

# KATHY A. PERKINS

## EDUCATION

**M.F.A.** University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) 1978 Theatre - Lighting Design  
**B.F.A.** Howard University (Washington, D.C.) 1976 Drama

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012 - Present **Professor of Theatre** - Department of Dramatic Art  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

1989 - 2011 **Professor of Theatre** - Department of Theatre  
University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)  
Professor Emerita 2011  
Full Professor 1999 to 2011  
Associate Professor 1993-1999  
Assistant Professor 1989-1993  
1989-2009 Chair of Lighting Design Program  
2009 - 2011 Chair of M.A. in Theatre History & Practice Program

Spring 2005 **Sterling Brown Visiting Professor of Theatre**  
Williams College Williamstown, Mass.

Spring 1997 **Visiting Professor** - Ethnic Studies Program  
University of Oregon (Eugene)

Summer 1995 **Visiting Lecturer** - United States Information Service (USIS)  
South Africa (Durban, Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg)

Summer 1991 **Visiting Professor** - Course: Black Women Playwrights  
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Ill.

Summer 1990 **Visiting Professor** - Women's Studies Program  
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

1987 - 89 **Affiliated Scholar** - Center for the Study of Women  
The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

1986 - 89 **Curatorial Assistant (History)** - The California Afro-American Museum  
Los Angeles, Calif. (Curator - Lonnie Bunch, III)

1985 - 87 **Resident Lighting Designer** - Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC)

- 1979 - 85            **Lighting Instructor** - Theatre Department, Smith College  
Northampton, Mass.
- 1981 - 82            **Visiting Scholar** - Theatre Arts Dept., Columbia University  
New York City (Ford Foundation Fellow)
- 1981                **Guest Lecturer** - The National Arts Consortium, New York City
- 1978-1979        **Lighting Designer/Technical Director** - Sounds in Motion Dance Company  
Artistic Director: Dianne McIntyre New York City

**PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN**

(Representative Listing)

- 1990-  
Present            Black Eagles, A Soldier's Play, I Don't Have to Show You No Stinkin'  
Badges, One Mo' Time, Joe Turner's Come & Gone,        Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery,  
The Piano Lesson, Flyin' West, Oedipus, When the Chickens Come Home to Roost, In White  
America, Williams and Walker, Train Is Comin', Eubie, The Wiz, The Dance on Widow's Row,  
Bubbling Brown Sugar, Dawn Yankees, Intimate Apparel, Dreamgirls, Ain't MisBehavin' ,  
Othello, Ruined, Anne & Emmett, Miss Julie, Clarissa and John, Torn Asunder  
St. Louis Black Repertory Company - Artistic Director: Ron Himes
- 2011 -  
Present            Playmakers Repertory Company - Chapel Hill, N.C.  
Artistic Director: Vivienne Benesch  
Trouble in Mind, Clybourne Park, A Raisin in the Sun, The Parchman Hour,  
Surviving Twin, Mr. Joy, Count, and Dot
- Spring  
2018                Smart People - Writers Theatre (Chicago)  
Director: Hallie Gordon
- Fall  
2017                A Raisin in the Sun - Two Rivers Theatre  
Director: Carl Cofield
- Summer  
2017                Eclipsed - Synchronicity Theatre (Atlanta)  
Director: Tinashe Kijase
- Spring  
2017                Intelligence (Premiere) - Arena Stage (D.C.)  
Director - Daniella Topol
- Fall  
2016                East Texas Hot Links - Writer's Theatre (Chicago)  
Director - Ron "OJ" Parson
- Fall  
2016                Miss Julie, Clarissa & John (premiere) - St. Louis Black Repertory  
Director: Andrea Frye

Spring  
2016 Migration (Premiere) - eta Creative Arts (Chicago)  
Director - Kemati Porter

Summer  
2015 Seven Guitars - Actors Theatre of Louisville  
Director: Colman Domingo

