

AFRIKAH SMITH

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EDUCATION

BA University of Massachusetts Amherst, Theater May 2019
Graduated Cum Laude
Minored in Afro-American Studies
Certificate in Multicultural Theatre

HONORS AND AWARDS

BIPOC Critics Lab 2020-21
2020-21 Cohort member of the BIPOC Critics Lab, created by Jose Solis. Hosted virtually by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mentored by Jose Solis and guest artists & arts journalists.

Boston Young Critic 2020
Cohort member of the Boston Young Critics Program, created by the Front Porch Arts Collective. Mentored by the Boston Theater Critics Association members, editors, writers and top theater artists in New England through workshops. Ended early due to the pandemic.

Denise Lessard Wagner Community Spirit Award 2019
Given in recognition of individuals who, through their beyond-the-call-of-duty dedication and commitment, have made an outstanding contribution to the community spirit of the UMass Amherst Theater department.

James Baldwin Award 2019
Participant and James Baldwin Award Recipient for Playwriting in the 2019 Word! A Five College Festival of Staged Readings

Frank Prentice Rand Scholarship 2018-19
Honoring Professor Frank Prentice Rand, who taught dramatic literature at UMass in the English Department. Given to students with exceptional scholarship and outstanding achievement in the areas of Directing, Producing, Playwriting, and Dramaturgy.

Benedict Endowment Scholarship 2017
Given to sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated technical proficiency and a commitment of professionalism in the areas of theater design, production, and management

Dean's List Honors 2015-19
Consecutive Dean's List Honors student for four years; named in the top 20% of the graduating class.

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE

The New England Theatre Geek, Online Publication

August 2020 - Present

- Covered in-person events and performances in the New England area, as well as virtual performance arts events.
- Delivered high-quality writing within assigned 24-hour deadline, working closely with the editor.
- Reviewed and critiqued multicultural and contemporary performance arts events.

Rites of Passage: 20/20 Vision, Pittsfield, MA

October 2020-August 2021

Production Manager

- Collaborated with the producing artistic director in the logistical coordination of a site-specific performance with a short timeline of 6 weeks for installation, performance, and deinstallation.
- Headed research and materials sourcing needed for artist installation and performance.
- Scheduled and coordinated production schedule arrangements, rehearsals, and meetings with production personnel, adjusting as needed to maintain production timeline.
- Coordinated all written communication to be sent to all artists, designers, director, and production area staff in a timely manner.

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

April-May 2021

Production Assistant

- Production assistant to the producer of the Theater Department's Rites of Spring, a festival of in-person and virtual performances.
- Assisted the producer in the coordination of production arrangements, acting as a liaison on the producer's behalf in written communication.
- Stepped in as a stage manager for two virtual events, giving a tutorial to students and artists through using Zoom as a platform.
- Provided creative writing for the opening Invocation event in collaboration with the producer and graduate artists.

My Blackness Is, ZOOM

June-August 2020

Technical Director

- Facilitated virtual technical direction for a Black arts webinar series, showcasing various art mediums and discussions around social justice, liberation, and envisioning.
- Held practice sessions to accustom artists to virtual medium platform to best showcase their work.
- Assisted in digital promotional materials ready for circulation on social media and video distribution.
- Hosted webinar of upwards to 100+ attendees per night.

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

October-December 2019

Production Manager

Production Credit: *Wrong Answer: Examining Stakeholders' Voices in High Stakes Testing*, written & produced by Darius Taylor, directed by Jennifer Onopa, UMass Amherst New Africa House Theater, December 2019

- Assisted the production producer in tracking and reconciling expenses, budget management, and grant writing, with promotion from assistant to manager within a month turnaround.
- Designed digital and paper promotional materials and programs ready for circulation on social media and paper distribution.
- Scheduled and coordinated production schedule arrangements, rehearsals, and meetings with production personnel, adjusting as needed to maintain production timeline.
- Collaborated with the designers, director, and production area staff to ensure support in all areas of design and technical direction.
- Managed ticket reservations using Brown Paper Tickets for over 120+ attendees

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

June-October 2019

Assistant Director & Assistant Projections Designer

Production Credit: *Baltimore* written by Kirsten Greenidge, directed by Josh Glenn-Kayden, UMass Amherst Rand Theatre, October 2019

- Assisted the director in daily operations during the rehearsal and production process — collaborating in the assessment actor and production needs.
- Involved in the communications between the director and projections designer, serving as a liaison and researcher in the development in the production projections.
- Partnered with the dramaturgy team in the involvement of dramaturgy materials, facilitation resources, and workshops for undergraduate and graduate student facilitators, acting as a post-show facilitator in 30-minute discussion groups during the performance run.

