

AARON C. THOMAS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Central Florida, Assistant Professor	2015-present
Dartmouth College, Visiting Lecturer	2014-2015
Florida State University, Visiting Assistant Professor	2013-2014
Dartmouth College, Visiting Lecturer	2012-2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Theatre Studies, Florida State University Dissertation: "Enter the Man" Committee: Mary Karen Dahl, Elizabeth Osborne, Leigh Edwards, Patricia Warren Hightower	2012
M.A. Theatre Studies, Florida State University Thesis: "Violence and the Queer Subject in the Plays of David Rudkin and Mark Ravenhill" Committee: Mary Karen Dahl, Carrie Sandahl, Natalya Baldyga	2008
B.A. Theatre Arts, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	2003
Participant, Canada's National Voice Intensive University of British Columbia, Vancouver	2002

PUBLICATIONS – PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2017 "Dancing toward Masculinity: *Newsies*, Gender, and Desire"
The Disney Musical on Stage and Screen: Critical Perspectives from Snow White to Frozen – edited by George Rodosthenous
- 2015 "Watching *A Raisin in the Sun* and Seeing Red"
Modern Drama, [58.4](#)
- 2015 "The Location's the Thing: Endstation Theatre and Dramaturgies of Place"
Collaboration with Angela Sweigart-Gallagher
Theatre Topics, [25.1](#)
- 2015 "Viewing the Pornographic Theatre:
Explicit Voyeurism, Artaud, and Ann Liv Young's *Cinderella*"
Theatre as Voyeurism: the Pleasure of Watching – edited by George Rodosthenous

PUBLICATIONS – PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES, *continued*

- 2014 “The Queen’s Cell: *Fortune and Men’s Eyes* and the New Prison Drama”
Theatre Survey, [55.2](#)
- 2010 “Engaging an Icon: *Caroline, or Change* and the Politics of Representation”
Studies in Musical Theatre, [4.2](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript: *The Violate Man*

Fourth Wall series book manuscript: *Sondheim & Wheeler’s Sweeney Todd*
Forthcoming from Routledge

Book Chapter: “The Pink Elephant in the Room”
The Routledge Handbook to the Contemporary American Stage Musical
Forthcoming from Routledge – Elizabeth Wollman & Jessica Sternfeld, editors

Journal Article: “*Closet Monster* and the Threat of Homophobic Violence”
In process for *GLQ: a Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*

PUBLICATIONS – REVIEWS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS (*selected*)

- 2017 “Music for Charlie Morel”, “A Happy Life”, and other contributions
Imagined Theatres: Writing for a Theoretical Stage – edited by Daniel Sack
- 2017 Book Review: Jacob Juntunen’s *Making the Radical Palatable*
New Theatre Quarterly, 33.2
- 2016 “My Father’s Pulse”
QED: a Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking, 3.3
- 2016 Performance Review: American Repertory Theater’s *Crossing*
Theatre Journal, 68.1
- 2016 “Property Brothers”
American Theatre Magazine, 33.3
- 2015 Book Review: Jordan Schildcrout’s *Murder Most Queer: the Homicidal Homosexual*
Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, 29.2 *in the American Theater*
- 2014 Performance Review: Asolo Repertory Theatre’s *The Grapes of Wrath*
Theatre Journal, 66.4
- 2013 Book Review: Julie A. Carlson and Elisabeth Weber’s *Speaking about Torture*
Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, 28.1
- 2012 “Twenty-First-Century Play, Nineteenth-Century Scripts”
Book review: Robin Bernstein’s *Racial Innocence:*
Cultural Studies, 26.6 *Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights*

COURSES TAUGHT - UNDERGRADUATE CORE COURSES

Introduction to Theatre (THE 2000)

This 80-student course introduced non-majors to the Western theatrical tradition.

Play Analysis/Script Analysis (THE 4305)

Introduced students to methodologies of play analysis using Aristotle and Brecht, and modern critics Hodge and Freytag, through to Una Chaudhuri and Pierre Bourdieu.