Summer  
2015 Freight (premiere) - HERE Arts Center (New York City)  
Director: Joseph Megel

Winter  
2015 *Blues for Mister Charlie* - Washington University (St. Louis)  
Director: Ronald Himes

Fall  
2014 The Uncanny Valley - The Brick (Brooklyn)  
Director: Francesca Talenti

Spring  
2013 Hoodoo Love - eta Creative Arts (Chicago)  
Director: Artisia Green

Fall  
2012 The Brothers Size - Manbites Dog Theatre Company (Durham)  
Director - Joseph Megel

Spring  
2012 I Just Stopped by to See the Man - Alliance Theatre  
Director: Ron O.J. Parson

Spring  
2011 The Gospel According to James (Premiere) - Indiana Repertory Theatre  
Victory Gardens (Chicago) Director: Chuck Smith

Spring  
2010 Sweet Tea - (Premiere) About Face Theatre/Ellen Stone (Chicago)  
Director: Daniel Alexander Jones

Spring  
2010 Two Trains Running - Geva Theatre (Rochester, NY)  
Director - Ron O.J. Parson

Fall  
2009 Resurrection - eta Creative Arts  
Director - Cheryl Lynn Bruce

Winter  
2009 The Whipping Man - Penumbra Theatre (St. Paul, MN)  
Director: Lou Bellamy

Winter  
2008 Blood Knot - American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) - San Francisco  
Director - Charles Randolph-Wright

Spring  
2007 The Blue Door - Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
Director - Delroy Lindo

Winter 2007 Flyin' West - Court Theatre (Chicago)  
 Director - Ron O.J. Parson

Winter 2007 A Song for Coretta - (Premiere by Pearl Cleage) Spelman College  
 Director - Crystal Dickinson

Winter 2007 Gees Bend (Premiere) - Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
 Director: Janet Cleveland

Spring 2007 Wine in the Wilderness - A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle)  
 Director: Valerie Curtis-Newton

Winter 2006 Fences - Court Theatre  
 Director: Ron O.J. Parson

Spring 2005 Scourge - Yerba Buena Performing Arts Center (San Francisco)  
 Director: Kamilah Forbes

Winter 2005 A Woman Named Truth - Indiana Repertory Theatre  
 Director: Priscilla Lindsey

Fall 2004/05 Black Nativity - The Goodman Theatre  
 Director: Mike Malone

Spring 2004 The Middle Passage (U.S. Premiere) - University of Louisville  
 Directors: Nefertiti Burton and Dumile Magodia

Winter 2004 A Raisin in the Sun - Studio Arena, Buffalo  
 Director: Ron O.J. Parson

Fall 2003 Word Becomes Flesh - Oberlin Dance Center (San Francisco)  
 Director: Gloria Bigelow

Summer 2003 The Middle Passage: A Ritual of Healing (Premiere)  
 Grahamstown Festival and University of Cape Town, South Africa  
 Director: Nefertiti Burton and Dumile Magodia

Winter 2003 Wedding Band - Steppenwolf Theatre  
 Director: Ron O.J. Parson

Winter 2003 Blues for an Alabama Sky - Indiana Repertory  
 Director: Ron Himes

Fall  
2002 In Real Life - Manhattan Theatre Club  
Director: Daniel Sullivan

Fall  
2002 Five Rooms of Furniture - Organic Theatre (Chicago)  
Director: Jonathan Wilson

Winter  
2002 Jar the Floor - The Alliance Theatre (Atlanta)  
Director: Andrea Frye

Winter  
2002 From the Mississippi Delta - Congo Square (Chicago)  
Director: Cheryl Lynn Bruce

Summer  
2001 In Real Life - The Mark Taper Forum  
Director: Daniel Sullivan (Nominated for L.A. Ovation Award)

Winter  
2000 In Real Life (Premiere) - Seattle Repertory Theatre  
Director: Daniel Sullivan

Fall  
2000 Amy's View - Organic Theatre (Chicago)  
Director: Ina Marlow

Spring  
2000 A Raisin in the Sun - The Goodman Theatre  
Director: Chuck Smith

Winter  
2000 Desire Under the Elms Court Theatre (Chicago) & Freedom  
Theatre (Philadelphia) Director: Walter Dallas

Fall  
1998 The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman Vs Mammy Louise  
and Safreeta Mae New Federal Theatre (Off-Broadway)  
Director: Paul Carter Harrison Producer: Woodie King, Jr.

