière’s Counter-Modernism,” review Jacques Rancière, *Aisthesis. Public Books*, May 2014

Review: *The Sixties, Center Stage*, eds. Harding and Rosenthal. *Theatre Journal* 70.1 (2018)

Review: Wickstrom, *Performance in the Blockades of Neoliberalism. Modern Drama* 57.2(2014)

Review: John M. Clum, *The Drama of Marriage. Modern Drama* vol. 56, no. 1 (2013)

Review: Stephen Sondheim, *Finishing the Hat/Look, I Made a Hat. Theatre Survey* 54.2 (2013)

Review: Tobin Nellhaus, *Theatre, Communication, Critical Realism. Theatre Survey* 53.1 (2012)

Review: David Román, *Performance in America. Theater* vol. 37, no. 2 (2007)

Review: *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays. Theatre Journal* 63.1 (2011)

Review: Taylor Mac’s *The Lily’s Revenge. Theatre Journal* vol. 62, no. 3 (2010)

Performance Reviews (trade press) (selected)

New Haven Independent, 2018. Available: <http://www.newhavenindependent.org>

Village Voice, 2014-2017. Available: <https://www.villagevoice.com/author/jasonfitzgerald/>

Slant, 2013-2015. Available: <http://www.slantmagazine.com/author/1011/P0>

Backstage, 2008-2013, Available: <http://www.backstage.com>

HONORS AND AWARDS

Theory and Criticism Graduate Student Paper Award, ATHE, 2010

Bruce Kirle Emerging Scholarship Panel in Music Theatre/Dance, ATHE, 2009

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Keyword: Science,” More Soon: A Symposium Honoring Joe Roach, Chicago, 2019

Public Lecture and campus visit as Visiting Educator, Whitman College, March 5-8, 2018

“The Impossible Study: Joseph Chaikin’s Humanism,” Drama Colloquium, Harvard, 2015

“Presence as Technique: Joseph Chaikin and Authenticity,” Performance Studies Working Group, Yale University, 2014

Campus Talks and Presentations

Critical Conversations: “Precarity” panel presentation, UM LSA English Dpt, Nov 2020

“Making Humans, Making Humanism: History and Universalism on Amiri Baraka’s Black Nationalist Stage,” b2@pitt *boundary 2* conference, University of Pittsburgh, 2019

“Against the Spectacle of Extinction: Bringing *The Great Immensity* Home,” Humanities Center Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh, Oct 4, 2018

Conference Presentations (selected)

“Staying in Place: Bringing *The Great Immensity* Home,” MLA 2021

“Countercultural Humanism: A Recovery and Critique,” Considering the Counterculture conference, Princeton, 2019

“Undoing the Myth of Eden: Restaging a Theatrical Controversy,” MLA 2018
 “The Beast and the Magician: Staging Amiri Baraka’s Black Humanism,” ASTR Plenary 2017
 “Joseph Chaikin’s Impossible Study,” MCSI Summer Institute, 2017
 “The Magic of Black Humanism: Amiri Baraka’s *Black Mass* and the Black Arts Counterpublic,” MLA 2016
 “Postdramatic Theatre and the Humanist Mysterium in the U.S. 1960s,” ASTR 2015
 “Notes Toward a Postdramatic Humanism,” ASTR 2014
 “‘Never go back to the theatre!’: *Paradise Now* and the Paradoxical Politics of Authenticity,” ATHE 2014
 “‘Never come to the theatre again!’: *Paradise Now*, Theatricality, and the Politics of Authenticity,” ACLA 2014
 “Getting to the Point: Jacques Derrida Makes a Decision,” *UNSCRIPTED*, Columbia U Symposium for the study of performance, March 2013
 “These Ghosts Were Made for Walking: Ira Sachs’s *Last Address*,” ATHE 2012
 Roundtable participant: “Writing in the Sand: Performing John Herbert’s Memoirs,” ATHE 2011
 Roundtable Book Discussion on Alice Rayner’s *Ghosts*, ATHE 2011
 “What Happened: David Greenspan Faces the Void,” MLA 2011
 “Immediate Family: Harvey Fierstein’s Imperfectly Catered Affair,” ATHE 2010
 Roundtable Book Discussion on Peggy Phelan’s *Unmarked*, ATHE 2010
 “The Whole World if I Can: Meta-Textuality and Political Discourse in David Greenspan’s *Old Comedy*,” Northeast MLA, April 2010
 “Walking and Feeding the Dog: Gay Marriage in the Plays of Harvey Fierstein,” Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), May 2010
 “I Had a Dream: ‘Rose’s Turn’ and the Illusion of Presence in Musical Theatre,” Bruce Kirle Emerging Scholarship Panel in Music Theatre/Dance, ATHE, 2009

Panels and Working Groups Organized

Working Group: “Artists as Producers: Politics, Aesthetics, Institutions in the 21st Century,” ASTR 2019
 Working Group: “The Afterlives of the Sixties in Contemporary Performance,” ASTR 2013
 Roundtable: “This is What Democracy Looks Like: Neoliberalism and Performance on the Global Stage,” ATHE 2012
 “There’s Not a Tune You Can Hum: A Roundtable on the Limits of ‘Musical Theatre,’” ATHE 2011
 “A Very Good Place to Start: A Roundtable on the American Musical Theatre Canon,” ATHE 2010
 Roundtable: “Witnessing Progress, Queerly,” LGBTQ Focus Group Preconference, ATHE, 2011
 Facilitator and Talkback Moderator, Reading of *A Horse’s Ass* by David Greenspan, LGBTQ Focus Group Pre-Conference, ATHE, 2009