World Theatre History Part I (THE 3213/THEA 15)

This course covered the historical context of important theatrical periods from ancient Egypt and ancient Greece through to the Renaissance in Europe.

World Theatre History Part II (THE 3214/THEA 16)

This course examined the early 1800s through the present day, emphasizing European Modernism, U.S. American playwriting, and post-colonial theatre in a global context.

COURSES TAUGHT - UNDERGRADUATE SPECIALTY COURSES

Parisian Avant-garde Theater, 1887-1930 (THEA 10)

Introduced students to the *avant-garde* in Paris as it was realized by performers in the traditions of Naturalism, Symbolism, Dada, Surrealism, and the Theatre of Cruelty.

Violence, Ethics and Representation (THE 4935)

This seminar explored representations of violence in the theatre. Students discussed and critically analyzed the use of violence, torture, and pain in drama and other media, responding to and debating the ethics of the use of violence in the theatre, as well as responsible practices for the staging of violence.

Sex & Drama: Sexuality Theories and Theatrical Representation (THEA 10/WGST 59)

Introduced students to queer-theory methodologies and theories of sex, gender, and sexuality. Students learned how theatre both reflects and produces the concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality for several time periods in the context of theatre history.

COURSES TAUGHT - GRADUATE-LEVEL SEMINARS

Advanced Theatre History: Renaissance to 18th Century (THE 5130)

This intense course served both PhDs and MFAs and consisted of a survey of European Renaissance and Eighteenth-century theatre history, incorporating a range of theories of historiography and cultural study.

Race, Gender and Performance (THE 5437)

This course examined gender and sex theory along with critical race theories and asked Masters students to examine theatre texts in relation to those critical approaches. This course also included a brief survey of African-American theatre history.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*selected*)

- 2017 "At Last, My Right Arm is Complete: the Dismembered Body and *Sweeney Todd*"
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Annual Conference, Las Vegas
- 2017 "The Pink Elephant in the Room: *Promises, Promises* and Masculinity"
ATHE Annual Conference, Las Vegas
- 2017 "Say a Little Prayer for the Closet"
Comparative Drama Conference, Orlando
- 2016 "Narrativizing Trauma: Seriality and the Recurring in HBO's *Oz*"
American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Annual Meeting, Minneapolis
- 2015 "Tell No One: *Pulp Fiction* and the Shame-Humiliation Response"
ASTR Annual Meeting, Portland
- 2014 "Back to the Playground: the New Brutalists and Violent Sexual Prosthetics"
ASTR Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- 2014 "Pornography and Its Double: Pleasure, Artaud, and Ann Liv Young"
ATHE Annual Conference, Scottsdale
- 2014 Respondent: "Created from Within: Queers and Queerness in the Carceral"
ATHE Annual Conference, Scottsdale
- 2014 "In Search of a Culture That Isn't Appropriate/d"
ATHE Annual Conference, Scottsdale. LGBTQ Focus Group Pre-conference.
- 2014 "Watching *A Raisin in the Sun* and Seeing Red"
Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Cleveland. Theatre History Symposium.
- 2013 "Sexual Violence and Banality at the Cineplex"
ASTR Annual Meeting, Dallas
- 2011 "Economies of the Carceral: Rape Trauma and Its Rhetoric"
ASTR Annual Meeting, Montréal
- 2011 "The Erotics of Male/Male Rape? Violence and Deviance in *Romans in Britain*
and Beyond"
ATHE Annual Conference, Chicago
- 2009 "'Perish the Baubles': the Conspicuous Unimportance of Wealth in Sentimental
Comedy"
American Society for Eighteenth-century Studies Annual Meeting, Richmond.
- 2009 "Gay Men and Violence against Women in Mark Ravenhill's *Mother Clap...*"
ATHE Annual Conference, New York City
- 2009 "Public Figures/Public Sex"
ReThinking Sex, Philadelphia. State of the Field Graduate Student Forum.
- 2008 "The Legacy and Reclamation of the Mammy in *Caroline, or Change*"
Song, Stage and Screen III, International Musical Theater Conference, New York City

CONFERENCE PLANNING

Traumatic Structures Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, Nashville. 2012

Served as the co-convenor for this working group which explores trauma theories as they address theatrical questions and theatrical productions which address trauma.