Fall  
1998 Bourbon at the Border Plowshares Theatre (Detroit)  
Director: Gary Anderson

Summer  
1998 A Coloured Place (co-design) The Playhouse (Durban, South Africa)  
Director: Tina Johnson

Winter  
1995-98 4 Queens and No Trump, East Texas Hot Links,  
Unquestioned Integrity: The Hill/Thomas Hearings,  
Flyin' West, and Sty of the Blind Pig.  
Onyx Theatre Ensemble, (Chicago) Artistic Director: Ron O.J. Parson

Spring  
1998 Blues for an Alabama Sky - The Goodman Theatre  
Director: Chuck Smith

Spring 1998 Let Me Live (Premiere) - The Goodman Theatre  
Director: Ron O.J. Parson

Fall 1996 Seeking the Genesis (Premiere) - The Goodman Theatre  
Director: Walter Dallas

Summer 1996 Hang On in There, Nelson (Premiere) - Windybrow Arts Center  
Johannesburg, South Africa Director: Walter Chakela

Spring 1996 The Ties That Bind - Alliance Theatre Company  
Director: Andrea Frye

Fall 1994 A Raisin in the Sun - Alliance Theatre, Atlanta  
Director: Woodie King, Jr.

Fall 1993 125th Anniversary Tribute to Dr. W.E.B. DuBois  
Carnegie Hall, New York City

Winter 1993 Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott  
Indiana Repertory Theatre Director: Don Griffith

Winter 1993 Spinning Into Blue - Victory Gardens Theatre (Chicago)  
Director: Sandy Shinner

Fall 1992 Broadway Bound - Missouri Repertory Theatre (Kansas City)  
Director: George Keathley

Summer 1992 Delta Sigma Theta National Convention - Convention Designer  
Baltimore Arena & Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland  
1990 Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida

Winter 1990 Jar the Floor (Premiere) - Written & Directed by Cheryl West  
Parkland College, Champaign, Ill.

Summer 1989 Spirit Time - The New Federal Theatre (Off-Broadway)  
Director: Michi Jones Producer: Woodie King, Jr.

Spring 1989 The Heart Outright - A Director's Theatre (Hollywood)  
Producer: Dorothy Lyman Director: Sheri Kane

1987-88 Checkmates - Los Angeles and San Francisco  
Director: Woodie King, Jr.

Winter 1988 Win/Lose/Draw - Skylight Theatre, Hollywood, Ca.  
 Director: Dorothy Lyman

Fall 1987 Some Sweet Day - A Director's Theatre, Hollywood, Ca.  
 Director: Claude Purdy

Spring 1987 Cast Me Down (Premiere) (Off-Broadway) - New York City  
 Original Direction: Michi Jones

Spring 1986 "A Night for Dancing" The Callboard Theatre (Hollywood)  
 Artistic Dir.: Otis Sallid

1985 - 87 Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Theatre, Los Angeles  
 Artistic Director: Lula Washington

1982 - 84 "DANCEAFRICA" The Opera House, Brooklyn Academy of  
 Music (BAM) Brooklyn, New York. Producer: Micki Shepard

Spring 1983 Paper Dolls - Richard Allen Center for Culture (RACCA) New York City  
 Producer: Hazel Bryant Director: Susan Watson Turner

1981 - 83 Thelma Hill Performing Arts Dance Festivals  
 Brooklyn, New York. Producer: Larry Phillip

