

MID AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE
March 5 - 7 | Pittsburgh, PA

The 46th Annual Conference
March 5 - 7, 2026
Doubletree by Hilton, Pittsburgh, PA

Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Session 1

10:00 am - 11:15 am

Indigenous Theatre & Performance | History 1: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Rebecca Jackson, Regis University

“Playing Indian Princess at the Campfire: Te Ata Fisher and Summer Camp Primitivism”

Christiana Molldrem Harkulich, Eastern Illinois University

“Specters of Andrew Jackson”

I.B. Hopkins, University of Texas at Austin

“Performative Colonialism: The Worthy Colonizer Narrative in The Indian Queen, The Indian Emperour, and The Indian Princess”

Rowan Jalso, Louisiana State University

American Movement | History 2: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Ariel Nereson, The University at Buffalo

“A Mapping of the History of Movement Pedagogies in the US”

Melissa Flower Gladney, City University of New York

“Borderlands and Burlesque: The Boundary-Pushing Career of Lillian Washburn”

Christina Hurtado-Pierson, Stony Brook University

Gendered Complications in Americana Performances | Practice/Production 1: Monongahela

Paper Panel

Chair: Cate Heiner, Middle Tennessee State University

“Playing JonBenét”

Emily K. Harrison, Hamilton College

“Notes From the FRONTIER So Far”

George McConnell, Texas A&M University

“Staging Gender-Based Violence in Post #MeToo Era: An Experiment with Aesthetic Distance”

Natalia Poliakova, University of Washington

“Born to Be a Sissy--Hollywood's Coded Queer Characters Presented Onstage”

James Stover, Bowling Green State University

Dane Leasure, University of Akron/Bowling Green State University

Best Laid Plans | Pedagogy 1: Keystone

Workshops

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

“Stacking the Deck in your Favor: Instructional Design through a Game of Cards”

Lynn Deboeck, University of Utah

“Can surface structure in course planning lead to deep structure in student learning?”

Jennifer Lale, Indiana University

Contact Lenses | Pedagogy 2: Erie

Paper Panel

Chair: Daniel Gott, Florida State University

“Embodied Nostalgia in the Age of Ice: Social Line Dancing As a Site of Resistance”

Meghan Nelson, Florida State University

“The Americanized Shakespeare: Teaching Shakespeare in the States versus Across the Pond”

Amanda Rogus, University of Washington

Playwriting Welcome | Playwriting 1: Champion

Chair: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

Session 2
11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Performing Masculinity | History 3: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Eero Laine, The University at Buffalo

“Forgotten Mentorship: Annie Baker’s Small Town Masculinity”

Foss Baldwin, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign

“The Rocket Men, Erasure, and Americans on the Moon: A Dramaturgical Intervention”

Vivian Appler, University of Georgia

“Bridging the Rupture: Firefighters, Empathy, and Mourning after 9/11 in *The Guys*”

Elaine Hendriks Smith, Florida State University

Immersive Theatre & Performance | History 4: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: David Bisaha, Binghamton University

“From Show Boats to Show Boat - Floating Theatre, Popular Entertainment, and the American Imagination”

Erin Bone Steele, University of Maryland

“Confederate Christmas: Performing the Politics of Belonging”

Rebecca Jackson, Regis University

Supporting the Playwright in Universities | Practice/Production 2 & Playwriting 2: Monongahela

Roundtable

Chair: Bella Poynton, SUNY Oswego State University

Participants

Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

Johann Choi, Arizona State University

Sam Collier, University of Colorado - Boulder

Bella Poynton, SUNY Oswego State University

Moving Toward New Horizons: Choreography and Embodiment | Practice/Production 3: Scranton

Paper Panel

Chair: Dan Dennis, Ohio University

“Deceleration Dramaturgy for Dance”

Ariel Nereson, University at Buffalo-SUNY

“Persian Dance: The tool for Resisting Silence and Cultural Erasure”

Shahrazad Hamzeh, University of Texas at Dallas

“Live Sound Action: Performance at the Crossroads of Theatrical Training and Spiritual Practice”

Eliza Ladd Schwarz, Case Western Reserve University / Cleveland Playhouse MFA

Trust the Process | Pedagogy 3: Keystone

Workshop

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

“Small ways to include Stanislavsky’s Active Analysis in a Script Analysis Classroom”

