
CLAIRE ELIZABETH MASON, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

2021 **Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison**

Alternative Dramaturgies in Contemporary Western European Theatre for Young Audiences

Theatre for Youth Specialization

Advisor: Manon van de Water

Committee: Mike Vanden Heuvel, Michael Peterson, and Lorenzo Garcia

Proquest Dissertation Publishing: February 2021

2011 **MA with Distinction, Irish Studies – Queen’s University Belfast**

Myth, Memory and Manhood: The Exploration of Ulster

Protestantism and the First World War in the Works of Frank McGuinness,

Stewart Parker and Christina Reid

Advisor: Michael McAteer

First Class Honours

2010. **BA, Theatre Arts with a Minor in Music – University of Puget Sound**

Magna Cum Laude,

Mortar Board

Excellence in Theatre Arts Award

SAFD Certified Actor Combatant in Hand-to-Hand (2009)

SAFD Certified Actor Combatant in Single Rapier (2010)

2008 **Training, Gaiety School of Acting – Dublin, Ireland**

Devising with Antoinette Duffy

Movement with Diane Richardson

Voice with Cahill Quinn

Acting with Donal Courtney

AREAS OF INTEREST

* Theatre for Young Audiences

* Contemporary Performance Studies

* Intertextual/Multimodal Performance

* Northern Irish Theatre and Culture

* International Theatre History

* Musical Theatre History/Performance

* Theatre as Therapy/Therapeutic

* Transdisciplinary pedagogy

* Drama for Social Justice

* Dramaturgy

* Popular Culture

* Material Semiotics

* Postdramatic Theatre

* Design Thinking

* Directing

* Implicit Bias Training

* Drama for Teaching and Learning

* Aesthetics

* Devising

* Ethics

* Agency

* Spectatorship

* Complexity Theory

* Theatre as Liberal Art

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: HIGHER EDUCATION

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

2021-PRESENT

VISITING INSTRUCTOR

Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking and Communication: Modern World

First-year interdisciplinary Oral Communication requirement course for the Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts program focusing upon the intersection of performance, dramaturgy, literary criticism, popular culture, cultural studies, and critical thinking. Duties include lectures, facilitating activities, and mentorship for four classes of thirty students.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2013 - 2020

INSTRUCTOR ON RECORD

Drama for Teaching and Learning

Specialized 300-level joint Theatre & Drama, Slavic, and Curriculum & Instruction department course focusing on pedagogical practices, Drama in Education, Theatre in Education, Applied Theatre, and Drama for Social Justice. The course was split between facilitating instructional workshops for undergraduate students, facilitating workshops for students and "Little Buddy" labs involving volunteers between the ages of 4-10, and supervising student-led practicums for "Little Buddies" and Social Justice workshops for their peers.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Critical Thinking and Expression

200 level Integrated Liberal Studies program Communications-B, speech and writing intensive course focusing on the intersections between rhetoric, philosophy, popular culture, aesthetics, persuasion, argumentation, and debate. Duties included leading discussions twice a week for two classes of 20 students, preparing educational activities, grading, and writing instruction.

Guest Lectures: "From Broadcast to Binge: Society's Obsession with Television" (2017)
"Artists in Absentia: The Oakhill Prison Humanities Project" (2017)

Western Culture: Literature and the Arts: Renaissance to Remix

200-level Integrated Liberal Studies program Communications-B, writing-intensive course focusing on the development and progression of Western art, philosophy, science, literature, and culture from the Renaissance period to posthumanism. Duties included leading discussions twice a week for two classes of 20 students, preparing educational activities, grading, writing instructions, and final project facilitation. (Spring)

Guest Lectures: "Energy is the Only Life! Romantic Passion, Romantic Poetry (2019)
"A Sense Sublime:" Romantic Art and Music (2019)

Introduction to Theatre

100-level Theatre & Drama Communications-B writing-intensive course focusing on theatre, script analysis, production analysis, and criticism. Duties included leading discussions twice a week for two classes of 20 students, preparing educational activities, designing quizzes, instructing students on the fundamentals of writing a long-form research project, and facilitating creative projects.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR AND PROJECT ASSISTANT

Theatre for Young Audiences Production

400-level joint undergraduate and graduate student course dedicated to preparing for and then implementing a tour of the Theatre for Young Audience productions. Duties included training and supervising the Education Team, leading Pre and Post show workshops with local primary schools, working closely with the Taliesin outreach coordinators, coordinating tour buses and tour schedules, and assisting with the evaluation of the Education Team.