Winter 1982 Assistant to the Designer, Designer Shirley Prendergast  
 Waltz of the Stork (Broadway) Century Theatre  
 Producer/Director: Melvin Van Peebles

Winter 1981 "Noel Pointer and Martha Reeves in Concert"  
 The Savoy, W. 44th Street, New York City

Fall 1980 La Grima Del Diablo Off-Broadway  
 The Negro Ensemble Company (NEC)  
 Director: Richard Gant

Summer 1979 "Lena Horne in Concert" - Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom  
 New Orleans, Louisiana

Summer 1979 The Glorious Monster (Off-Broadway) New Federal Theatre  
 Director: Glenda Dickerson Producer: Woodie King, Jr.

Spring 1979 Sound of Soul: A Musical Review - Switzerland & Austria  
 Director: Geoffrey W. Newman

Spring 1979      Assistant to the Lighting Designer, G. Houdovernik  
RAISIN, (European Premiere) Switzerland, Austria, Germany

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Anthologies/Edited Works

**African American Theatre and Performance** (Routledge - forthcoming)  
Edited with Sandra Richards, Thomas DeFrantz and Renee Alexander-Craft

*Selected Plays by Alice Childress*  
(Northwestern University Press) 2011

**African Women Playwrights: An Anthology**  
(University of Illinois Press) 2008

**Black South African Women: An Anthology of Plays**  
(London: Routledge & University of Cape Town Press) 1998

**Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women**  
Co-edited with Judith Stephens.  
(Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 1998

**Contemporary Plays by Women of Color**, Co-edited  
with Roberta Uno. (London: Routledge Press) 1996

**Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays before 1950.**  
(Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 1989

#### Articles/Biographies/Essays (Representative Listings)

*The Remarkable Career of Shirley Prendergast*  
*Theatre Design & Technology* Vol. 50 No.3 (Summer 2014) pgs. 30-39

African American Drama: 1910-1945 in **Oxford Handbook of American Drama**  
(New York: Oxford University Press) 2013

*My Love of Painting the Stage with Light* in **Akshar Wangmay Drama Special Issue**  
Experimental Drama : Indian & International July 2012 to March 2013.  
Ahmedpur, District - Latur 413 515, Maharashtra state, India Pgs. 325 to 338

Black Women Playwrights in the American Theatre  
(with Sandra Richards) **Theatre Journal** December 2010, Vol. 62, No.4



*Spotlight on Shirley Prendergast - Black Masks*

Jan/Feb. 2006 Vol. 17, No. 4

*Theatre* entry in **Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Darlene Clark Hine, ed. (New York: Oxford University Press) 2005

*Esther Rolle* in **Notable American Women, Vol. 5**

Editor: Susan Ware. (Harvard University Press) 2004

*Theatre* entry in **The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History**.

Eds., Wilma Mankiller, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith and Gloria Steinem (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company) 1998

"Felix Cochren: Innovative Designer for the American Theatre"

*Black Masks*, August/September, 1996. Vol. 12, No. 1

*Shirley Graham Du Bois* in **Oxford Companion to Women's**

**Writing in the United States**. Eds., Cathy N. Davidson & Linda Wagner-Martin (New York: Oxford University Press) 1995

*Anne Cooke (Reid)* in **Notable Black American Women**, Vol. II,

Ed., Jessie Carney Smith (Detroit: Gale Research, Inc.) 1995

*Their Place in History: African Americans Behind the*

*Scenes in American Theatre* **Theatre Design and Technology Journal (TD&T)**

Summer, 1995 Volume 31, Number 3

*Mary P. Burrill, Loretta Butler, May Miller, Anne Cooke Reid,*

*May Miller, Louise Evans, Mildred Blount, Shirley Prendergast,*

*Vinnette Carroll, Judy Dearing, and Black Women and the American Theatre.*

In **Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**, ed. Darlene Clark Hine (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing, Inc.) 1993