Greer Gerni, University of Missouri - Kansas City

Risk and Reward | Pedagogy 4: Erie

Paper Panel

Chair: TBD

“Censorship and Safe-Exposure within an Educational Theatre”

Miriam Mattsfield, Baylor University

“Remaking and Making Educational Theatre: Identitarian and Afro-Optimistic Graduate level Theatre Training at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)”

Troy Scarborough, Texas Tech University

“Dramaturgy/ing Failures”

LaRonika Thomas, Washington College

Lunch Break**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm****Session 3****2:15 pm - 3:30 pm**

Playwrights in Perspective | History 5: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Dave Peterson, Niagara University

“A Survey of Three Lanford Wilson Late-Career Dramas: Redwood Curtain, Sympathetic Magic, and Book of Days”

Derek R. Munson, Illinois State University

“Suzan-Lori Parks’s 365 Days/365 Plays as Everyday Historiography”

Cassie Archer, University of California - Santa Barbara

Theatre for Social Change | History 6: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Christiana Molldrem Harkulich, Eastern Illinois University

“American Tragedy: Connection, Tragedy, and American Verbatim Theatre”

MaryRose Jones, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign

“A Tribute Act to Zorita: Keeping Florida Sexy and Gay”

Maria White, Florida State University

“The World after #MeToo: Role of Aesthetic Distance in Staging Gender-Based Violence”

Natalia Poliakova, University of Washington

Memories and Legacies: Re-Staging American Histories | Practice/Production 4: Monongahela

Paper Panel

Chair: Cate Heiner, Middle Tennessee State University

“A toast in good American lemonade!': Bodying the Mind in Inherit the Wind”

Dan Dennis, Ohio University

“Give me Liberty, or Give me Death’: An Examination of the Performance of Historical Interpretation at St. John’s Church”

Katie Jackson, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Memories of Memory Play: Dramatizing Tennessee Williams”

Aaron Scully, University of Central Missouri

“Unspoken Tension: Devising Theatrical Resistance to a Literary Americana”

Melissa Sturges, Independent Scholar

Best Laid Plans | Pedagogy 5: Erie

Paper Panel

Chair: Greer Gerni, University of Missouri - Kansas City

“Beyond the Scripted Curriculum: Embracing Improvisation in the Classroom”

Nicole Minardi, DePaul University/Triton College

“Defining the Pedagogical Path: The Essential Shifts Within the American Classroom Between Via Negativa and Via Positiva Pedagogies”

Rebecca Johnson, Texas Tech University

Scott Jones, St. Mark's School of Texas

Writing from the Self | Playwriting 3: Keystone

Workshop

Chair: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

With TJ Young, Carnegie Mellon University

We are told to write what we know. One thing we know more than anyone else is ourselves. Through a series of exercises, you will mine your personal life and explore what narrative distance can bring to your own experiences in order to find material for your playwriting. All you need is something to write with and the source of inspiration - yourself!

Session 4

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

International Perspectives on the Americas | History 7: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Noe Montez, Emory University

“Americana auf Deutsch: Views of 19th-Century US Life Through Immigrant Playwright Eyes”

Nate Ferguson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Staging America on the Toy Stage: Juvenile Adaptations of Pizarro”

James Armstrong, City University of New York

Race in Performance | History 8: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Cason Murphy, Iowa State University

“Lynching Drama as an Aesthetic Form of Traumatic and Healing Experience in Black Theatre: An analysis of Jackie Sibblies Drury’s Play, *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation about the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Südwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*”

Thokozani Lawrence Kapiri, Bowling Green State University

“I Need Ten More Pickaninnies and Mammies’: Casting and Popular Representation of African Americans in the 1930’s”

Aaliyah Carter, Baylor University

“Afrosurrealist History is American/a History”

Jodi Van Der Horn-Gibson, City University of New York/Queensborough Community College

Cross-Cultural Connections: Staging Multifaceted American Identity | Practice/Production 5: Keystone

Paper Panel

Chair: Bella Poynton, SUNY Oswego State University

“Old Times There Are Not Forgotten”: Remaking Americana in “Dolly Parton’s Stampede”

William Bonfiglio, Saint Louis University

“From Saloons to Soundstages: The Irish Seisiún and the Lost Intimacy of Americana”

Daniel Gott, Florida State University

“Repulsion and Resilience: Generating Premonitions of Americana in María Irene Fornés’ *What of the Night?*”

Anna Novak, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Juliana Frey-Méndez, Oberlin College and Conservatory

“Sanctuary City as Rehearsal for Uncertainty: Remaking Americana through Probabilistic Performance”

Roberto Prestigiacomo, Trinity University

Trust the Process | Pedagogy 6: Erie

Workshop

Chair: David Melendez, California State University Bakersfield

“African American Spirituals as Embodied Collective Creation”

Audrey Pernel, University of Pittsburgh

“How does sensorial play release actors into expanded presence, invite inclusivity (of all bodies and histories), and create potent theatrical image?”

