

Dr. Tara Brooke Watkins
Director, Scholar, Theatre Artist
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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy, *Theatre and Performance Studies*

Tufts University, May 2021

Dissertation: "Performing History in North Tulsa: Black Wall Street and the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre"

Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama and Dance

Master of Arts, *Theatre Education*

Emerson College, 2013

Graduate Thesis Award: "Revealing Her Voice Through Her Body: The Social Effects of the Performance Art of Robbie McCauley"

Bachelor of Arts, *Theatre Arts*

Eastern Nazarene College, Magna Cum Laude, 2002

Department Award: Betty Rice Award for Excellence in Directing

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor/Theatre Program Coordinator, Salve Regina University (2021-Present)

- Act as artistic director for 2-3 show season
- Advise students on curricular goals and classes
- Direct two shows per academic year
- Teach 2:2 course load
- Classes taught include: Acting Foundations, Advanced Acting, Directing, Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Theatre as a Profession, Theatre for Youth and Children, Acting for Film and Television

Assistant Professor/Artistic Director, Eastern Nazarene College (2017-2021)

- Designed Theatre for Social Justice Program curriculum
- Advise students on schedules, juniors and seniors on capstone theatre productions
- Coordinate and Manage community engagement projects
- Teach 2:2 and Produce and Direct 2:2 equate schedule
- Actively recruit for Theatre for Social Justice Program
- Classes taught include: "Dance, Art, and Poetry," Musical Theatre Auditioning, Acting, Directing, Devising, Voice and Movement, Applied Theatre, Intro to Theatre for Social Justice, Ethnography, Activism on Stage (dramatic literature), Multicultural Drama, Arts Management

Instructor/Artistic Director Eastern Nazarene College (Sept. 2010-17)

- Manage and produce three-production season

- Oversee student technical designers, stage managers, and assistants
- Direct two productions per academic year
- Taught 2:2 -- Introduction to Speech, Acting, Directing, Multicultural Drama

TA Solo Instructor, Tufts University (Sept. 2015-2017)

Classes taught include: Introduction to Acting

Adjunct Faculty, Dean College (Jan. 2012-May 2013)

Classes taught include: Stage Management, Writing for the Arts, Dramatic Theory

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder/President, Pariah Theatre Company, Boston, MA (2012-present)

- Produce 1 show/year focused on “lesser heard voices in lesser seen ways”; shows are produced in non-traditional settings in local communities
- Collaborate with local organizations to bring theatre into the community

Owner/School Director/Instructor, South Shore School of Theatre, Quincy, MA (2010-present)

- Business owner, website master, responsible for marketing, and hiring of staff
- Produce 3 summer musical theatre productions and oversee school year classes and productions for ages 7-adult;
- Develop musical theatre and production internships for college students

Artistic Director/Instructor, Riverside Theatre Works, Boston, MA (2004-2009)

- Produced 6 professional musical productions/year and 5 student productions (ages 10-18)
- Created Teen Tech Program and Teen Production Company
- Co-Founded Stages of Discovery Program, which brought social, historical, and literary-based plays into local schools; wrote productions

Colonial Interpreter, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA (2002-2004)

- Portrayed historically-accurate character from 17th-century daily with house and garden
- Taught 1,000-3,000 international visitors about colonial life
- Worked with children and teenagers in education department

Teacher/Counselor, Columbia Gorge School of Theatre, White Salmon, WA (2001)

- Oversaw daily care and needs of twenty girls as summer camp counselor
- Taught scriptwriting, wrote original play, directed production of twelve students, ages 9-18
- Rotated technical roles as stage manager, assistant stage manager, set designer, costumer, props mistress

Founder/Teacher, Music Box Revue, Tulsa, OK (1999-2000)

- Developed and ran summer musical theatre program
- Directed and choreographed three musical revues per summer to children ages 4-14

PUBLICATIONS

“Rebuilding Black Wall Street: Michelle Brown-Burdix and the Greenwood Summer Arts Entrepreneur Camp,” *Applied Theatre and Racial Justice*, edited by Eunice Ferreira and Lisa Biggs, Routledge, forthcoming.

“Stepping Into a Predator’s Shoes: Responding to a Theatre Department’s Request for Healing,” *Theatre Topics*, under peer review.

“Architectural History of the Casino Theatre,” *Muse and Mercy: Exploring Fine and Decorative Arts at Salve Regina University*, edited by Ernest Jolicoeur and Anthony Mangieri, Salve Regina University Publication, 2022.

“*Transcending Theatre: My Time with Robbie McCauley*,” *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, July 20, 2021, howlround.com.