RELATED THEATRE EXPERIENCE (SELECTED CREDITS)

Stage Manager, Freelance & University of Massachusetts Amherst 2016 – Present

RESET
Stage Manager

ZOOM
May 2021

Boston Theatre Marathon
Dir. Arthur Gomez

SHRIKE (READING)
Stage Manager

ZOOM
February 2021

Fresh Ink Theatre
Dir. Josh Glenn-Kayden

<i>Call me when you get this.</i> Stage Manager	ZOOM November 2020	Garrett Sager Dir. Irisdelia Garcia
<i>Queer & Now</i> Stage Manager	UMass Amherst March 2018	Queer & Now Dir. Garrett Sager
Dramaturg , Freelance & University of Massachusetts Amherst		2015-Present
<i>What of The Night?</i> Assistant Dramaturg	Curtain Theater October 2018	University of Massachusetts Amherst Dir. Vishnupad Barve
<i>The Lily's Revenge</i> Assistant Dramaturg	Curtain & Rand Theater April 2018	University of Massachusetts Amherst Dir. Jen Onopa
<i>Ta'zieh</i> Assistant Dramaturg	Campus Center Plinth April 2017	University of Massachusetts Amherst Dir. Nikoo Mamdoohi
Collidescope 2.0 Dramaturgy Team Member	Rand Theater April 2016	Ping Chong + Company Dir. Ping Chong & Talvin Wilks

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA January 2018 to May 2019

Teaching Assistant, Theater

- Teaching assistant for Theater 100, Devised Theater, and Brown Paper Studio
- Supported faculty clerical needs in theater department, prepared class materials, collecting and grading assignments, maintaining supplies inventory and completing other support tasks.
- Led class activities and discussion groups of up to 30 students.
- Utilized email and in-person meetings to answer questions and mentor struggling students.
- Maintained database entries to deliver access to and easy navigation of important organizational documents.

RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Amherst Innovative Living, LLC, Amherst, MA August 2019 – December 2019

Front Desk and Community Concierge

- Assisted with administrative tasks, including records management, and multiple databases entries for 300-unit rental property with 700 plus occupants
- Trained new internal staff members on administrative processes, work instructions and procedures to facilitate consistent and seamless operations

- Effectively communicated with residents on a wide variety of issues, including maintenance requests, leasing or payment questions and general customer service concerns
- Hosted monthly events and delivering a high-quality living experience for all residents

Steve And Kate’s Camp, Boston, MA

May 2019 to August 2018

Headquarter Staff (HQ)

- Utilized strong interpersonal, organization and time-management skills interacting with parents and campers.
- Provided logistical support by managing 150 camper registration and payments, fielding inbound emails and phone calls, placing food orders, and other administrative duties.
- Interpreted, explained and enforced human resources policies to 25 staff to maintain compliance with standards. Effectively controlled the release of proprietary and confidential information for general client lists.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Workshop, “Rituals and Ritual Structure”, RE/EMERGENCE, Spring 2021

Workshop, “Art of Adaptation,” Queer & Now: Sync or Swim, October 2018

Workshop, “Introduction to Transformative Justice & Creating Community Accountability,” Co-facilitator, University of Michigan, October 2020

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

German: Intermediate Listener, Intermediate Speaker, Novice Reading and Writing.

SKILLS

Ability to Work Under Pressure | Verbal and Written Communication | Attention to Detail | Teamwork/Collaboration | Adaptability | Data Entry | Scheduling | Filing | Project Management | Customer Service | Proofreading

Proficient in Mac OS and Windows, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google Suite, Canva, Affinity Suite, Zoom