Eliza Ladd Schwarz, Case Western Reserve University / Cleveland Playhouse MFA

Dramatist Play Lab | Playwriting 4: Monongahela

Las Chicas Alvarez

Playwright: Alicia Garcia

Director: Shawna Mefferd Kelty, SUNY Plattsburgh

Dramaturg: Jeanmarie Higgins, University of Texas at Arlington

Acting Company

Júlia Cerqueira, Indiana University Bloomington

Lanah Velazquez, Independent Artist

Memory Cuts Deep

Playwright: Kristy Thomas

Director: Ronald J. Zank, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dramaturg: Jeanmarie Higgins, University of Texas at Arlington

Acting Company

Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson, University of Illinois Springfield

Julia Moriarty, Missouri State University

Magic & Miracles

Playwright: Franky D. Gonzales

Director: Aaron Scully, University of Central Missouri

Dramaturg: Merritt Denman-Popp, Baylor University

Acting Company

James Stover, Bowling Green State University

Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, University of Illinois Springfield

Dinner Break

5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Session 5: Hot Topics

7:30 pm - 8:45pm

Erie

Hosted by Graduate Student Representatives & IDEALS Committee

Have you ever wanted a 60-second soap box to talk about your niche research, issues in the field, or live theatre? This is your chance. This hosted discussion will allow you the space to speak your mind and connect with others in conversations you can take to the Fellows Opening Night Reception! All conference attendees are invited.

Fellows Opening Night Reception

9:00 pm - 12:00 am

Philadelphia/Pittsburgh

Hosted by the MATC Fellows

You are invited by MATC leadership to our annual Opening Night Reception, hosted by the MATC Fellows! Reunite with friends and colleagues, meet new academics and practitioners, and celebrate the recipient of the Schanke Award. Complete with toasts and hors d'oeuvres inspired by our host city.

Friday, March 6, 2026

MATC Coffee House

8:30 am - 10:00 am

PHILADELPHIA/PITTSBURGH

Start your day right with a breakfast buffet—enjoy fresh food and hot coffee (or tea) and some social time with your conference colleagues.

Session 6: State of Pittsburgh Theatre Panel

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Monongahela

Moderated by Kristi Good, Carnegie Mellon University

Join us for a conversation with local Pittsburgh theatre artists to learn more about professional, educational, and community theatre in the Steel City.

Panelists:

Clare Drobot, City Theatre

Alex Manalo, Independent Artist

Becki Toth, University of Pittsburgh

Ricardo Vila-Roger, University of Pittsburgh

Session 7

11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Emerging Scholars #1 | History 9: Erie

Paper Panel

Chair: Greer Gerni, University of Missouri - Kansas City

“Queer Performance Perspectives: An Exploration of Kiki and Ballroom Culture”

Ifeyinwa Onyekowunu, University of Washington

“Performing America: Diasporic Identity and the Remaking of Americana in Chimamanda”

Lawrence Quashigah, Illinois State University

“Re-Imaging Embodied Americana: Bob Fosse’s Jazz Dance and *Chicago’s* Transpacific Self-Fashioning”

Jennifer Nan Dong, City University of New York

**Alternative Performance: Lights, Sound, Aesthetics | History 10:
Allegheny**

Paper Panel

Chair: Ames Palson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Killing Me (Soft)ly With His Song: The Rise of Jazz Music in Nightclubs of Postcolonial Calcutta”

Aryama Bej, Florida State University

“A Comedy of Laws: Class & Culture in the Federal Theatre Project’s ‘There’s a Law Against It’”

Beth Osborne, Florida State University

“Color, Light, and Stone: The Stone Mountain Lasershow Spectacular Revised”