GRADER

Dance and Gender

100-level Dance department online general studies course focusing on the intersection between gender studies, politics, cultural studies, and dance. Duties included reading and evaluating weekly journals of 80 students, consulting and grading long-form essays, and consulting and grading final ethnographic video projects. (Fall, Spring)

FACILITATION ASSISTANT FOR HECTOR ARISTIZÁBAL

“Theatre as a Laboratory for Social Transformation and Healing” Collaboration Between the East High School Black Student Union and University of Wisconsin-Madison

Assisted and participated in the two-week workshop series led by TCSA expert, Hector Aristizábal, including a workshop/performance series with members of the Black Student Union of East High School in Madison, WI, resulting in a final performance.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

2013 - 2014

GUEST LECTURER

Beginning Acting

100-level Introductory practical acting course for non-majors focusing on various acting styles, scene work, and character development. Duties included facilitating workshops, scene coaching, selecting sides, and grading performances.

Backgrounds of Dramatic Literature II

Theatre history and criticism course for BFA theatre majors covering contemporary theatre history. Guest lecture series on Irish Theatre and assisted Professor Rebecca Hilliker with the second half of the semester.

VOLUNTEER TEACHING ASSISTANT

Directing I

400-level introductory practical directing course for BFA theatre majors focusing on various directing styles, blocking, script analysis, casting, and coaching. Duties included supervising student director scene work, lectures on blocking and scene study, and assisting Professor Rebecca Hilliker with grading.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

OAKHILL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

2015-2021

CO-INSTRUCTOR

Science Fiction as Social Commentary: Correspondence Course

Conceived to engage incarcerated students with the Oakhill Prison Humanities Project during the height of COVID-19, this eight-week correspondence course focused on contemporary Science Fiction short stories and plays from around the world. The class read primary sources and accompanying academic material, journaled based on a series of prompts, and then wrote/designed/created their own piece of science fiction in the medium of their choice. Duties included: curating primary and secondary readings, reading and responding to coursework, and facilitating final projects.

Theatre, Drama, and Performance

Five years leading a team of drama instructors to facilitate eight-week in-person workshop series for the Oakhill Prison Humanities Project, focusing on acting techniques, voice work, movement, devising, script writing, and literary criticism. Due to a combination of returning and new participants, the class combined introductory and advanced techniques, often ending in a final performance compiling several original one-acts written by the participants with devised, movement, and performance studies work. Duties included: curating course readers, leading workshops, scene coaching, dramaturging new work, devising original work, and directing short scenes.

Dramatic Literature

Eight-week in-person workshop series for the Oakhill Prison Humanities Project, focusing on dramatic literature, criticism, reading a play, and philosophical inquiry into classic Russian, Shakespearean, and Modern USA texts. Duties included: leading discussions and staging readings.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ASIA-KARUIZAWA

2015-2019

SUMMER SCHOOL FACULTY

Culture, Identity, Diversity

Two-week intensive for an international community of students between 12 and 16 exploring culture, identity, and diversity from an interdisciplinary lens. The summer school focused on leadership by design, design thinking, and cultural competency where students lived on the UWC ISAK campus, worked with faculty both in and out of class, and engaged with cultural excursions in the Nagano Province area. Duties included: conceiving and creating the original CID course, designing and implementing lesson plans, leading workshops for 90 students, training and overseeing college counselor teaching assistants, designing and facilitating Diversity workshops, facilitating final projects, advising students, and assisting with daily summer school activities.

Drama

Co-taught a two-week intensive for an international community of students between 12 and 16 exploring the role of theatre and drama in self-expression and identity. Duties involved: leading acting exercises, co-teaching classes, devising final projects, dramaturging student work, advising, and assisting with daily summer school activities.

SUMMER SCHOOL FACULTY

Drama for Youth

Co-taught a two-month summer school workshop series on acting and movement for Early Years, students between three and five years old, culminating in a final performance. Duties included: leading workshops, assisting in the final performance's devising process, and assistant directing.

Musical Theatre

Co-taught a two-month summer school workshop series on musical theatre styles for students between nine and thirteen culminating in a final performance in the style of a Broadway Review. Duties included: leading workshops, choreographing dance numbers, voice lessons, and assistant directing the final performance.

RESEARCH

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| Association for Theatre in Higher Education: National Conference (USA) | 2022 |
| “Waiting for Legos: Creative Absurdity in the STEAM Classroom.” | |
| <i>Saving our Theatre Programs: Using Acting and Interdisciplinary Innovations in Theatre Collaborations panel for Theatre as Liberal Art</i> | |
| “Engaged Seedlings: Aesthetic Emergence in Theatre for the Very Young” | |
| <i>Seedlings: New Ideas and Beginnings panel for Theory and Criticism</i> | |
| International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (Japan/Virtual) | 2021 |
| ASSITEJ WORLD CONGRESS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | |
| “Experts of Their Own Experience: Inclusive Participation and the Legacy of Geesche Wartemann | |
| <i>Inclusivity and TYA Virtual Panel</i> | |
| American Society for Theatre Research: National Conference (USA) | 2019 |
| “A Girl Remembers:” Emancipated Spectatorship and the Power of Agency in Dystopian Young Adult Narratives” | |
| <i>Monsters in the Public Sphere Working Group</i> | |
| International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network (South Africa) | 2017 |
| ASSITEJ WORLD CONGRESS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | |
| “Talk to Me: Engaging the Young Male Spectator through Melodrama.” | |
| American Alliance for Theatre Education: National Conference (USA) | 2016 |
| “The normality of all this extraordinary experience:” Navigating the New Normal in Northern Irish Theatre for Young Adults | |