TEACHING

University of Michigan

Youth Revolutions of 1968: Reimagining the Self, winter 2021; undergrad seminar, ~20 students
 lit, film, intellectual history: Buber, Marcuse, Hoffman, Mailer, Thompson, M Piercy
 Eco-Theatre: Staging Climate Crisis, fall 2020; upper-level undergrad seminar, 4 students
 Theatre of US Women’s Liberation, fall 2020; undergrad seminar, ~20 students

University of Pittsburgh

World Theatre 500 B.C.E.–1640, spring 2020: mixed grad/undergrad lecture, ~35 students, 1 TA
 World Theatre 1890–Present, fall 2019: mixed grad/undergrad lecture, ~30 students, 1 TA
 Theatre, Counterculture, Avant-Garde, spring 2019: graduate seminar on 1960s theatre, 4 students
 Introduction to Dramatic Art, fall 2018: undergrad script analysis, department req, ~20 students

Purchase College

Beat Generation, fall 2017: lit seminar, 20 students, Kerouac, Ginsberg, di Prima, Snyder, Corso
Writing About Theatre (College Writing), fall 2017: comp, 17 students. Case study: Thornton Wilder

Columbia University

Disaster Plays, spring 2018: undergrad seminar, 14 students, Kraus, Beckett, Brecht, Fornés, Churchill
Contemporary Civilization, The Core Curriculum, 2015-2017

second-year undergraduate "Great Books" seminar, 22 students, Plato through Foucault
American Theatre and Radical Politics after 1989, spring 2014

undergraduate drama seminar, 14 students, Albee, Kushner, Parks, Jean Lee, Deveare Smith
University Writing, The Core Curriculum, fall 2012–fall 2013: 1st-year composition, 14 students

Yale University

The World is Ending: Human-Caused Catastrophe in Literature and Film, spring 2018

undergraduate lit/film seminar, 18 students, Vonnegut, Ghosh, Robinson, Rich, Winterson

How to Scare Men with Women: The Diva in Opera and Musical Theatre, spring 2010

co-taught undergraduate seminar, 5 students

SERVICE

Assistant Editor, *boundary 2*, 2020-2023

Book Review Editor, *Theatre Journal*, 2019-2021

Organizer: Una Chaudhuri (NYU), visit U Pittsburgh, April 1-3, 2020 [canceled due to Covid-19]

Mentoring Committee, ASTR, 2019-2022

Journal Referee: *ISLE* (2020), *LIT* (2019), *Ecozon@* (2018), *Studies in Musical Theatre* (2015)

Book Proposal Referee: Routledge (2020)

Assistant to Prof. Rachel Adams, Future of Disability Studies Project, Columbia U, 2013-15

Editorial Assistant, Profs. Katherine Biers and Sharon Marcus, special issue of *Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film*, Columbia U, Spring 2015

Conference Planner, LGBTQ Focus Group, ATHE 2012-2014

Graduate Student Council member, Columbia U English & Comp Lit Department, 2011-2012

Member-at-Large, Theatre & Criticism Focus Group, ATHE 2011-12

Co-convener, Graduate Reading Group in Theatre & Performance Studies, 2010-2012

Member-at-Large, LGBTQ Focus Group, ATHE 2010-2012

Pre-Tenured Faculty Award Committee, American Theatre and Drama Society, ATHE, 2009-10

Graduate Student Representative, Musical Theatre/Dance Focus Group, ATHE, 2009-2010

Managing Editor, *Theater*, Ed. Thomas Sellar, 2006–2007

THEATRE EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

Dramaturgy (selected)

Dramaturg, Writing Fellows Group, The Playwrights Realm, 2010-2014

Finding Ways to Prove You're Not an Al-Qaeda Terrorist When You're Brown (and Other Stories of the gIndian) by Snehal Desai, dir. Erik Pearson, HERE Arts Ctr, 2009

In the Continuum by Nikkole Salter and Danai Gurira, dir. Robert O'Hara, Yale Repertory, 2007

The Seagull by Anton Chekhov, dir. Lisa Rothe, Second Yr Actors' Project, Yale Drama, 2006

Directing: *The Homecoming Project*, by various playwrights, Yale Cabaret, 2008

Stage Management: multiple productions at Yale Cabaret and Harvard Summer Thtr, 2003-06

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association, Association for Theater in Higher Education, American Society for Theater Research, American Studies Association, American Theatre and Drama Society, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

REFERENCES

Jonathan Arac

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English
Founding Director, Humanities Center
University of Pittsburgh
(412) 624-6506
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Michelle Granshaw

Associate Professor, Dpt of Theatre Arts
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W.B. Worthen

Alice Brady Pels Professor in the Arts
Chair, Dpt of Theatre
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Julie Peters

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Jean Howard

George Delacorte Professor in the
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Bruce Robbins

Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the
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Elin Diamond

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Note: Professors Arac, Worthen, Peters, Howard, and Robbins have letters of reference ready upon request. Additional references also available.