David Bisaha, Binghamton University, SUNY

“Unfinished Americana: Alex Tatarsky’s Americana Psychobabble (2016) and Nothing Doing (2025)”

Ryan Adelsheim, University of Iowa

**Moving Forward, Looking Back: Musical Theatre and Americana |
Practice/Production 6: Monongahela**

Paper Panel

Chair: Shadow Zimmerman, Arizona Western College

“Nobody Parties Like Us: The Great Gatsby as Americana Musical”

John Berst, University of Miami

“Redeeming Borachio: A Production Postmortem of Marietta College’s Much Ado About Nothing: 80’s Mixtape Edition (2023)”

Andy Felt, Marietta College Theatre Department

“Overcoming Hegemony in Oklahoma!”

Natalie Guess, Baylor University

“Dramaturging the U.S. Premiere of ‘Murder on the Titanic’: Americana and Palimpsestuous Pastiche in a Danish Opera”

Daniel Smith, Michigan State University

Best Laid Plans | Pedagogy 7: Keystone

Roundtable

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

“Making and Remaking Your Season Selection Reading List”

Christie Maturo, Central Connecticut State University

Paul Hurley, Kent State University

Contact Lenses | Pedagogy 8: Ohio

Pedagogical Knots

Chair: David Melendez, California State University Bakersfield

“Why Not AI?”

Kirsten Pullen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Alan Sikes, Louisiana State University

“Proving the Efficacy of Interactive Theatre”

Karen M. Dabney, University of Virginia

Dramatist Play Lab | Playwriting 5: Philadelphia

Chair: Lucas Skjaret, University of North Alabama

The Plagiarized Words of God Almighty

Playwright: Nino Greene, Miami Dade College/Independent Artist

Director: Nathan Bowman, Benedictine College

Dramaturg: Stacey Schiller, Baylor University

Acting Company

Kathy Privatt, Lawrence University

Aaron Scully, University of Central Missouri

Lysistrata Upstairs

Playwright: Jen Plants, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Director: Julia Moriarty, Missouri State University

Dramaturg: T’Keyah Crystal Keymah, Texas Tech University

Acting Company

Lana Sugarman, University at Buffalo
Nikki Ferry, Missouri State University

Peanut Butter Androgyny

Playwright: Johann Choi, Arizona State University
Director: Meghan Nelson, Florida State University
Dramaturg: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

Acting Company

Jose Perez IV, Independent Artist
Lana Sugarman, University at Buffalo

Lunch Break/Committee Meetings

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm

IDEALS Committee | Allegheny

Join us to learn more about the work the IDEALS Committee does for MATC, what their goals are for the future, and how you can get involved!

***Theatre/Practice* Advisory Committee | Keystone**

Join us to learn more about Theatre/Practice, editorial opportunities, and how we can better support the three "P" symposia of MATC.

Conference Planning Committee | Monongahela

Join the Conference Planning Committee for a mid-conference feedback session! Snacks will be provided.

***The Babel Project* Reading | Scranton**

Please join us for an informal reading of The Babel Project, an experimental collaboration between playwright Greg Romero and electronic music composer Mike Vernusky. All conference participants are welcome to take their lunch hour to read, listen, and eat pizza (provided!) with us. You may or may not be asked to build a tower.

Session 8

2:00 - 3:15 PM

Women in U.S. History | History 11: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Shannon Walsh, Louisiana State University

“Ida Murdoch: An Unseen Helpmeet in the Emerging American Theatre”

Richard Sautter, McDaniel College

“Maude Adams: Intersecting Sapphic identity and ‘True Womanhood’ in Joan of Arc”

Rebecca Schmitt, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Stranger than Fiction: The Life of Annie Hindle Through Time and Ink”

Sydney Curran, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Othered Bodies | History 12: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Zach Dailey, University of Houston-Downtown

“Folk Stages: Woody Guthrie’ Lost Plays”

Macy Jones, University of the Ozarks

“Chocolate! Rots Your Teeth and Makes You Fat!”: Food Noise in Matilda the Musical and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”

Jordan Mattson, Florida State University

“To Question Nostalgia and Think of Mourning as a Joyful Thing”: Staging Queer Temporality in Bathhouse.pptx”

Payne Banister, University of Pittsburgh

Community Care in Dramaturgical Acts | Practice/Production 7: Monongahela

Paper Panel

Chair: Alivia Cross, Penn State University

“Trying to Lift up Life a Trifle: Charlotte’s Web in the Wake Campus Gun Violence”

Ann Folino White, Michigan State University

“Notes from the Lobby: Staging American Identity Through Lobby Displays”

Megan Lederman, Indiana University

“Empathy as Americana: Grace and Radical Care in ‘A Case for the Existence of God’”

Robin Witt, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Trust the Process | Pedagogy 9: Keystone

Workshop

Chair: Rebecca Johnson, Texas Tech University

“How Do Michael Chekhov’s Tools Transfer Between Stage and Screen?”