*May Miller, Eulalie Spence, and Gertrude McBrown,*

**Notable Black American Women**, ed., Jessie Carney Smith (Detroit: Gale Research, Inc.) 1992

*The Genius of Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller* **Black American**

**Literature Forum (BALF)** spring, 1990, Vol. 24, No. 1.

*Shirley Graham* in **Dictionary of Literary Biography: Afro-**

**American Writers between 1940 & 1955**. Trudier Harris, editor.

(Detroit: Gale Research, Inc.) 1988

*Race Colony Examined* with Lonnie Bunch, III. **The Afro-Am.**  
Vol. 25 No. 1, 1985 (First Quarter Issue) Published by the  
California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles.

*The Unknown Career of Shirley Graham* in **Freedomways Magazine**  
Volume 25 No. 1, 1985 (First Quarter Issue)

*Black Backstage Workers in American Theatre: 1900-1969*  
**Black American Literature Forum (BALF)** Winter Issue, 1982

### PRESENTATIONS

(Selected Listing)

"The Business: The National Landscape for Black Designers and Educators  
in Theatre" - Panelist

The National Black Box Festival - Memphis April 6-9, 2017

"Black Women Behind the Scenes in the American Theatre"

Manipal University - Manipal, India December 2016

"Black Women Behind the Scenes in the American Theatre"

United Arab Emirates University - Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Oct. 30-31, 2016

"Theatre and Festivals in the African Diaspora"

Festival of Fire - Santiago, Cuba July 3- 9, 2016

"Carter G. Woodson and Black Theatre History" - Panelist

The Association for the Study of African American History and Life (AS AHL)

National Conference, Atlanta Georgia September 23-27, 2015

"Alice Childress" Program in Humanities and Human Values

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jan. 31, 2015

"Reflections: Glenda Dickerson and Black Feminist Theatre" - Panelist

Black Theatre Network (BTN) Conference New York City August 2014

"Lighting Designers of Color" - Panelist

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference

Ft. Worth, Texas March 2014

"African American Women Designers take the Stage"

Albany State University Albany, Georgia Oct. 2013

"W.E. B. DuBois and his Contribution to Black Theatre"

Department of African and African American Studies Conference on W.E.B. Dubois  
UNC Feb. 2013

"I've Come this Far by Fate: My Journey as an African American Designer and  
Scholar" - Keynote Speaker &

"Black Magic: Producing the Next Generation of Black Designers" - Panelist  
Black Theatre Network (BTN) Conference Atlanta, Ga. July 27-30, 2012

"Black Theatre is Black Life: A Series of Roundtable Discussions on Black Theatre  
and Dance in Chicago" Panelist

Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. June 25, 2011

"African American Women behind the Scenes" (Guest Lecturer)

Xiamen University Xiamen, China January 7, 2011

"Are You Looking for Me: Diversifying Creative Teams?" - Panelist

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill. June 18, 2010

"African Women in Contemporary Theatre" - panelist

International Colloquium, National Black Theatre Festival

Winston-Salem, North Carolina August 5, 2009

"African American Women behind the Scenes"

United States Embassy - Kampala, Uganda March 20, 2009

"Transnational Aesthetics and the Impact on the Lighting Design Process" - panelist

Prague Quadrennial (PQ) Scenofest 2007 Prague, Czech Republic June 21, 2007

"Women Playwrights of the Prohibition Era" - panelist

The American Century Theater Arlington, Va. March 17, 2007

"The History of African American Designers"

Presented at the Black Theatre Network (BTN) Conference

Louisville, Ky. July 29, 2006

"African Women and Theatre for Development"

The Venus Project: A Symposium on African Diaspora Performance and

African American Theatre. Arizona State University, March 2006

"African American Women Playwrights of the 1920s"

