

# GAVEN D. TRINIDAD

dramaturg.trinidad@gmail.com ♦ he/him/his ♦ www.gaventrinidadtheatre.com

I have experience with new play development, production dramaturgy, audience engagement, directing, and arts administration. I have served as a public-school teacher as a member of Teach for America, and I more recently taught undergraduate courses on the work of contemporary playwrights of color at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass Amherst). I am a globally conscious and interdisciplinary artist who believes that theatre is a transformative tool for underrepresented communities to imagine and create radically new inclusive worlds. I continue to work closely with LGBTQIA community leaders, artists with disabilities, and international artists whose work focus on Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Belonging (EDIB) Initiatives. I hold an MFA in Dramaturgy from UMass Amherst as well as a graduate certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies from the university's Woman, Gender, and Sexualities Studies Department.

## PERFORMING ARTS ADMINISTRATION

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The National Queer Theatre, *Member of Artistic Committee* New York, NY September 2019 - Present  
Reads and evaluates new play submissions to consider for upcoming season. As a member of the Artistic Committee, I help the company support its playwrights and determine the work produced. Artistic Director: Adam Odess-Rubin.

The Juilliard School, *Administrative Apprentice/ Assistant (Drama Division)* New York, NY, August 2018 – August 2019  
The Drama Division apprentice directly assists the administrative director and all members of the Drama Division staff in the daily administrative and production operations associated with the division's professional actor training program and the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. Managing Director: Kathy Hood. Drama Division Director: Evan Yionoulis.

The Juilliard School, *Playwrights Program Admissions Reader* New York, NY, 2018 – Present  
As a reader for the admissions process, assessed and reviewed applicants' plays in a blind application process. Reported all assessments to Drama Division Literary Manager Adam Szymkowicz.

Musical Theatre Factory, *MTF Makers Associate Dramaturg* New York, NY, September-November 2018  
Organized submissions, collated data, drafted correspondence between administration and artists, and reviewed artist submissions for MTF Makers fellowship. Was member of final review panel, which included Shakina Nayfack, Tanya Pinkins, and Natasha Sinha. Reported to and was supervised by Mei Ann Teo, Producing Artistic Director.

UMass Amherst Theatre Department, *Producer of Play Lab New Play Festival* Amherst, MA, May 2017-Jan 2018  
Under the mentorship of playwright and dramaturg Kim Euell, produced the annual new play festival at UMass Amherst. Led the open call, review, and reading of all new play applications from artists nationwide. Worked closely with a marketing and financial team to build audience numbers, to maintain artistic integrity, and to provide artists the necessary tools to create during the residency. Notable participating playwrights include MJ Kauffman, Stephanie Swirsky, Sarah Espanier, and Dustin Chinn.

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, *Archives/Engagement Intern* Becket, MA, May 2017 – August 2017  
Worked closely with and was mentored by Director of Preservation Norton Owen and Associate Archivist Patsy Gay in the daily operation of the institution's archives and reading room. Responsibilities included managing the reference desk, object handling, cataloguing and updating moving image, paper, and book records using Collective Access software, exhibition installation, and assisting with special events including pre-show talks, PillowTalks, film screenings, and historical campus tours for children and adults. Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Director: Pamala Tatge.

Ma-Yi Theatre Company, *Dramaturgy/Producing Intern* New York, NY, June 2016 – August 2016  
Under the mentorship of Ralph Peña (producing artistic director) and John Kurzynowski (former company producer), archived, collected, and documented artifacts from Ma-Yi's almost thirty-year history. Assisted the reorganization and the digital archival of physical artifacts of Ma-Yi's company history. Artistic Director: Ralph Peña.

the TEAM, Intern

Brooklyn, NY, June – August 2015

Assisted Manda Martin (former producing director) with company management, grant research, and writing. Spearheaded many grant projects, including government and private foundation grants, as well as production and general operation grants. Artistic Director: Rachel Chavkin.

