

# SARA B.T. THIEL

Curriculum Vitae  
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## **EMPLOYMENT**

2017–2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh  
Affiliate, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program  
Affiliate, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program  
Affiliate, Cultural Studies Program

## **EDUCATION**

2017 Ph.D., Theatre Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Minor: Gender and Women’s Studies  
Dissertation: “Great Bellies and Boy Actors: Pregnancy Plays on the Stuart Stage, 1603-1642”

2012 M.A., Theatre Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Thesis: “Conversations with Shakespeare: Three Contemporary Adaptations for the Stage”

2008 B.A., Theatre, Stephen F. Austin State University  
Double Major: Philosophy

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Drama of Shakespeare and his contemporaries  
Early modern original practices  
Theatre history  
Directing  
Dramaturgy  
Contemporary and world drama  
Adaptation theory  
Performance studies, especially performances of pregnancy  
Feminist theatre and performance

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2018            “Wielding the Maternal Body: Queen Anna of Denmark Performs Blackface Pregnancy,” *Shakespeare Studies*, 156–60.
- 2017            “Performing Blackface Pregnancy at the Stuart Court: *The Masque of Blackness* and *Love's Mistress, or the Queen's Masque*,” *Renaissance Drama* 45, no. 2 (Fall 2017): 211-236.
- 2013            “‘You Demi-Puppets’: Playing for Humanity in *The Feast: an intimate Tempest*,” *Puppetry International #33: When Flesh Meets Wood*. (Spring and Summer 2013). 14-17.

### Book Chapters

- 2018            “‘Cushion Come Forth’: Materializing Pregnancy on the Stuart Stage.” *Stage Matters: Props, Bodies, and Space in Shakespearean Performance*. Annalisa Castaldo and Rhonda Knight, eds. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 143-58.
- 2017            “Game/Play: The Five Conceptual Planes of Punchdrunk’s *Sleep No More*.” *Immersive Theatre: Engaging the Audience (vol. 1)*. Champaign, IL: Common Ground Publishing, 2017. 55-64.

### Book Reviews

- 2018            *Childhood, Education and the Stage in Early Modern England*. Richard Preiss and Deanne Williams. *Queering Childhood in Early Modern English Drama and Culture*. Jennifer Higginbotham and Mark Albert Johnston, eds. *Theatre Survey*. Forthcoming 2018.
- 2018            *Plotting Motherhood in Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern Literature*. Mary Beth Rose. *Chaste Value: Economic Crisis, Female Chastity and the Production of Social Difference on Shakespeare's Stage*. Katherine Gillen. *Shakespeare Quarterly*. Forthcoming 2018.
- 2014            *Shakespeare and the Materiality of Performance*. Erika T. Lin. *Theatre Survey* 55.3, 2014. 402–4.
- 2012            *Shakespeare/Adaptation/Modern Drama: Essays in Honour of Jill Levenson*. Randall Martin and Katherine Scheil, eds. *Theatre Research in Canada*. 33.2, 2012. 262–5.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2017 Departmental Distinction for Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Theatre Practice, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, May 2017.
- 2017 NextGenPlen Presenter, *Shakespeare Association of America*, April 2017.
- 2016 Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Theatre History and Criticism Essay Prize, “Performing Motherhood on the Stuart Stage: Queen Anna of Denmark and the Birth of Pregnancy Plays in Seventeenth-Century London Theatres,” August 2016.
- 2010–2016 List of Instructors Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois, Fall 2010–Spring 2016.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2018 European Studies Center Small Grant for Faculty Research, University of Pittsburgh, March 2018.
- 2016 Andrew W. Mellon Pre-Doctoral Summer Fellowship, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities and Chicago Humanities Festival, July–August 2016.
- 2015 Department of Theatre and the Graduate College Fellowship, University of Illinois, May 2015.
- 2015 Shakespeare Association of America Graduate Student Travel Award, April 2015.
- 2014 College of Fine and Applied Arts Creative Research Award, University of Illinois, January 2014.

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2018 PreAmble: *Macbeth*. Chicago Shakespeare Theater, May 26; June 2.
- 2017 PreAmble: *Red Velvet*. Chicago Shakespeare Theater, December 23, 30.
- 2017 PreAmble: *Shakespeare in Love*. Chicago Shakespeare Theater, June 17–18.
- 2014 Illinois Shakespeare Festival Panel on Original Practices, Illinois State University, July 2014.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

### **Panels and Talks Organized**

- 2018 “Cognitive Ecologies, 4E Cognition, and Theatre and Performance,” Rhonda Blair, University of Pittsburgh, March 2018.
- 2016 *She Works Hard for the Money: The Actress’ Labor in the Theatrical Marketplace.* Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Chicago, IL. August 2016.