“Chekhov on Camera: Harnessing the Actor’s Inner Radiance”

Paul Hurley, Kent State University

“The Psychology of the Stage and Screen: Small Adjustments for Maximum Effect”

Christie Maturo, Connecticut State University

Invitations and Excursions | Pedagogy 10: Erie

Workshop & Paper Presentation

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

“Staging Folktales: Embodied Pedagogy for Non-Drama Students”

Oscar Quirós, University of Costa Rica

“Hope for a Harvest: (Re)making Americana with Sophie Treadwell”

David Melendez, California State University - Bakersfield

Dramatist Play Lab | Playwriting 6: Philadelphia

Chair: Stacey Schiller, Baylor University

Clicks

Playwright: Aaron Scully, University of Central Missouri

Director: Quest Sky Zeidler, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Dramaturg: Lucas Skjaret, University of North Alabama

Acting Company

Kiley Towne, Baylor University

Andre Garner, University of Michigan

Anne Thibault Green, Eastern Illinois University

The Violinist Sucks You Dry

Playwright: Annie Schoonover, Carnegie Mellon University

Director: Kiley Towne, Baylor University

Dramaturg: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

Acting Company

Emily K. Harrison, Hamilton College

Anne Thibault Green, Eastern Illinois University

Please Hold for Zombie Invasion

Playwright: Lizzy Santana, Independent Artist

Director: Vanessa Marie Campagna, Monmouth College

Dramaturg: TBD

Acting Company

Von Nishan Markarian, Carnegie Mellon University

Emily K. Harrison, Hamilton College

Session 9**3:30 - 4:45 PM****French/Canadian Theatre | History 13: Ohio**

Paper Panel

Chair: Jesse Njus, Virginia Commonwealth

“A Blueprint for Revolution: Art as Rebellion in The Marriage of Figaro”

Merritt Denman-Popp, Baylor University

“Playing with the Space of Americana: Celine Song’s Endlings and who gets to look where”

Dave Peterson, Niagara University

“A Huguenot on Native Land: How Religion Formulated French and British Allyship through Mascarene’s Misanthrope”

Emily Goodell, Ball State University

Reflecting, Reworking, and Reimagining Toward a Theatrical Future | Practice/Production 8: Monongahela

Paper Panel

Chair: Cate Heiner, Middle Tennessee State University

“The American Play: Making and Remaking the Origins of the ‘American’ Theatre”

Cason Murphy, Iowa State University

“Beyond Power Plays: Reimagining Human Behavior in American Theatre”

Erica Terpening-Romeo, Williams College

“Money, Money Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink: Ecological and Economic Disidentifications as Anti-Capitalist Theatre Practice in *The Thirst is Real*”

Jam McCray, Florida State University

Rob Yoho, Florida State University

Aisha Saunderz, Florida State University

Jennifer Lackey, Florida State University

Education and Intervention: Theatre-Making at the University and Beyond | Practice/Production 9: Keystone

Paper Panel

Chair: Bella Poynton, SUNY Oswego

“The University as a Public Square? Reflecting on an Art-Making Intervention as an Occupation-Based Performance”

Stephanie Kaczynski, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Michael Baird, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Curricular Production: Expanding Access through Integrated Pedagogy”

Graham Kindred, Pace University

“Toward a New Mode of University Theatre Production: San Francisco State University Abandons the LORT Model”

Vicki Hoskins, San Francisco State University

Michael Schweikardt, San Francisco State University

“Ephemeral Stages, Lasting Traces: Exploring Temporality and Memory in Theatre for Education”

Alivia Cross, Penn State University

Trust the Process | Pedagogy 11: Erie

Workshop

“Making and Remaking the Michael Chekhov Technique: Gesturing towards new (American?) Aesthetics”

