

# Sharai Bohannon, MFA

## Playwright-Organizer-Critic

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### EDUCATION/TRAINING

#### **Texas Tech University (Lubbock, Texas)**

*M.F.A. in Playwriting* (May 2016)

Thesis Title: *Craigslisted: Embracing Technology to Keep Theatre Relevant*

Thesis Chair: Dr. Mark Charney

#### **University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg, Missouri)**

*B.F.A. in Theatre* (May 2013)

#### **MCC-Penn Valley Community College (Kansas City, Missouri)**

*A.A. Journalism Emphasis* (August 2009)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### **Teaching Artist (Chicago, IL)**

*Court Theatre • March 2020 - Present*

Worked alongside co-facilitator to create lesson plans to help actors and writers engage with each other before breaking into our separate groups, taught college and grad students of various skills how to write monologues, engaged theatre students via Zoom in ice breakers and writing assignments, facilitated online feedback sessions, and assisted them in breaking away from the classical examples given by the theatre to write their own stories in their own unique voices.

#### **Graduate Part-Time Instructor (Instructor of Record) (Lubbock, TX)**

*Texas Tech University School of Theatre and Dance • August 2013-May 2016*

Duties included teaching House Management, Advanced Front of House Management and Introduction to Cinema to undergraduate theatre majors, curriculum development, classroom management, practicum training, grading, scheduling and coordination of Front of House staff for multiple productions and events each semester. For Introduction to Cinema, advised young writers in their analytical and writing skills and editing approximately 80 student papers weekly.

#### **Stage Manager and Co-Playwright of *The Hamlet Project* (Lubbock, TX)**

*Hub Performing Arts School • December 2014-August 2015*

Scheduled venues, ran rehearsals and production meetings, served as the point of communication between the artistic staff, parents, students, and the school, wrote press releases, formatted and edited program and advertising content.

#### **General Tutor (Lubbock, TX)**

*Texas Tech University • August 2014-May 2015*

Duties included assisting freshmen and ESL students with time management and teaching study tips, aiding students in Reading, English, and Theatre assignments, and providing supplemental learning outside of the classroom.

**Teaching Assistant (Warrensburg, MO)**

*University of Central Missouri-Department of Theatre and Dance • January 2013-May 2013*

Duties included grading assignments, holding study groups, and advising a section of approximately 25 students in text analysis courses.

**English Tutor (Kansas City, MO)**

*Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley • August 2008-2009*

Duties included leading English as a Second Language discussion group, leading a pilot program of providing tutors in the remedial classrooms, and tutoring students on a walk-in basis in the Teaching Learning Center.

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**Office Coordinator (Chicago, IL)**

*Lyric Opera of Chicago • August 2018- January 2020*

Followed office workflow procedures to ensure maximum efficiency, supported other teams with various administrative tasks (redirecting calls, disseminating correspondence, scheduling meetings etc.), greeted and assisted visitors when they arrived at the office, monitored office supplies inventory and placed orders, assisted in vendor relationship management, and was in charge of sending and receiving mailings/packages for the whole company

**Front of House Staff (Chicago, IL)**

*Victory Gardens Theatre • May 2018 - January 2019*

Duties included assisting in managing box office staff, answering patron questions, dealing with patron concerns, answering customer phone calls, processing ticket orders in Total Info, assisting switching over from Total Info to Spektrix, selling subscriptions, training incoming representatives, staying current on the plethora of promo codes circulating, and providing customer service as House Manager, Bartender, or Box Office Staff as scheduled.

**Literary Manager (Chicago, IL)**

*Artemisia, A Chicago Theatre • August 2017- October 2018*

Duties include scouting, reading and evaluating script submissions for yearly Fall Festival, building relationships with writers and agents, participation in conversations surrounding play selection, managing the varied administrative and creative duties assigned to the literary office, assisting the Executive Artistic Director as needed, engaged younger audiences through acting as the Social Media Manager.

**Stage Manager and Technician (Chicago, IL)**

*The Public House Theatre • August 2016-December 2017*

Duties include running lights and sound for various shows, working with teams renting the space, communicating with Front of House, Box Office, and Bar Staff to ensure productions begin on time, sound design, light design, building in shows in various types of sound programs, and training new technicians.

**Audience Service Representative (Chicago, IL)**

*Lyric Opera of Chicago • August 2016-August 2018*

Duties included assisting in managing box office staff, answering patron questions, dealing with patron concerns, answering between 60-80 phone calls during a shift, processing orders in Tessitura, selling

subscriptions, training incoming representatives, staying current on the plethora of promo codes circulating, and providing customer service.