### **Papers Presented**

- 2018 “Beyoncé’s Performances of Pregnancy as Resistance to White Appropriation.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Boston, MA. August 2018.
- 2018 “Pregnancy Plays in Jacobean and Caroline England: Overturning Narratives of the Motherless Stuart Stage.” Mid-America Theatre Conference. Milwaukee, WI. March 2018.
- 2018 “Turning toward Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Disrupting White Supremacy in Shakespeare Studies.” Mid-America Theatre Conference. Milwaukee, WI. March 2018.
- 2017 “Extraordinarily Everyday: The Pregnant Page in Thomas Middleton’s *More Dissemblers Besides Women*.” American Society for Theatre Research. Atlanta, GA. November 2017.
- 2017 “‘A quilted preface to advance your belly’: Pregnancy Prosthetics and the Queen’s Men Repertory.” American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference. Staunton, VA. October 2017.
- 2017 “Performing Blackface Pregnancy at the Stuart Court: Queen Anna of Denmark and the *Masque of Blackness*.” Shakespeare Association of America. Atlanta, GA. April 2017.
- 2016 “Home Birth: Conflating Maternal and Professional Labor in *Girls*.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Chicago, IL. August 2016.
- 2015 “‘Cushion come forth’: Materializing Pregnancy on the Stuart Stage.” American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference. Staunton, VA. October 2015.
- 2014 “The Belly Performs: Pregnant Boys on the Stuart Stage.” American Society for Theatre Research. Baltimore, MD. November 2014.
- 2013 “(m)Otherhood: Constructing the Maternal Moor in *Titus Andronicus*.” American Society for Theatre Research. Dallas, TX. November 2013.

- 2013 “‘We Have Seen the Best of Our Time’: Theodore Komisarjevsky and Peter Brook at the Stratford Memorial Theatre.” Mid-America Theatre Conference. St. Louis, MO. March 2013.
- 2012 “‘I Heard a Voice Cry’: Renegotiating the Boundaries of Performance in Punchdrunk’s Sleep No More.” American Society for Theatre Research. Nashville, TN. November 2012.
- 2012 “‘You Demi-Puppets’: Adaptation and Afterlives in The Feast: an intimate Tempest at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.” Mid-America Theatre Conference. Chicago, IL. March 2012.
- 2011 “The Canonical Bard: Ninagawa Yukio's Attempt to Dismantle the Altar of Shakespeare in Japan.” American Shakespeare Center Blackfriars Conference. Staunton, VA. October 2011.

## **TEACHING AND ADVISING**

### **University of Pittsburgh, Department of Theatre Arts, Visiting Assistant Professor**

#### Graduate Directed Studies

Shelby Brewster, Aphra Behn and Restoration Staging (2018)

Courtney Colligan, Shakespearean Performance and Pedagogy (2018)

#### Graduate Project Advisor

Andrea Gunoe, Choreographer Pitt Stages production of *Little Shop of Horrors* (2018)

#### Graduate Courses

Race and Gender in Contemporary Criticism: Problems in Shakespeare Studies (2018)

#### Undergraduate Courses

World Theatre III: 1890–Present (2018)

Props, Prosthetics, and Cosmetics: Constructing Embodied Difference on the Early Modern English Stage (2017)

#### Bachelor of Philosophy Committees

#### *Chair*

Alex Knapp, “Affect for Effect: Emotion and Prosocial Change in Brecht’s Theatre.”  
Defense Date: March 30, 2018

*Member*

Lea Bosilovich, “‘Lighting affects everything light falls upon’: Recovering Women in the History of American Lighting Design”

Projected Defense Date: Fall 2018

**University of Illinois, Department of Theatre, Graduate Teaching Assistantship**

Introduction to Directing (2016)

History of the Theatre II (2015)

History of the Theatre I (2015)

Literature of the Modern Theatre (2014)

Dramatic Analysis (2014)

Dramaturg’s Workshop (2013)

Fundamentals of Acting (2011)

Introduction to Theatre Arts (2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)

Introduction to Theatre Arts Online (2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

**University of Illinois, Department of Communication, Graduate Teaching Assistantship**

Introduction to Public Speaking (2012, 2013)

**ADMINISTRATION, Graduate Research Assistantship**

2015–2016     Assistant to the Director of Graduate Studies, Valleri J. Robinson

**CREATIVE RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL THEATRE WORK**

**Directing and Devising**

2014            *4000 Miles* by Amy Herzog. The Station Theatre, Urbana, IL. (*Director*)