“*A New Identity for Oklahoma*,” *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, August 7, 2019, howlround.com.

“*The Bible Women’s Project: Shouting to be Heard in a Religiously Conservative Environment*,” *HowlRound Theatre Commons*, May 10, 2017, howlround.com.

Book Review of *Staging Faith: Religion and African American Theatre from the Harlem Renaissance to World War II* by Craig R. Prentiss, edited by Jennifer Hammer. New York: New York University Press, 2014, *New England Theater Journal*, 27(1), 2016, 129-31.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

“Reviving Black Wall Street: A Community’s Use of Public Performance and Art in the Fight for Racial Justice,” McKillop Library Faculty Lecture Series, Salve Regina University, November 2023. (Presenter)

“*The Strindberg Experiment: Exploring Alternative Narratives to August Strindberg’s Misogynist Identity*,” American Society for Theatre Research, Finding Hope in the Archives Session, November 2023. (Panelist)

“Don’t Look Behind the Curtain: The Troubling History of the Casino Theatre,” Salve Regina University 75th Anniversary in Newport, September 2022. (Presenter)

“Pedagogical Intervention Through Healing Centered Principles,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education, August 2022. (Presenter)

“Honoring Juneteenth: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” The Female Quotient, Conference, June 2021. (Panelist)

“Race and Augusto Boal: Inverting Theatre of the Oppressed,” Eastern Nazarene College Academic Symposium, April 2020. (Presenter)

“Using Story Circles to Teach the Unities in the Classroom,” *Unities of Action Roundtable Series*, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August 2019. (Panelist)

“Holiness in Social Justice: Human Sexuality,” East Coast Holiness Summit, June 2019. (Presenter)

“The Intervention of the Fine Arts in the Healing Process,” *Shatter the Silence Conference*, Bethel Social Justice Institute, Bethel AME Church, Boston, May 2019. (Organizer and Presenter)

“Teach as a Theatre Artist Lives,” Not Your Average Conference: Innovation 2018, Oklahoma A+ Schools, University of Central Oklahoma, June 2018. (Speaker and Workshop Leader)

“Tulsa Race Massacre: The False Protection of the ‘Fourth Wall’ Border in Black Communities,” In Motion: Performance and Unsettling Borders Conference, Northwestern University, April 2018. (Panelist)

“Love on the Margins: Stepping into the LGBTQ Experience at a Conservative Christian College,” Social Justice Conference, Eastern Nazarene College, February 2018. (Workshop Leader)

“A Play Creation Case Study: *The Bible Women’s Project*,” Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium, Villanova University, May 2017. (Presenter)

“Robbie McCauley’s Work in Context,” Robbie McCauley ‘N Company Symposium, Emerson College and Sleeping Weazel Theatre Company, April 2017. (Panelist)

“Tulsa’s Hidden Past: The Race Riot of 1921,” Multi-Cultural Speaker Series, Eastern Nazarene College, March 2017. (Presenter)

“The Embodied Scholar: Negotiating the Reception of Marked Bodies in Performance,” Tufts University, April 2016. (Organizer)

“Robbie McCauley’s Performance of Memory: An Investigation of Diabetes’ Shame in *Sugar*,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August, 2015. (Presenter)

“Strindberg’s Religious Struggle: Creating and Performing an Adaptation of *A Dream Play*,” Academic Symposium, Eastern Nazarene College, 2013. (Presenter)

“Acting with Masks,” New England Theatre Conference, 2012. (Workshop Leader)

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Scholar on Women and Gender Grant: Gender Identity Struggles in the Body of August Strindberg
Salve Regina University, 2022-2024
McCauley Institute for Mercy Education

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Awards:
Citizen Artist Award, Distinguished Ensemble, Distinguished Devised Play
The Bible Women’s Project, 2023

Living the Mercy Award, Nominee
Salve Regina University 2023

Community-Engaged Learning Course Development Grant, Theatre and Community Engagement
Salve Regina University, Fall 2022

Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama and Dance, Tufts 2021
Awarded for research and scholarship on Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Massacre

Alliance for Community Media, Hometown Award
Audio Production, *Sherlock Holmes Radio Drama: The Tolling Bell*
Awarded for Creativity and Community Engagement during Covid-19

Finalist Rob Hollister Award for Community Service and Citizenship, Tufts 2020-21
Nominated for community engagement work in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Professional Achievement Award, Eastern Nazarene College, 2020
Awarded for community engagement through theatre pieces, *The Father Bill's Play, Tulsa '21: Black Wall Street, The Bible Women's Project*