A Queerer Time, A Queerer Place, Leather Archives & Museum, Chicago. 2011

This pre-conference was planned around the theme of archives, memory, testimony, and history, and included panels on queer futures, remembering queer lives, and documenting queer histories. Our keynote address was from Sharon Bridgforth, with a performance by Brian Eugenio Herrera.

Dangerous Liaisons, Macgowan Hall, University of California, Los Angeles. 2010

This pre-conference was a joint meeting of the LGBTQ Focus Group and the Women in Theatre Program of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Our themes were kinship and sharing space; our keynote address was from Sue-Ellen Case, with a performance by Adelina Anthony.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute 2017

Twenty-five professors across different disciplines in the humanities were selected to participate in this summer institute hosted by Elon University and funded by the NEH. The topic was "Diverse Philosophical Perspectives on Sexual Violence".

Academic Leadership Award 2012

Award presented to a single student in each College at Florida State University; the award is based on academic performance, university service, and other contributions both in and out of the classroom.

Certificate of Recognition for Advocacy in the Arts 2012

Award presented by the Florida Higher Education Arts Network as a part of the Florida Culture Alliance's Arts & Culture Day.

Transformation through Teaching nomination, FSU Spiritual Life Project 2011

Award honors faculty members who have had an intellectual, inspirational, and integrative impact on the lives of their students. Nominations submitted by students.

Theory & Criticism Award for Excellence in Graduate Scholarship 2011

Awarded to "The Erotics of Male/Male Rape?" for the best graduate-student paper utilizing theory or criticism presented at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference in Chicago 2011.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY

- American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference Committee 2017-2018
Currently serving on the conference committee for ASTR 2018 in San Diego.
- ASTR Collaborative Research Award Committee 2017-present
Currently serving on this awards committee for the American Society for Theatre Research.
- LGBTQ Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education 2008-present
Served as an at-large board member for 2008-2009 and as the treasurer from 2010-2013 and 2015-present. My work with this Focus Group has also involved conference-planning as well as our historic name-change, which added the Q designation.
- UCF College of Arts & Humanities Graduate Curriculum Committee 2016-present
Currently serving on the Graduate Scholarship and Research committee at the College of Arts & Humanities at the University of Central Florida. This committee regulates graduate curriculum at the college level.
- UCF School of Performing Arts Graduate Committee 2015-present
Currently serving on the Graduate Committee for our School of Performing Arts. This committee regulates graduate curriculum at the school level.
- ATHE Subcommittee on Diversity 2015-2017
Currently serving on this subcommittee as a part of President Patricia Ybarra's work on diversity in college and university season selections.
- ASTR Task Force for Working Conditions 2013-2015
Served as a member of this task force formed at the pleasure of ASTR's president. The group is investigating labor in the university system, and ways in which national organizations such as ASTR can work to assist those working in these systems.
- Florida State College of Visual Arts, Theatre & Dance Leadership Council 2010-2012
Served as one of three representatives to the council from the School of Theatre; twice worked to coordinate and edit the annual volume of student work entitled *SIX*.
- School of Theatre at Florida State, Student Advisory Council 2010-2011
Served as the graduate representative to the Advisory Council, which represents student interests and liaises with the School of Theatre's administrative body.
- Florida State University Congress of Graduate Students 2007
Represented the college as part of the governing body of graduate students for the University.

LANGUAGES

- Reading and speaking knowledge of Spanish
- Beginner-level reading knowledge of French