Nikki Ferry, Missouri State University

Hansel Tan, Villanova University

Risk and Reward | Pedagogy 12: Allegheny

Workshop

“Cultivating Collaboration as an Essential Tool for Beginning Playwrights”

Jen Plants, University of Wisconsin-Madison

First Acts Showcase | Playwriting 7: Philadelphia

Chair: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

Eat Your Young

Playwright: JC Pankrantz, Independent Artist

Director: Lucas Skjaret, University of North Alabama

Dramaturg: Ryan Adelsheim, University of Iowa

Acting Company

Natalie Guess, Baylor University

Jo Welch, Independent Artist

Kristy Thomas, Missouri State University

Nathan Bowman, Benedictine College

Session 10

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Football Performance Histories | History 14: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Mike Franz, University of Mississippi

“Football’s MAGA Turn: The Erosion of Activism Between the Lines”

Noe Montez, Emory University

“Performance Art Football: Matthew Barney’s Secondary”

Eero Laine, The University at Buffalo

“Sporting Structures, Alternative Americana: The Tailgate”

Shannon Walsh, Louisiana State University

American Nostalgia | History 15: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Erin Bone Steele, University of Maryland

“Identifying and Challenging Historical “Americana” Markers through Hamilton, Parade, Suffs, and Floyd Collins”

Yuko Kurahashi, Kent State University

“That Was the Promised Land’: The Construction of New Mythologies of the American West in David Belasco’s Girl of the Golden West”

Ruby Dudasik, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Program Girl as National Fantasy: Playbill’s Pictorial Ideal of Early Twentieth Century Womanhood”

Vicki Hoskins, San Francisco State University

American Girlhood | Practice/Production 10: Monongahela

Roundtable

Chair: Nikki Ferry

Participants:

Kuhle Mbawu, SUNY at Buffalo State University

Lana Sugarman

Contact Lenses | Pedagogy 13: Erie

Roundtable

Chair: Sam Collier, University of Colorado Boulder

“Backwards, Forwards, or Both: Theatre History in the American Classroom”

Jackie Goldfinger, Author, Routledge

Nathan Bowman, Benedictine College

First Acts Showcase | Playwriting 8: Philadelphia

Chair: Stacey Schiller, Baylor University

A Better Man

Playwright: Stan Deman and Eduardo, Baylor University

Director: Cason Murphy, Iowa State University

Dramaturg: Merritt Denman-Popp, Baylor University

Acting Company

Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson, University of Illinois Springfield

Vanessa Marie Campagna, Monmouth College

Ailka Samora, Point Park University

Von Nishan Markarian, Carnegie Mellon University

Andres Mauricio Laguna Bonilla, Florida State University
Natalie Guess, Baylor University
Alicia K. Garcia, Miami Dade College

Graduate Student Social

6:00pm - 7:30 pm

Ohio

All graduate student conference attendees are invited to join us for the Graduate Student Social to network and reflect on the conference-going experience. Refreshments provided!

August Wilson's Legacy and Future in American Theatre

7:30 pm

Erie

Join scholars and archival experts for a special invited talk exploring the enduring legacy and future impact of August Wilson on American theatre. Featuring Isaiah Wooden (Swarthmore College), Khalid Y. Long (Howard University), and Bill Daw (University of Pittsburgh), in collaboration with the August Wilson Archive at the University of Pittsburgh, this conversation will highlight Wilson's profound influence on theatrical practice, scholarship, and cultural memory. Drawing from archival materials and recent scholarship, the speakers will reflect on Wilson's artistic vision, his deep ties to Pittsburgh, and the continued relevance of his work in shaping contemporary performance and Black theatrical traditions.

Saturday, March 7, 2025

Session 11

9:00 am - 10:15 am

Emerging Scholars #2 | History 16: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Alexandra Stahl, Independent Scholar

“Restoring the Past through Re-Vision: In the Green and Feminist Historical Performance”

Kitty Corum, University of Kansas

“America’s Original Sin: Racial Violence and the Modern Day Eden in Amiri Baraka’s Dutchman”

Aaliyah Carter, Baylor University

“The Ridiculous Folk: Charles Ludlam and the Theatrical Folklore of Queer New York Subculture”

William DeVito, The Ohio State University

Musical Theatre | History 17: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Vicki Hoskins, San Francisco State University

“Making (and Remaking) Territory Folk: Reviving OKLAHOMA! in Oklahoma”

Bryan Vandevender, Bucknell University

“‘Jud Fry Loved His Feller Man’: Queering the Conditional Love Song in ‘Oklahoma!’”