Elliot Norton Award, Boston, MA, 2019
Best Production (Small/Fringe Theatre),
The Audacity: Women Speak, conceived by Charlotte Meehan

Teaching Excellence Award, Eastern Nazarene College, 2019
Awarded for distinguished teaching

Tisch College Community Research Grant, Tufts University, 2017
Awarded for research on story circle community engagement in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Oklahoma Arts Council Grant, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2017
Awarded for teaching children's drama at Greenwood Cultural Center and creating a play about children's responses to 1921 Massacre on Black Wall Street

Graduate Student Research Award, Tufts University, 2016, 2017, 2018
Awarded for research on Tulsa's 1921 Massacre on Black Wall Street

40 Under 40 Leadership Award, South Shore Stars, 2013
Awarded for Advancement of Theatre Programming on the South Shore, Massachusetts

Artistic Grant, Swedish Council of America, 2012
Awarded for immersive theatre adaptation of Strindberg's *A Dream Play*

Production Grant, Emerson College, 2012
Awarded for immersive theatre production of . . . *Or Dreaming*, adaptation of *A Dream Play*

SERVICE

University-Based

Scholarship Sharing Committee, Salve Regina University, Chair: 2023-2024; Member: 2022-23

Presidential Commission on DEI, Salve Regina University, 2022-2024

Intercultural Development Competency Program, Salve Regina University 2023 Cohort

Marketing Full-Time Lecturer, Faculty Search Committee, Business and Economics, Salve Regina University, 2023-2024

Cliff Walk Commission Partnership, Member, Salve Regina University and Discover Newport, 2023-2024

Stage Fright Student Club, Advisor, 2022-Present

Antiracism Accountability Group, Story Circle facilitator, Salve Regina University, 2022-23

Member and Subcommittee Leader, Presidential Task Force for Racial Justice, Eastern Nazarene College, 2020-21

Leader, LGBTQ+ Awareness Training for Student Leaders, Eastern Nazarene College, 2019-21

Leader, Race and Identity Theatre-based training for new students, Eastern Nazarene College, 2019

Member, Multi-Cultural Action Committee, Eastern Nazarene College, 2018-19

Member, Opportunity Task Force to Reimagine Eastern Nazarene College, New England Nazarene District, 2018

Graduate Student and Faculty Liaison, Tufts University, 2016-17

Member, Social Justice Committee, Eastern Nazarene College, 2016-Present

Member, Committee for Social Justice, Eastern Nazarene College, 2015-16

Advisor, JUMP Drama Ministry, Eastern Nazarene College, 2012-13

Community-Based

Board Member, True Story Theater Company, 2024-27

One-Act Director/Play Respondent, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, 2023-24

Theatre-Based Community Engagement, Rogers High School, Newport, RI, Fall 2022

Member, Decolonizing Theatre, Boston-Based Theatre Department Head Organization, 2020-21

Leader and Organizer, “1619 Reading and Action Group: Examining our Whiteness,” 2020-21

Story Circle Facilitator, Father Bill’s Place Homeless Shelter, 2018-20

Board Member, Sleeping Weazel Theatre Company, 2018-2022

Facilitator and Co-Leader, “Shatter the Silence: Putting an End to Sexual Victimization,” Bethel AME Church and Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, 2017-2022

Advisor, Drama Ministry, Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain, MA 2017

Board Member, Consortium of Boston Area Children’s Theatres, 2006-2012

Creative Writing and Playmaking, Mary Martha Learning Center for Battered Women and Children, 2004-2006

INVITED TALKS AND TRAININGS

Creating Spaces for Open Sharing in Churches, Story Circle Training
Spiritual, Practical and Affirming (SPA) Women’s Circle, November 2024

Creating Theatre about Black Wall Street, Skidmore College, January 2023

The Bible Women’s Project as Preaching Tool, Point Loma Nazarene University, September 2022

Community-Based Story Circle Ethnography, Tufts University, Theatre Department, March 2022

Story Circle Training for Pastoral Leadership, Pariah Theatre Company, June 2021

Story Circle Training for Community Healing, Wheelock College, March 2019

ARTISTIC WORK

DIRECTING (sampling)

The Play That Goes Wrong	Salve Regina University (SRU)	October 2023
Children of Eden	SRU	March 2023
The Drowsy Chaperone	SRU	March 2022
Everyday Lives and Other Odds and Ends	Sleeping Weazel/ArtsEmerson	March 2022
Spoon River Anthology	SRU	October 2021
Titanic	Eastern Nazarene College (ENC)	October 2019
The Audacity: Women Speak (Elliot Norton Award, Best Production, Small/Fringe)	Sleeping Weazel	March 2019
Beauty and the Beast*	ENC	October 2019