Women Playwrights of Color of the 1920s: A Series of Readings and Talks

University of Massachusetts (Amherst) March 4, 2006

"The Middle Passage: Theatre as a Media to Educate on Slavery"  
Presented at the International Abolishment of Slavery Commemoration  
Goree, Senegal August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

"Fatima Dike and the Middle Passage Process"  
Panelist on African Women Playwrights  
Black Theatre Network Akron, Ohio August, 2004

"Plays on Lynching by American Women"  
The Institute for Freedom Studies  
Northern Kentucky University Fall, 2003

"The Lack of Technical Training on the African Continent and  
how American Universities can Help" International Session panelist  
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference  
Minneapolis, March 21, 2003

"Making Theatre for Change: Women in Theatre in Uganda and Zimbabwe"  
Who Wants to Be a Woman Tomorrow Conference  
Braunschweig, Germany July 4-9, 2000

"Women in Exile" - panelist, Zimbabwe International Book Fair  
Harare, Zimbabwe August 1999

"The Aesthetics of Color" - panelist  
USITT Conference, March, 1999 Toronto, Canada

*Contemporary African American Theatre*  
Department of Dance, Drama, and Music Makerere University  
Kampala, Uganda June 1998

*Searching for Voices: Black South African Women Playwrights*  
The Women's Political Performance Speaker Series.  
Temple University, Philadelphia. March 13, 1998

"Black Women Playwrights of the Harlem Renaissance"  
Canonizing African American Literature: Black Anthologies in America Symposium  
University of Wisconsin April 4, 1997

"Emerging Voices: Black Women Playwrights in South Africa"  
The Black Theatre Network Conference, August 2, 1997  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

"How to Publish"

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 18-21, 1997

"The Impact of Lynching on African American Artists"

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference  
New York City, August 7, 1996

"The Role of Computers in Theatre Design"

National Conference on African American Theatre (NCAAT) Baltimore, March 28-30, 1996

"Lighting Design Theory and Aesthetics" &

"Exploring the Paradigm: Rethinking how Theatre is Taught"

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) National  
Conference, Las Vegas, Nev. March 1995

"African American Stage Designers" &

"Living Lighting Designers" (Designed scene from *MacBeth*)

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) National Conference,  
Nashville, Tenn. March 1994

"From Hester Street to Harlem: Cultural Diversity on Stage in the 1920s." Panelist  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Classics in Context Festival - Humana Festival  
Actors Theatre of Louisville (Kentucky) Oct. 15-17, 1993

"Rethinking Design in the Liberal Arts/Theatre Curriculum" Panelist

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference  
Philadelphia, August 4-8, 1993.

"Strange Fruit: Lynching Plays by African American Women"

Images of Race in the American Theatre Symposium  
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, May 1-2, 1993

"Building Archives: Maintaining Our Theatre History"

National Conference on African-American Theatre (NCAT)  
Baltimore, Maryland, April 1-3, 1993

"Incorporating Cultural Diversity in the Academic Theatre Environment": Panelist

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)  
National Conference, Wichita, Kansas, March 20, 1993

"African American Women Playwrights of the American Theatre"

The University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica January 6, 1993

"African American Female Designers"

The American Theatre of Higher Education Conference (ATHE)

Atlanta, Georgia, August 1-5, 1992

Keynote Speaker - "African Americans Backstage"

&

"Women Behind the Scenes in the American Theatre" Panelist: The Works of Shirley Graham, Laretta Butler and Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller.

The National Conference on African American Theatre (NCAT)

Baltimore, Maryland, April 1992

"Black Female Playwrights of the American Theatre Before 1950." National Conference of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. (ASALH) Dayton, Ohio. October 1989.