Cason Murphy, Iowa State University

“‘I Wanna Go Back’: The (Musical) Theatre as Memory Machine in THE NOTEBOOK (2024)”

Frederick D. Miller, University of Pittsburgh

**Casting Americana: Identity and Representation Onstage |
Practice/Production 11: Monongahela**

Paper Panel

Chair: Cate Heiner, Middle Tennessee State University

“Expanding History, Expanding Opportunities”

Ronald J. Zank, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“Where were the Asians? Reimagining US Entertainment in my Image”

Tom Zhang, University of Kansas

“Lacking Latiné: Promoting Local Americana in Production”

Shadow Zimmerman, Arizona Western College

Trust the Process | Pedagogy 14: Keystone

Workshop

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

“Seeing the Forest Through the Trees: Getting Out of Our Own Way on the Route to Desire”

Eric Kildow, Kent State University

“Playing the Nervous System: A Method for (re)Training Actors”

Erica Terpening-Romeo, Williams College

Invitations and Excursions | Pedagogy 15: Erie

Workshop & Pedagogical Knot

Chair: Greer Gerni, University of Missouri Kansas City

“Pre-Contact Intimacy Training: Consent-Forward Pedagogy in Cross-Cultural and Contemporary Americana”

Daniel Gott, Florida State University

“Experiential activities for class discussions of border walls”

Lóri Fejes, University at Buffalo

Dramatist Play Lab | Playwriting 9: Philadelphia

Chair: Lucas Skjaret, University of North Alabama

True American!

Playwright: Júlia Cerqueira, Indiana University Bloomington

Director: Sean Bartley, Northwestern University

Dramaturg: Kristi Good, Carnegie Mellon University

Acting Company

Aaron Scully, University of Central Missouri

Aaliyah Carter, Baylor University
 Asal Hojabrpour, Indiana University Bloomington

Nightmares Springing From American Dreams

Playwright: Kathryn Ryan, Independent Artist
 Director: Natalie Guess, Baylor University
 Dramaturg: Kristi Good, Carnegie Mellon University

Acting Company

Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, University of Illinois Springfield
 Asal Hojabrpour, Indiana University Bloomington

What Will Glitter in the Light?

Playwright: Justin Maxwell, University of New Orleans
 Director: Karen M. Dabney, University of Virginia
 Dramaturg: T'Keyah Crystal Keymah, Texas Tech University

Acting Company

Thomas L. Rothacker, Kingsborough Community College - CUNY
 David Melendez, California State University Bakersfield
 Kathy Privatt, Lawrence University

Session 12
10:30 am - 11:15 am

Puppetry in Performance | History 18: Ohio

Paper Panel

Chair: Vivian Appler, University of Georgia

“American Puppetry and Human Problems: The Current Performativity of Objects and Its Remaking of the Human Experience”

Rebecca Johnson, Texas Tech University

“Overexposed and Invisible: Performances of Voyeurism, Emotional Rescue, and Spectacle in the Greer Lankton Archives”

Ames Palson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“In the Shadow of Cabrini: Chicago’s Manual Cinema and the Reframing of Midwestern Americana”

Jesse Njus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Labor and Theatre-Making | History 19: Allegheny

Paper Panel

Chair: Beth Osborne, Florida State University

“Americana: the Making and Unmaking of Stage Management through U.S. Labor Law and Union Jurisdictional Disputes”

Jennifer Scheier, Point Park University

“Revolting Radicalism: Censorship, American Childhood and The Revolt of the Beavers”

Alissa Bidwell-Thompson, University of Minnesota

Games, Sports, and Performance: Americana Beyond the Stage | Practice/Production 12: Monongahela

Paper Panel

Chair: Aaron Scully, University of Central Missouri

“A New American Genre: The Utopian Performative and The Twenty-Sided Tavern”

Christina Allaback, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

“Games as Social Change: How Spolin and Boal Revolutionized Improvisation”

Michael McNamara, Western Illinois University

“Rehearsing Reality: Boal in the Age of Interactive Media”

Kalen Stockton, State University of New York at Buffalo

Risk and Reward | Pedagogy 16: Scranton

Paper Panel

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

“Departmental Histories: How can students engage with their own history objectively?”