New York Theatre Workshop, Engagement Intern

New York, NY, September 2014 – June 2015

Worked closely with the Artistic, Education, and Marketing departments. Projects included planning and implementing social media campaigns; contributing to and helping to manage The Brief, NYTW's online dramaturgical resource; curating and producing post-show panels and discussions; identifying potential community partners; creating lobby displays; participating in artistic staff meetings; and helping coordinate NYTW Master Classes and Casebook. 2014 – 15 Season: *Scenes from a Marriage*, dir. Ivo van Hove; *The Invisible Hand*, dir. Ken Rus Schmoll; *The Events*, dir. Ramin Gray; *Forever*, dir. Neel Keller, featuring Dael Orlandersmith. The role is now a NYTW 2050 Administrative Fellow position. Artistic Director: Jim Nicola. Supervisor and Mentor: Aaron Malkin, NYTW Literary Manager and Dramaturg.

**THEATRE AND DANCE DRAMATURGY** \* new play development*\*Animus Anima/ | Anima Animus*

New York, NY 2019

written by Cherry Lou Sy, directed by Eugene Ma  
dramaturg, Brooklyn College Play Festival at The Public Theatre

*\*Full Contact* [work-in-progress production]

New York, NY 2019

written and performed by Ariel Estrada  
dramaturg, Leviathan Lab

*\*Specially Processed American Me* [work-in-progress production]

New York, NY 2019

written and performed by Jaime Sunwoo  
dramaturg, Leviathan Lab

*\*June is the First Fall* [New York Premiere]

New York, NY 2019

written by Yilong Liu, directed by Michael Leibenluft  
dramaturg, Yangtze Repertory Theatre

*\*Paper Swag* [workshop and presentation]

New York, NY 2019

written by Cherry Lou Sy, directed by Ifa Bayeza  
dramaturg

*\*June is the First Fall* [workshop and presentation]

New York, NY 2019

written by Yilong Liu, directed by Michael Leibenluft  
dramaturg, Yangtze Repertory Theatre

*What is a Contribution?*

New York, NY 2018

written by Sanaz Toosi, directed by Shadi Ghaheri  
dramaturg, Leviathan Lab

*The Wall: Immigration in the Time of 45*, a play festival at The Tank

*The Wall*

New York, NY 2018

written by Cherry Lou Sy, directed by Eugene Ma  
dramaturg, Leviathan Lab

*The Wall: Immigration in the Time of 45*, a play festival at The Tank

*The Lily's Revenge*

Amherst, MA, 2018

written by Taylor Mac, directed by Jennifer Onopa

dramaturg + Act III director/choreographer, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*\*Snowflakes, or Rare White People* [workshop and presentation] Amherst, MA, 2017  
 written by Dustin Chinn  
 directed by Gabriel Harrell  
 dramaturg + producer, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*The Happiest Song Plays Last* Amherst, MA, 2017  
 written by Quiara Alegria Hudes, directed by Jennifer Onopa  
 dramaturg, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*\*Peril in Thine Eye*, an Immersive Dance Experience Amherst, MA, 2016  
 inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*  
 choreographed by Thomas Vacanti, Paul Dennis, and Leslie Frye Maietta  
 dramaturg + writer, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*\*I am Ulysses* Amherst, MA, 2016  
 written and directed by Jennifer Onopa  
 dramaturg + co-director, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Collidescope 2.0: Adventures in Pre and Post Racial America* Amherst, MA, 2016  
 written and directed by Ping Chong + Talvin Wilks  
 assistant dramaturg, Ping Chong + Company

*\*benevolence* [workshop and presentation] New York, NY & Amherst, MA, 2016  
 written and directed by Ifa Bayeza  
 dramaturg, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*\*Red Wednesday* [workshop presentation] Queens, NY, 2015  
 written and directed by Sanaz Ghajarrahami  
 dramaturg, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Built4Collapse

*Angels in America: The Millennium Approaches and Perestroika* Memphis, TN, 2013  
 written by Tony Kushner, directed by Irene Crist  
 dramaturg + assistant to the director, Playhouse on the Square

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**PUBLISHED WRITING** \*writing samples are available at request

*Featured Critical Responses in the exhibit "Dance We Must: Another Look."* May – August 2019, Jacob's Pillow Archives, Becket, Massachusetts.

