

Natalia Naman Temesgen

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EDUCATION

Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, New York, NY, 2008-2010

M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 2004-2008

B.A. in English

Certificate (Minor) in Theatre & Dance

Certificate in African-American Studies

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbus State University, Columbus, GA, Lecturer, Dept of English (2013 -)

Part-Time Faculty, Dept of Theatre (2013 -)

- Introduction to Playwriting - Led a workshop-based introductory playwriting course in which students completed original one-act plays and offered critical feedback on their peers' plays. Integrated weekly analysis of contemporary plays with customized in-class writing exercises to enhance students' skill sets and inspire their creativity.
- Introduction to Screenwriting - Taught students fundamentals of screenwriting structure, format, and composition. Students completed an original silent short-short screenplay and an original narrative short screenplay. Integrated film screenings and development exercises to highlight the most essential elements of screenwriting and character development.
- Intro/Adv Fiction Writing - Led a workshop-based fiction writing course in which students completed a full initial draft of a short story, revised and completed a full second draft of the story, and offered critical feedback on their peers' writing. Integrated weekly discussion and analyzed highly regarded, contemporary short stories. Presented various writing exercises and revision tools to aid students in the creative and recursive writing process.
- First Year Composition - Taught students the fundamentals of academic writing while centering the class around the idea of self-discovery, self-empowerment, and community building. Students use various forms of writing to explore answers to the questions "Who Am I?" "Why Am I Here?" and "Where Am I Going?"

- Interdisciplinary Studies - Taught an original course entitled “The Role of Music in the American Drama” in which students examined the impact of incidental music on the plot, character development, and thematic components of classic and contemporary American plays.
- Script Analysis - Taught students how to deconstruct and analyze plays in terms of narrative arc, plot structure, character development and theme. Studied classic and contemporary American plays, and examined local live productions during the study.

Springer Theatre Academy, Columbus, GA, Playwriting Instructor (2014 -)

Grub Street (Creative Writing Center), Boston, MA, Playwriting Instructor (2012-2013)

Institute of Reading Development, New York, NY, Reading Instructor (2008)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Ledger-Enquirer Newspaper, Columbus, GA, Weekly Columnist (2014 -)

Columns can be found digitally at the following address:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/living/liv-columns-blogs/natalia-temesgen/>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Playwriting, Screenwriting, Webseries, Television Writing, Musical Theatre Writing, Multi-Disciplinary Character Exploration (Poetry, Music, Narrative, Monologue, Visual Art), African-American history and culture, International Dialogues, Political Theater, and Multi-Disciplinary Adaptation.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

- March 2017- ACE: THE EUGENE BULLARD STORY, Springer Opera House, Columbus, GA
- July 2015- THE OLD SHIP OF ZION, Essential Theatre, Atlanta, GA
- August 2014- THE OLD SHIP OF ZION, The National Civil War Naval Museum, Columbus, GA
- May 2013- ROOTS OF LIBERTY, Underground Railway Theatre, Boston, MA
- March 2013- LAWNPEOPLE, Cherry Lane Theatre, New York, NY

- January 2013- BEST ACTOR and BLIND DATE, Boston One-Minute Play Festival, Boston, MA
- November 2012- Scenes from JESS & DJ: A BABY MAMA DRAMEDY, Bostonia Bohemia, Boston, MA
- January 2012- PRINCESS and MONDAY NIGHT, Boston One-Minute Play Festival, Boston, MA
- September 2010- 7 SINS IN 60 MINUTES, FringeArts Festival, Philadelphia, PA
- July 2010- 7 SINS IN 60 MINUTES, HERE Arts Center, New York, NY
- April 2010- AMERICAN DREAM REHAB, Urban Arts Partnership at Theatre Row Studios, New York, NY
- January 2008- THE OLD SHIP OF ZION, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 2007-2008- VARSITY (scripted television series), Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- October 2007- CROSSING OVER, Manhattan Theatre Source, New York, NY

PLAY READINGS & CREATIVE RESIDENCIES

- February 2016- PRODIGAL, staged reading, Springer Opera House, Columbus, GA
- March 2014- THE OLD SHIP OF ZION, staged reading, Columbus, GA
- January 2014- PRODIGAL, developed at Lark Play Development Center, New York, NY
- October 2012 - March 2013- THE OLD SHIP OF ZION, developed in XX Playlab residency, Company One & Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA
- April 2011- JESS & DJ: A BABY MAMA DRAMEDY, staged reading, New Dramatists, New York, NY
- May 2010- JESS & DJ: A BABY MAMA DRAMEDY, staged reading, New Georges, New York, NY
- May 2010- LAWNPEOPLE, staged reading, The Cherry Pit, New York, NY

- October 2009- THE OLD SHIP OF ZION, Playwrights' Week residency and staged reading, Lark Play Development Center, New York, NY
- March 2009- DROUGHT, Festival of New Works staged reading, Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY

DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS

- Recipient of Columbus State University Interdisciplinary Initiative Grant, 2013
- Cherry Lane Theatre Mentor Project Playwright, 2013
- Finalist, Playwrights' Center Many Voices Fellowship, 2013
- Nominated for Theatre Development Fund Wendy Wasserstein Prize, 2009-2011
- Founding Member of NY MADNESS, 2009
- Ensemble Studio Theatre "Going to the River" Playwright, 2009
- Superior Senior Thesis Awards, Princeton University, Department of English and Department of Theatre, 2008

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Lunch & Lecture at the Columbus Museum, speaking about the history of Eugene Bullard and ACE: THE EUGENE BULLARD STORY, March 2017
- Reading and brief presentation about ACE: THE EUGENE BULLARD STORY, Schwob Memorial Library, African American Read-In, February 2017
- In Other Words (Artistic Director), Columbus, GA based play reading series that highlights new work by writers of color, presented THE HAMPTON YEARS by Jacqueline E. Lawton, December 2016
- Led a playwriting seminar for 8th annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference, October 2014
- Facilitated a public post-show panel discussion after THE OLD SHIP OF ZION with local community leaders regarding the themes raised in the play, August 2014

SERVICE

Artistic Director, In Other Words, 2016 - present

Manage the artistic and logistic aspects of a not-for-profit, public play reading series that presents new plays by writers of color featuring local actors of color. Work with co-creators Faye Manselle and Amanda Black to present the work, engage with an audience, and create inspired dialogue around the art.

Senior Project Mentor to students at Columbus High School, 2013 - present

Mentor high school seniors in their development of original plays, short stories, and novels for their senior projects.

Judge, KCACTF Region IV National Ten-Minute Play Contest, 2014 - present

Read and rank student-written ten-minute plays from the Southeast for nomination to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Ten-Minute Play Contest.

Creative Writing Counselor, The Links, Incorporated, Columbus Chapter, 2014

Helped teenaged women of color to write their personal monologues during a positive self-empowerment seminar for local teens.

Faculty Co-Director, Columbus State University PlayDev Program, Fall 2013

Worked with Dr. Larry Dooley to help playwriting and acting students develop new, original plays and present them in a public reading with moderated talkback. Recipient of a 2013 Interdisciplinary Initiative Grant.