"Black Female Playwrights of the Harlem Renaissance University of California - Los Angeles Center for Afro-American Studies, April 1988

"Glenda Dickerson: Profile of a Director"

The American Theatre Association Conference

Minneapolis, Minn. August 1983

"The Non-Performing Black Artist in Twentieth Century American Theatre." The National Research Council/Ford Foundation Conference on Postdoctoral Fellowships for Minorities. National Academy of Sciences. Washington, D.C. Fall, 1981

### Design Workshops

(Selective Listing)

Lighting Design Workshop

Howard University, Washington, D.C. November 2016

Lighting Workshop

Albany State University October 2014

Lighting Design Workshop

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) - Singapore May, 2013

Lighting Design Workshop

University of Dar es Salaam & TaSuBa College of the Arts

Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo, Tanzania April 2011

Lighting Design Workshop  
Makerere University      Kampala, Uganda March 2009

Lighting Design Workshop  
Eastern African Theatre Institute Festival  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia      November 2008

Lighting Design and Stagemanagement workshop  
Windybrow Performing Arts Center, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Witbank Center for Performing Arts, Witbank, South Africa      March 2002

Lighting Design and Stagemanagement workshop  
Department of Music, Dance and Drama      Makarere University  
Kampala, Uganda      January 2000 and March 2002

Lighting Design Workshop  
University of Dar es Salaam      Tanzania, 2001

Lighting Design Workshops  
National Theatre of Ghana and Ghana National Television  
Accra, Ghana      August 1999

#### Book Reviews

**Contemporary African American Female Playwrights: An Annotated Bibliography.** (Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 1998) by Dana A. Williams. For **Modern Drama**, Volume XLI, Number 3, fall 1998, pg. 483-484

**The Lighting Art: The Aesthetics of Stage Lighting Design**  
(Second Edition) by Richard H. Palmer. Prentice-Hall. 1996  
**Crosswinds: An Anthology of Black Dramatists in the Diaspora.**  
(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993) by William B. Branch. For **Theatre Research International**, Volume 20, Number 1, Spring 1995, pg. 75-76.

**Lighting and the Design Idea** by Linda Essig. Harcourt-Brace, 1995

**The Lighting Art: The Aesthetics of Stage Lighting Design**  
(First Edition) by Richard H. Palmer. Prentice-Hall. 1993

**Center Stage: An Anthology of Twenty-One Contemporary Black-American Plays** (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1991) by Eileen Joyce Ostrow. For **Theatre Research International**, Volume 18, Number 1, spring 1993, pg. 76.

### Reviewer/Judge

National Arts Festival - Grahamstown, South Africa July 2012  
Student Theatre Judge/Advisor

Theatre Communications Group/NEA Fellowship in Lighting  
Design Competition, 1999 and 2005 (Judge) New York, New York

Judy Dearing Design Competition - Black Theatre Network  
New York, New York, 1999

Theatre Communications Group/NEA Fellowship in Lighting  
Design Competition, 1996 (Judge) New York, New York

### Exhibitions

**Co-Curator/Scholar - ONSTAGE: A Century of African American  
Stage Design.** The New York Public Library for the Performing  
Arts at Lincoln Center. New York City, Jan. 24-May 20, 1995

**Assistant Curator - Visions: The History of the East Bay  
Afro-American Community, 1852-1977.** Oakland Museum,  
Oakland, California and The California Afro-American Museum,  
Los Angeles. 1989 and 1990

**Curator/Exhibit Designer - "The Life and Times of Dr. Martin  
Luther King, Jr. Presented for "King Week 1987 Festival"  
Sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)  
Los Angeles, Ca. January 1987**

### Research Related Experience

2013 - **Consultant/Scholar - *Taking the Stage: African Americans in Entertainment***  
present (Inaugural Exhibition) Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African  
American History and Culture Washington, D.C.