"Celebrating Historic Milestones While Critically Understanding the Past." HowlRound, Emerson College, January 2019, Web.

*Queer Temporality and Aesthetics in Taylor Mac's The Lily's Revenge: a Dramaturgical Exploration of the Production at UMass Amherst.* ScholarWorks@Umass Amherst, The University of Massachusetts Amherst, August 2018, Web.

"Dramaturgical Work with College-Aged Artists around Race and Whiteness." HowlRound, Emerson College, June 2018, Web.

"Dramaturgy and Dance." The Jacob's Pillow Archive Website, 2018, Web.

The Brief: NYTW's Dramaturgy Website; writer, editor, and contributor, 2014 – 2015 Season, Web.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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- Joker*, post-show discussion, IRT Theatre + National Queer Theatre New York, NY, July 2019  
 July 3<sup>rd</sup>, “Contemporary Queer Asian and Asian American Artist-Activism” with Bex Kwan and Hubert Silva  
 July 5<sup>th</sup>, “Conversation with *Joker* Family” with Cast and Playwright Yilong Liu  
 July 6<sup>th</sup>, “Representation of Queer Filipinos on Stage” with Ralph Peña and Ariel Estrada
- June is the First Fall*, post-reading discussion, A.R.T./New York Midtown New York, NY, December 2018  
*Snowflakes*, Post-Show Talk Back Conversations, UMass Amherst Curtain Theatre Amherst, MA, December 2017  
 December 1st, 2nd, 7th, Conversations between playwright Dustin Chinn and Audience  
 “Intern Panel,” American College Dance Association @ Jacob’s Pillow Becket, MA, August 23, 2017  
 “Conversation with Former NYTW Interns,” New York Theatre Workshop New York, NY, July 12, 2017  
 Pre- and Post-Show Talk-Back Conversations @ UMass Amherst Amherst, MA, 2016 – 2018
- The Happiest Song Plays Last* Post-Show Events, UMass Amherst Rand Theatre, Amherst, MA  
 April 2017, moderator  
 April 8th, "POC Representation on University Stages" with cast  
 April 13th, "Life as a Veteran Student" with Veterans of UMass Amherst  
 April 15th, "Latinidad and Cultural Identity in Performance" with Priscilla Page, Iris Garcia, and Christian Santiago
- benevolence* Post-Show Events, NYPOP, New York, NY, March 2016, producer and speaker  
 March 6th, show response by Dr. Megan Lewis, Professor Judyie Al-Bilali, and playwright Ifa Bayeza  
 March 7th, show response by Dr. John H. Bracy, Jr., Sonia Sanchez, and playwright Ifa Bayeza

## DIRECTING FOR THE STAGE

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- Joker* New York, NY 2019  
 written by Yilong Liu  
 director, National Queer Theatre/2019 WorldPride/IRT Theatre

## ASSISTANT DIRECTING FOR THE STAGE

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- Legacy* New York, NY 2019  
 book, music, and lyrics by November Christine  
 directed by Adrienne Williams  
 assistant director, HERE Arts Center
- The Lily’s Revenge* Amherst, MA, 2018  
 written by Taylor Mac, directed by Jennifer Onopa  
 Act III director/choreographer, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- The Diary of Anne Frank* Memphis, TN, 2014  
 written by Wendy Kesselman, directed by Irene Crist  
 assistant director, Playhouse on the Square

## PLAYWRITING FOR THEATRE AND DANCE

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- Gaymer: A Study of Human Connection* (currently in development) Presently in Development  
 with Leviathan Lab
- Peril in Thine Eyes* an Immersive Dance Experience 2016  
 inspired by Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*