Travis Stern, Bradley University

First Acts Showcase | Playwriting 10: Philadelphia

Chair: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

A Texas Jesus Abortion Play

Playwright: Anikka Lekven, Independent Artist

Director: Stacey Schiller, Baylor University

Dramaturg: Greg Romero, Independent Artist

Acting Company

Nathan Bowman, Benedictine College
 Julia Moriarty, Missouri State University
 Kiley Towne, Baylor University

Conference Luncheon**12:30 pm - 2:00 pm****PENNSYLVANIA BALLROOM**

All conference attendees are invited for our annual conference luncheon, followed by remarks from our Scholar in Residence.

MATC Business Meeting**2:00 pm - 3:00 pm****PENNSYLVANIA BALLROOM**

All conference attendees are invited for our annual MATC Business Meeting.

Session 13**3:15 pm - 4:30 pm****Respondent Session | History 20: Ohio**

Join Theatre History respondents Dr. Michelle Granshaw and Dr. Isaiah Wooden for a response session.

Stage Management Roundtable | Practice/Production 13: Monongahela

Roundtable

"Stage Management: An Ever Evolving Role in the Entertainment Industry"

Adrienne Wells, Chair - Stage Managers' Association
 Jennifer Leigh Sears Scheier, Point Park University

Pedagogy Post-Mortem | Pedagogy 17 : Keystone

Chair: Karie Miller, Grinnell College

Playwriting Post-Mortem | Playwriting 11: Philadelphia

Chair: Tiffany Antone, Iowa State University

5:30 - 8:00 pm *Eureka Day* Opening Night

Join fellow MATC members as we attend the opening night of City Theatre's production of Jonathan Spector's EUREKA DAY.

Asynchronous Sessions

PITCH YOUR BOOK

Chair: Stefano Boselli, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Editor: Shannon Walsh, Palgrave Macmillan

LaRonika Thomas, Washington College

Civic Dramaturgy: Performances of Urban Planning, Cultural Space, and Cultural Policy

Qianru Li, University of Pittsburgh

Migrant Wit, Theatre Wit

Editor: Noe Montez, University of Iowa Press

Nasir Malekijoo, Independent Scholar-Artist

Post Dramatic Objects: Expressivity, Happenings, and the Everyday in Visual Theatre

Editor: Laura Hussey, Routledge

Deborah Kochman, University of South Florida

Beyond the Bump and Grind: Theatre History through the Lens of U.S. Burlesque

Editor: Steph Hines, Routledge

Elizabeth Coen, University of Houston

Teaching to be Human: Theatre Education in the Age of AI

Eric Kildow, Kent State University

Three Simple Things: Getting Out of Your Own Way on Stage

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Chair: Sean Bartley, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

EDITORS

Jocelyn L. Buckner - *Theatre History Studies*

Sukanya Chakrabarti- *Theatre Topics*

Ariel Nereson - *Theatre Journal*

Aaron C. Thomas - *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*

Karin Waidley - *Theatre/Practice*

AUTHORS**“Suzan-Lori Parks's *365 Days/365 Plays* as Everyday Historiography”**

Cassie Archer, UC Santa Barbara

“Building Worlds and Making Time: Exploring ‘Crip Time’ and ‘Masking’ in Johnna Adams’ ‘World Builders’”

Rowan Jalso, Louisiana State University

“Performing Objects of Resistance: The Gestural Feminism of Iranian Women and the White Worn Scarf”

Nasir Malekijoo, Independent Scholar

“‘Can(’t) Fight This Pullin’ Down’: Trauma Recovery and Shame Resilience in Morisseau’s *Pipeline*”

L. Bailey McDaniel, Oakland University

“Bye Barbie! A Hauntological reading of Greta Gerwig’s *Barbie*”

Julia Moriarty, Missouri State University

“Precarious Bodies, Public Stages: Migration as a Dramaturgy of Justice”

Roya Nazari Najafabadi, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Camus’s Absurd Rebellion Within Tom Stoppard’s *Dogg’s Hamlet, Caboot’s Macbeth*”

M. Nance, Ohio State University

“Queer Performance Perspectives: An Exploration of Kiki and Ballroom Culture”

Ifeyinwa Onyekonwu, University of Washington