- American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (USA) 2016
Regional Conference
“A man is a beast:” Contemporary Russian Masculinity and the New Russian Drama in 21st Century Russian Theatre for Young Adults”
- THEATRE, YOUTH, TRAUMA, AND EUROPE IN CRISIS SYMPOSIUM (ENGLAND) 2016
“Everybody knows a fella like *COMET*:” The violence of adolescence in post-conflict Belfast.”
- American Conference for Irish Studies: Midwest Conference (USA) 2015
“and the whole brain begging....something begging in the brain:”
A Performative Exploration of Samuel Beckett’s *Not I*.
- American Conference for Irish Studies: International Conference (Ireland) 2014
“The Orangeman Out: Identity, Otherness, and ‘The Northern Irish Question’ in Jonathan Lewis’ *Our Boys*.”
- American Conference for Irish Studies: National Conference (USA) 2013
“Perception, Representation, Neglect: Altering the Role of the Ulster Protestant in Northern Irish Drama”

PROPOSALS IN PROGRESS

Chorality and Complexity.

*Co-authored manuscript with Dr. Daniel Galbreath. The project intersects musicology and dramaturgy to explore the voice of the individual body within the sounds of the crowd. From the Greek Chorus of Aeschylus and Euripides to the Performative Fandom of International Football matches, our book uses an interdisciplinary approach to explore how the individual emerges within the many. **Currently in the development stage aiming to join the Routledge Voice Studies series, edited by Konstantinos Thomaidis and Ben Macpherson.***

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Mason, C. and Vanderhoof B. (2017) “IPAY 2017: Unpacking Can’t.”
ASSITEJ Newsletter.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

ITYARN: International Theatre for Young Audience Research Network (*Board Secretary*)

ASSITEJ: International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People

ACIS: American Conference for Irish Studies

ASTR: American Society for Theatre Research

MLA: Modern Language Association

ATHE: Association for Theatre in Higher Education

AATE: American Alliance for Theatre Education

ACADEMIC SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network 2017-Present
Board Member and Secretary

Duties include: planning for the next ITYARN conference, organizing quarterly board meetings, taking minutes, conducting polls, organizing communication between board members, collecting data for board reports, and coordinating between the various ITYARN projects.

Web/Online Subcommittee Co-Chair

Duties include: creating and maintaining public-facing online content, curating the listserv, sending newsletters, contacting members, and creating and working with the ASSITEJ online presence.

Interim Website Administrator

Duties included reorganizing, updating, and maintaining the website, adding new members, organizing the listserv, maintaining the Google members chat functions, compiling and distributing emails, and updating membership information.

ITYARN Publication: Assistant to the Editors

Assisted Manon van de Water, Geesche Wartemann, and Veronica Baxter in the early stages of their edited collection Diversity, Representation, and Culture in TYA, published by ASSITEJ South Africa (2020). Duties included communicating with potential authors, organizing submissions, keeping track of editor comments, creating and sending letters of acceptance/rejection

OUTREACH WORK

Project Wayfinder Consultant 2020
Consulted and provided feedback for the Project Wayfinder Feedback and Belonging Toolkit and their Beyond the Labels lesson guide.

Oakhill Prison Humanities Project Volunteer Coordinator 2015-2018
Worked with the Department of Corrections to organize classes, submitted materials, gained approval for courses and supplies, recruited volunteer instructors, facilitated PREA training, and communicated with OCI staff regarding all education needs pertaining to the project.

German, Nordic, and Slavic Department Diversity Liaison 2018
Created content, gathered articles for the newsletter, and led a workshops on diversity in the GNS Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as inclusive pedagogical practices.

ASSITEJ World Congress- South Africa Conference Intern 2017
Assisted with the ASSITEJ International Festival and Congress through house management, technology support, providing microphones, assisting ballot counting, front-of-house duties, and other general personal assistant duties when needed.

PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON Theatre for Youth Program 2014-2016
Producer, Education Director, and Tour Director

Duties included organizing venues, securing transport, maintaining funding streams, and recruiting schools for touring productions for UW Madison's TYA shows The Ark at Eight and The Dragon.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON Ten Minute Play Festival 2015-2016
Co-Producer

Recruited playwrights, organized and ran auditions, scheduled rehearsal spaces, and acted as a liaison with the performance venue

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING Snowy Range Summer Festival 2008
Festival Intern

Duties included house management, box office projections, assisting with production schedules, assisting directors and stage managers as needed, publicity, attending design meetings, set construction, and technical support

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC

INNAGURAL GEESCHE WARTEMANN EMERGING SCHOLAR AWARD 2021
International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network

GRADUATE SCHOOL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP 2020
University of Wisconsin-Madison

TEACHING

INTEGRATED LIBERAL STUDIES OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD 2016
University of Wisconsin-Madison

PERFORMANCE

NEXT GENERATION ARTIST- BEIJING COHORT 2018
International Association of Theatre for Young People (ASSITEJ)

JIM RYE FELLOW 2018
International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY)

THE MARGARET EMMA WILLIAMS AWARD FOR EXCELLENT IN THEATRE 2016
University of Wisconsin-Madison

SELECT PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

INTERNATIONAL CREDITS

ASSITEJ: Towards the Unknown Festival (Beijing, China) <i>Yeh Shen</i> Actor/Devised Ensemble	2018
National Arts Festival (Makhanda, South Africa) <i>Beelzebub</i> Production Assistant	2012
Queen's Players (Belfast, Northern Ireland) <i>Evita</i> (Irish Amateur Premiere at The Waterfront) Director	2011
<i>RENT</i> Actor: Joanne Jefferson	2010
ACCIDENTAL THEATRE COMPANY (Belfast, Northern Ireland) <i>Pirate Radio</i> : Fast and Loose 5 Festival Director	2011
<i>Fools and Their Followers</i> : Fast and Loose 4 Festival Actor: Monica Smith	2011

REGIONAL CREDITS

RELATIVE THEATRICALS (Laramie, Wyoming, USA) <i>Orion and the Goat Man</i> : Playwrights Voiced Festival Dramaturge	2021
<i>Metal Bird</i> : Playwrights Voiced Festival Dramaturge	2021
<i>Tight End</i> Actor: Darla Miller	2021
<i>AJAX</i> : Virtual Staged Reading Actor: Chorus	2021
<i>Speech and Debate</i> Sound Designer	2014
<i>Brilliant Traces</i> Director	2013
TAPIT/NEW WORKS, AND PLAYWRIGHTS INK (Madison, Wisconsin, USA) <i>I Do Not Care</i> Staged Reading Actor: Stage Directions	2019
BROOM STREET THEATRE (Madison, Wisconsin, USA) <i>Imogen(s)</i> - World Premiere Actor/Dramaturge: The Peasant	2021

THE INDY FRINGE (Indianapolis, Indiana, USA)	
Not Yet	2021
Sound Design	
STROLLER'S THEATRE (Madison, Wisconsin, USA)	
Death of a Salesman	2015
Sound Design	
INTER.MISSION Theatre (Madison, Wisconsin, USA)	
Sunday on the Rocks	2015
Sound Design	
PEPPERDOG PRODUCTIONS (Madison, WI, USA)	
PolicyLand - World Premiere at the Fair Oaks Warehouse	2014
Director	
IN HOUSE THEATRE (MADISON, WI, USA)	
Reunion: Environmental theatre/devised piece	2014
Actor/Collaborator: Ensemble	
Light's Out: Environmental theatre production	2013
Actor: Frieda Three	
WANDERPEG PRODUCTIONS (Tacoma, WA, USA)	
The Celtic Cross: World Premiere and National Tour	2012
Dramaturge	

POSTGRADUATE UNIVERSITY CREDITS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON	
One Day in the Season of Rain (New Translation by Aparna Dharwadker)	2019
Actor for Staged Reading: Rangini	
Gorodish	2019
Actor for Staged Reading: Umm Naji	
The Dragon	2016
Actor: The Donkey	
The Beaux Stratagem	2015
Dramaturge/Assistant Director	
The Beaux Stratagem	2015
Dramaturge/Assistant Director	
Bobby	2015
Director	
Helen	2014
Assistant Director/Assistant Sound Designer	
'dentity Crisis: A Night of One Acts	
2014	
Assistant Director	
Dancing at Lughnasa	2013
Dramaturge/Assistant Director	

REFERENCES

Melinda Zook

Professor and Director of Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts program

Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts program and Department of History

Purdue University

mzook@purdue.edu

Manon van de Water

Professor Emeritus

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies and Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic

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Ashley Bellet

Assistant Professor

Purdue University

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Lorenzo Garcia

Associate Professor and Department Chair

University of North Texas

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Mike Vanden Heuvel

Professor

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies and Classical and Near Eastern Studies

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Abigail Droge

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