Fiddler on the Roof	South Shore School of Theatre	July 2018
Joseph. . . Dreamcoat*	ENC	October 2017
Ti-Jean and his Brothers*	ENC	February 2016
The Wiz	ENC	October 2016
Oliver	South Shore School of Theatre	Summer 2016
Oklahoma!	ENC	October 2015
Honk*	ENC	October 2014
The Bible Women's Project*	ENC	Winter 2015-Currently on Tour
for colored girls who have considered Pariah Theatre Co. suicide/when the rainbow is enuf		June 2014
Medea*	ENC	April 2014
Hello Dolly*	ENC	October 2014
A Raisin in the Sun	ENC	February 2013
. . .Or Dreaming	Pariah Theatre Co.	December 2012
Hedda Gabler	Divine Stages, PlaYces Series	September 2012
Sugar (World Premiere) Asst. Director	ArtsEmerson, The World on Stage	January 2012
The Drowsy Chaperone*	South Shore School of Theatre	Summer 2011
Sweeney Todd	SSST	Summer 2010
Dr. Faustus*	ENC	April 2011
Seussical*	ENC	October 2010
A Midsummer Night's Dream	ENC	April 2010
The Cemetery Club	Theatre III, Acton, MA	Feb. 2009
Big River*	Riverside Theatre Works (RTW)	Oct. 2009
Les Miserables: School Edition	RTW	May 2009
The Music Man*	RTW	Nov. 2008
Property of Africa	Boston Theatre Marathon	May 2008
Chris Squared	Boston Theatre Marathon	May 2007
Anne of Green Gables	RTW	Oct. 2007

*includes choreography

WRITTEN and DEVISED WORKS

The Strindberg Experiment	Original	Produced Salve Regina, 2022
The Bible Women's Project	Devised	Produced Salve Regina, 2022
The Father Bill's Play	Original and Devised	Produced ENC, 2020
Tulsa 21: Black Wall Street	Original	Produced Greenwood Cultural Center, 2018
Tulsa '21.1	Original	Produced <i>Examining Change</i> Festival, Tulsa, Oklahoma 2017
The Bible Women's Project	Original and Devised	Produced ENC, 2015 New York International Fringe Festival, 2016
They're Not Just Animals	Devised	South Shore School of Theatre, 2014

Everything Happens After 11:00	Devised	South Shore School of Theatre, 2013
...Or Dreaming (based on Strindberg's <i>A Dream Play</i>)	Adaptation	Produced Pariah Theatre 2012
In the Study with the Candlestick	Original	Produced RTW, 2009
If We Could Have These Conversations	Original	Staged Reading RTW, 2009
Esperanza Rising	Adaptation	Stages of Discovery, 2007-08
Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates	Adaptation	Stages of Discovery, 2006-07
Getting Out of Oklahoma	Original	Columbia Gorge, 2001
How I Learned to Love my Butt	Devised	Columbia Gorge, 2001

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Intimacy Coaching	2022	Korrine Ritchey, Salve Regina University
Critical Response Training	2022-23	American College Theatre Festival, Region 1
Playback Theatre	2017-19	True Story Theater, Arlington, MA
Viewpoints	2016	Pat King, Tufts University
Delsarte Technique	2015	Joe Williams, Boston Baby Dolls
Grotowski Method	2014	Double Edge Theatre, Ashfield, MA
Linklater Voice and Body	2013	Robbie McCauley, Emerson College
Shakespeare Performance	2001	Arwen Foster, Columbia Gorge School of Theatre
Voice and Dialects	2013	David Krasner, Emerson College
Story Circles	2012	David Alan Stern, Dean College
Cabaret performance	2011	Robbie McCauley, Emerson College
Musical Theatre Acting	2009	John O'Neil, Riverside Theatre Works
Clowning	2007	Joanna Gleason, Masterclass, Riverside Theatre Works
Commedia Del'Arte	2004	New England Theatre Conference
Pantomime	2000	Ronda Winderl, Eastern Nazarene College
	1996	Billie Sue Thompson, Theatre Arts, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Theatre Research	2021-present
Association for Theatre in Higher Education	2015-present
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival	2022-present
New England Theatre Conference	2014-present

RELATED SKILLS

Story Circles, Drama Therapy, Mask-Making, Musical Theatre Dance, Scriptwriting and Adaptation, Basic Tech and Design skills (set, lighting, costumes, props, hair and makeup), Audition Coaching, Tour Management, Box Office Management