2012            *SisEphus*. Armory Free Theatre, “Adaptations at the Armory,” University of Illinois. (*Deviser & Director*)

2012            *Love’s a Joke* by Vicki Hoskins. Armory Free Theatre, “Adaptations at the Armory,” University of Illinois. (*Director*)

2011            *Their Ills Instruct Us So*. Armory Free Theatre, University of Illinois. (*Deviser & Director*)

2010            *Venus and Adonis*. Shakespeare Dallas, Dallas, TX. (*Adaptor & Director*)

### **Dramaturgy and New Work Development**

- 2017 *Parade*. University of Pittsburgh Stages, Department of Theatre Arts, University of Pittsburgh. Directed by Robert Frankenberry. (*Dramaturgy*)
- 2016 *Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief*. School of Theatre and Dance, Northern Illinois University. Directed by Rachel Price Cooper. (*Dramaturgy*)
- 2015 *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*. Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. Directed by William Brown. (*Dramaturgy*)
- 2014 *Much Ado About Nothing*. Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. Directed by Kathleen F. Conlin. (*Dramaturgy*)
- 2013 *The Tempest*. Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. Directed by Robert Gerard Anderson. (*Dramaturgy*)
- 2013 *Fables on Global Warming*. Armitage Gone! Dance, Krannert Center for Performing Arts. Choreographed by Karole Armitage. (*New Work Development*)
- 2012 *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. Directed by Lisa Gaye Dixon. (*Dramaturgy*)
- 2011 *The Minotaur*. Lark Theatre Play Development Residency, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. Written by Anna Ziegler. Directed by Lisa Rothe. (*New Work Development*)
- 2010 *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Shakespeare Dallas. Dallas, TX. Directed by Raphael Parry. (*Dramaturgy*)

### **Associate and Assitant Directing**

- 2011 *All's Well that Ends Well*. The Public Theater: Free Shakespeare in the Park, New York, NY. Directed by Daniel J. Sullivan. (*Directing Apprentice*)
- 2011 *Misalliance* by George Bernard Shaw. Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. Directed by Kathleen F. Conlin. (*Assistant Director*)
- 2010 *Cymbeline*. Shakespeare Dallas, Dallas, TX. Directed by René Moreno. (*Associate Director*)
- 2009 *Julius Caesar*. Shakespeare Dallas, Dallas, TX. Directed by Raphael Parry. (*Associate Director*)

- 2009      *The Taming of the Shrew*. Shakespeare Dallas, Dallas, TX. Directed by Raphael Parry. (*Assistant Director*)
- 2009      *One in 3* by Merritt Tierce, Gretchen Dyer, and Valerie Loe Hicks. The Green Zone, Project X: Theatre, Dallas, TX. Directed by Raphael Parry. (*Assistant Director*)
- 2008      *Othello*. Shakespeare Dallas, Dallas, TX. Directed by Raphael Parry. (*Assistant Director*)

### **Practice as Research**

- 2014      *Waking the Dead: J.M. Synge's Riders to the Sea*. Director and Producer, University of Illinois. Funded by the College of Fine Arts Creative Research Award.
- 2013      *Be Stone No More: Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale and Middleton's Second Maiden's Tragedy*. Director and Producer, University of Illinois.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2013–2014      Graduate Representative for the New Paradigms in Graduate Education Committee, American Society for Theatre Research
- 2012–2013      Conference Assistance Committee, American Society for Theatre Research

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

#### **University of Pittsburgh**

- 2017–2018      Graduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Department of Theatre Arts
- 2017–2018      Performance Collaborative New Playwrighting Festival Judge

#### **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

- 2015      Graduate Subcommittee on Student Conduct, Committee Member, University of Illinois, January 2015–December 2015.
- 2012–2013      Provost and Graduate College Student Advisory Board, Graduate Student Representative, University of Illinois.
- 2012      Instructional Awards Committee, Theatre Representative, College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois, Spring 2012.



**Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

- 2015 Department of Theatre Play Selection Committee, University of Illinois, August 2015–December 2015.
- 2013 Conference Planning Committee, Theatre Studies Graduate Conference, “Landscapes: Performing Space and Culture,” April 2013.
- 2013–2015 Theatre Studies Senior Thesis Project Mentor, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, August 2013–May 2014; August 2014–May 2015.
- 2011–2013 Graduate Theatre Studies Representative, Armory Free Theatre Review Committee, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, August 2011–February 2012; August 2012–February 2013.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

American Theatre and Drama Society. Member since 2018.

Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. Member since 2017.

Shakespeare Association of America. Member since 2015.

Mid-America Theatre Conference. Member since 2012.

American Society for Theatre Research. Member since 2012.