## DESIGNING FOR THE STAGE

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*Ludo's Broken Bride*

New York, NY 2016

music and lyrics by Ludo, adapted for the stage by Stacey Weingarten  
 directed by Stacey Weingarten and Donna Drake  
 assistant projection designer to Pauline Lu, New York Musical Festival

## PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

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<i>Over/Again</i> part of "MTF Overnight Sensations"	Performer + Co-writer	Musical Theatre Factory, 2019 dir. Julia Hutch + music by Paulo Tíról
Ntozake Shange's <i>Liliane</i> [reading]	Victor-Jésus	University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2016 dir. Glenn Proud
<i>Marry Poppins</i> [regional premiere]	Ensemble	Playhouse on the Square, 2014 dir. Geoffrey Goldberg

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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University of Massachusetts Amherst,

*Primary Course Instructor*

Amherst, MA, January 2017 – May 2018

- Theatre 130, Contemporary Playwrights of Color
- Theatre 393, Asian American Theater History (co-developed and co-instructed with Prof. Priscilla Page, PhD.)

*Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer*

Amherst, MA, September 2015 – May 2018

- Theatre 100, Theatrical Frontiers: Live Performance, Prof. Harley Erdman, PhD.
  - Lecturer, "History of Musical Theatre on the American Stage"
  - Lecturer and Section Instructor, "Devised Theatre Practices"
- Theatre 130, Contemporary Playwrights of Color, Prof. Priscilla Page, PhD.
  - Lecturer, "Asian American Theatre History"
- Theatre 105, Drama & the Media: Performing Mythologies in the Contemporary World, Prof. Megan Lewis, PhD.
  - Lecturer, "Creating Devised Theatre to Address Contemporary Domesticity and Global Politics"

New York Theater Workshop, *Teaching Assistant*

New York, NY, October 2014 – December 2014

Assisted New York Theatre Workshop Literary Manager Aaron Malkin to run an 8-week case study course on the New York premiere of Ayad Akhtar's *The Invisible Hand* at NYTW. The course was designed to provide students an insider's view of the process of realizing a full professional production. Classes included conversations with the playwright, director, actors, etc.

Memphis City Schools/Shelby County Schools, *ESL Teacher*

Memphis, TN, August 2012 – August 2014

Taught at South Park Elementary as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher under the school leadership of Principal Rebecca Dapper. Highly qualified for ESL K-12, Elementary School (1-5), and Middle School (6-8).

Teach for America, *Corps Member*

Memphis, TN, June 2012 – July 2014

Selected from approximately 40,000 applicants nationwide to join national teacher corps of recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in under-resourced public schools.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

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University of Massachusetts Amherst, Master of Fine Arts, Dramaturgy      Amherst, MA, September 2015 – May 2018  
 and Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Department

Dickinson College, Bachelor of Arts, American Studies and German (minor) Carlisle, PA, August 2008 – May 2012

The Juilliard School, Professional Apprenticeship Program, Drama Division New York, NY, August 2018-August 2019

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Internship Program, Archives/Engagement Becket, MA, May 2017-August 2017

Universität Bremen, *partner abroad program with Dickinson College* Bremen, Germany, January 2011 – August 2011

Circle in the Square Theatre School, Musical Theatre Summer Intensive New York, NY 2006

## SKILLS

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Languages - English (full proficiency), German (working proficiency), Tagalog/Filipino (basic)

Computer - Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, In-Design, Tessitura, Isadora, Collective Access

Other - Experienced public speaker; graphic designer; facilitator for public forums; licensed New York driver

## REFERENCES

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Kathy Hood	The Juilliard School, Managing Director of Drama Division	khood@juilliard.edu
Adam Szymkowicz	The Juilliard School, Literary Manager of Drama Division	asymkowicz@juilliard.edu
Norton Owen	Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Director of Preservation	nowenjacobspillow.org
Priscilla Page	UMass Amherst, Theatre Dept. Dramaturgy Professor	pmpage@theater.umass.edu
Aaron Malkin	New York Theatre Workshop, Literary Manager and Dramaturg	aaronm@nytw.org