**House Supervisor (Lubbock, TX)**

*Texas Tech University School of Theatre and Dance • August 2013-May 2016*

Duties included managing the front of house operations at each university production, scheduling of crews, implementing unique production promotions, maintaining of the theatre spaces, providing patron services, acting as the point-person between box office and artistic staff and ensuring the safety of students, staff and audiences.

**Assistant Box Office Manager (Lubbock, TX)**

*Texas Tech University School of Theatre and Dance • January 2014-May 2016*

Duties included assisting in managing box office staff, staff scheduling, maintaining electronic and ticketing equipment, online and phone sales of tickets for productions and working with Front of House Management and Promotions groups to ensure an efficient and positive experience for our patrons.

**Box Office Manager (Warrensburg, MO)**

*University of Central Missouri Performing Arts Series • May 2012-November 2012*

Duties include managing Box Office Staff, scheduling, troubleshooting software issues, and other duties as needed.

**New Student Orientation Leader (Kansas City, MO)**

*Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley • June 2006-August 2009*

Planned and organized orientations for new students and aided in creation, formatting and assembling materials for new students and their parents. Other responsibilities included scheduling of campus tours and training of tour guides, creating and distributing a monthly newsletter, organizing and leading two student organizations, event planning, and community outreach.

**Editor-in-Chief of *Spectrum* (Kansas City, MO)**

*Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley • August 2005-May 2008*

Duties included supervising the newsroom, training new reporters, assigning stories to reporters, working with other editors to meet deadlines, aiding with quality control and fact checking, and copy-editing while still writing editorials and conducting interviews for each edition.

**PLAYWRITING (Selected Credits)**

**Publications**

*The Great Steven Stravinsky*

Published in The Applause Acting Series 10-Minute Plays for Kids (November 2015)

**Production**

**Full-Length**

*Lady Faust*, Co-Writer, at Public House Theatre (October 2017)

*Craigslisted* at TTU (November 2015), The Lantern Theatre (September 2017), and COE College (February 2018), and Lees-McCrae (November 2018)

*Do We Have to Do This Every Night?*, Part of the “The Pinsky Project” at Texas Tech University

(February 2016)

### **One-Acts and 10-Minute Plays**

*It's Always the Quiet Ones* at M.T. Pockets Theatre Company (February 2020), The Chameleon Theatre Circle (Won Audience Favorite Award) (September 2019), and The UnDisposables (UK Production) (August 2019)

*Well That Just Happened* at Fade to Black Festival, (June 2019)

*What About the Children?* at Ain't I A Woman Playfest (July 2019)

*The Devil Eats Oreos?* at Ain't I A Woman Playfest ( July 2018) and Public House Theatre (October 2017)

*Letters From Ava*, at Texas Tech University (April 2016)

*Turndown Service* at Bishop Arts Theatre (March 2016)

*Once Upon A Line* at Texas Tech University's 24 Hour Playfest (September 2015)

*The Great Steven Stravinsky* at Texas Tech University (March 2015)

*Lambda Brandy Lambda*, Part of Texas Tech University's Alcohol Awareness Week (October 2014)

*High Road* at Texas Tech's 24 Hour Playfest (February 2014)

*Baldwin for Mayor* at University of Central Missouri (April 2013)

*The Amazing Mrs. Glover* at University of Central Missouri (February 2013)

*The Waiting Room* at University of Central Missouri (April 2012)

### **Theatrical Workshops/Reading**

#### *In the End*

*Virtual Reading, The Elite Theatre (Pending: Fall 2020)*

*Staged Reading, New Match Collective,(February 2020 )*

*Stage Reading, Equity Library Theatre, (November 2019)*

*Semi-Finalist, Downstage Left Residency, (April 2019)*

*Workshop, The Women's Theatre Alliance of Chicago (Spring 2019)*

#### *Craigslisted*

*Staged Reading The Road Theatre (August 2019)*

*Stage Reading at The NOLA Project (June 2019)*

*Staged Reading at Women's Theatre Festival (June 2018)*

*Staged Reading at The Lantern Theatre (June 2017)*

*Staged Reading at The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (May 2016)*

*Staged Reading KCACTF Region 6 (February 2016)*

Workshopped at Texas Tech University's WildWind (June 2015)

*Edmund Fitzwater Doesn't Have Any Answers for You*

Staged Reading at Women's Theatre Festival - North Carolina (July 2019)

*What About the Children?*

Staged Reading at Phoenix Theatre in Minneapolis (March 2019)

Staged Reading, at Naked Angels Tuesdays at 9 (September 2018)

*Past Tense*

Staged Reading, Done is Better Than Perfect (February 2019)

*Once Upon a Line*

Staged Reading at Texas Tech University 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts and Humanities Conference (October 2015)

*Turndown Service* at Texas Tech University (June 2015)

Developed and first staged reading at Texas Tech University's WildWind (June 2014)

Staged Reading at Texas Tech University's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts and Humanities Conference (October 2014)

Selected for The Last Frontier Theatre Conference (Summer 2015)

*The Amazing Mrs. Glover Volume 1-Issue 3*

The Lantern Theatre (April 2013)

### **Playwriting Workshops Attended**

Official Selected Participant, WildWind Performance Lab at Texas Tech University (June 2015)

Workshopped *Craigslisted* under the supervision of Kamarie Chapman, Michael Legg, Jaston Williams, and the rest of the WildWind Community

Official Selected Participant, WildWind Performance Lab at Texas Tech University (June 2014)

Developed/Workshopped *Turndown Service* under the supervision of David Kranes, Jaston Williams, and Deborah Anderson and the rest of the WildWind Community.

Participant, Paula Vogel Bootcamp at University of Central Missouri (April 2012)

### **STAGE MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE (Selected)**

*Reemus and the Black History Museum*, Black Ensemble Theatre, (February 2020)

*Black Monologues*, Stage Manager at Victory Gardens Theatre (November 2019)

*I Am Fest*, Production Stage Manager at The Goodman Theatre (April 2019)

*Black Monologues*, Stage Manager at Victory Gardens Theatre (February 2019)

*Bye Bye Liver*, Stage Manager at The Public House Theatre (August 2016 - December 2018)

*Red*, Stage Manager, at Hub City Performing Arts (August 2015)

*Maid Marian in a Stolen Car*, Assistant Stage Manager, at Lubbock Memorial Civic Center (April 2015)

*The Hamlet Project*, Stage Manager, at Hub City Performing Arts (January 2015-August 2015)

*In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, Stage Manager, at Texas Tech University (February 2015)

*The Soft Parade*, Stage Manager, at Texas Tech University (October 2014)

*Street Scene*, Stage Manager, at University of Central Missouri (April 2013)  
*And We Will Share the Sky*, Stage Manager, at University of Central Missouri (October 2012)  
*Oklahoma!*, Assistant Stage Manager, at University of Central Missouri (October 2011)  
*Faith*, Stage Manager, at University of Central Missouri (October 2010)  
*The Vagina Monologues*, Stage Manager and Organizer, at MCC-Penn Valley (March 2010)

## **PROPERTIES EXPERIENCE**

### **Theatrical Production**

*La Traviata*, Assistant Properties Run Crew at The Santa Fe Opera (Summer 2013)  
*The Marriage of Figaro*, Assistant Properties Run Crew at The Santa Fe Opera (Summer 2013)  
*La Donna Del Lago*, Properties Run Crew at The Santa Fe Opera (Summer 2013)  
*Deathtrap*, Properties Master at University of Central Missouri (February 2013)  
*Almost, Maine*, Properties Designer at University of Central Missouri (November 2012)  
*Baby Steps*, Technical Director at University of Central Missouri (April 2012)  
*The Clean House*, Assistant Properties Designer at University of Central Missouri (February 2011)

### **Film/Television**

*Used Books* (Pilot), Properties Consultant for What?! Productions (2015)  
*Here's to Wishing I Had My Cat at the Rapture*, Properties Designer for What?! Productions (2012)  
*My Apologies, I Thought We Could All Be Gods*, Properties Consultant for What?! Productions (2012)

## **DIRECTING EXPERIENCE**

Director, *Semi-Circle*, Violet Surprise Lez Beaus (February 2020)  
Director, *How I Hold Myself*, Punching LaBute Festival (December 2019)  
Director, *A Short Walk After Dinner*, Texas Tech University's Advanced Directing Class (December 2014)  
Director, *Just Knots* at University of Central Missouri (November 2011)  
Assistant Director, *How I Learned to Drive* at University of Central Missouri (February 2011)

## **DRAMATURGY EXPERIENCE**

*Chicago Theatre Goddamn*, The Newness: A Salon (2019)  
*He Did It*, Equity Theatre Library (November 2018)  
*Cabaret*, Texas Tech University (April 2015)  
*Pas De Deux*, University of Central Missouri (April 2012)

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Dramatist Guild Member (2019 - Present)  
Ensemble Member at Public House Theatre (2017-2018)  
Theta Alpha Phi (2012-Present)

## **HONORS/AWARDS**

Outstanding Dramaturgy-2016, Texas Tech University  
Outstanding Stage Management-2015, Texas Tech University  
Theatre Ambassador Scholarship Recipient - 2011, 2012, University of Central Missouri  
Missouri College Media Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Investigative Reporting Division 4-2008 MCC-Penn Valley  
Outstanding Contribution to the College -2006, MCC-Penn Valley  
Excellence in Journalism-2006, MCC-Penn Valley

## **REFERENCES**

References available upon request.