2016 - **Subject Editor - Routledge Performance Archive (RPA) online site.**  
2017 African and African Diaspora Theatre and Performance

Spring **Co-Director - *Telling Our Stories of Home: Exploring and Celebrating changing African***  
2016 ***African Diaspora Communities.*** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Spring **Artistic/Producing Director: *Celebrating African Women Writers Festival***  
2010 University of Illinois



- Winter 2008 **Consultant:** Curtain Call: Celebrating A Century of Women Designing for Live Performance The New York Public Library for Performing Arts Lincoln Center, New York City
- Spring 1999 **Guest Editor** for *Black Theatre Network (BTN) Newsletter* Special edition on *Theatre in Africa*
- Fall 1991 **Advisory Editor - Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**, ed. Darlene Clark Hine (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing, Inc., 1993)
- Spring 89 **Film Researcher** - PBS/KCET Channel 28, Hollywood "Ode to Central Avenue." (Documentary) Producers: Carolyn King and Arthur Barron.
- Winter 89 **Field Researcher** - "San Pedro Traditions Festival" City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department Folk Arts Program. Director: Dr. Willie Collins
- Fall 88 **Researcher** - KCOP/Channel 13, Los Angeles "Black Angelenos: The True Story" Producer: Barbara Solomon

#### Service

University/Resident Theatre Association, Inc. (URTA)  
Member - Board of Directors (2007-2010)

Black Theatre Network (BTN) Archivist

Advisory Board - The History Makers (Chicago) 2003-2006

Co-Chair - Black Faculty and Academic Professionals Association  
University of Illinois 2002-2004

Editorial Board - **Theater in the Americas** Series  
Southern Illinois University Press 2000-2006

Advisory Board - New World Theatre (Amherst, Mass.) 1999-2002

Advisory Board - Congo Square Theatre (Chicago) 2001-present

#### AWARDS

(Selective)

- 2016 Best Lighting Design - St. Louis Judy Awards  
for *Miss Julie, Clariss, and John* at the St. Louis Black Repertory

- 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) "Humanities in the Public Square" Grant. Awarded for *Telling Our Stories of Home: Exploring and Celebrating Changing African and African Diaspora Communities*. (with Professor Tanya Shields).
- 2015 Performing Arts Special Activities Fund Award - UNC-CH for *Telling Our Stories Of Home Festival*
- 2013 Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design  
National Black Theatre Festival - Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- 2011 Ford Foundation and the Institute for International Education, Inc. for travel to Tanzania to conduct technical theatre workshops at the University of Dar Es Salaam and Tasuba College of the Arts.
- 2010 Best Lighting Design - Black Theatre Alliance Award (Chicago) for *Sweet Tea*.
- 2009 Fulbright Senior Specialist - Makerere University Kampala, Uganda
- 2008 Ford Foundation and the Institute of International Education, Inc Travel to Ethiopia to conduct technical theatre workshops
- 2006 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design for production of *Dreamgirls* St. Louis, Mo.
- 2006 The Winona Lee Fletcher Award for Theatre Excellence  
Black Theatre Network
- 2005 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design for *Intimate Apparel* St. Louis, Mo.
- 2003 Los Angeles Ovation Theatre Award Nominee for Best Lighting for *In Real Life*
- 2002 Best Lighting Designer - Black Theatre Alliance Award (Chicago) for *From the Mississippi Delta*
- 2002 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design for *Bubbling Brown Sugar* St. Louis, Mo.
- 2001 Research Board Award (UIUC)
- 1999 Ford Foundation/Afro-American Studies Program Course Development Grant

- 1998, 99 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design  
& 2000 The St. Louis Black Repertory Company
- 1998 Black Theatre Alliance Award (Chicago) for Best Lighting Designer  
Goodman Theatre production *Let Me Live*
- 1998 University Scholar (UIUC)
- 1998 William and Flora Hewlett Summer International Research  
Grant (UIUC) (Travel to Uganda, South Africa & Zimbabwe)
- 1997 Black Theatre Alliance Award for Best Lighting Designer  
Goodman Theatre production of *Seeking the Genesis*
- 1996 Research Award for Outstanding Book in Theatre Practice  
and Pedagogy (*Contemporary Plays by Women of Color*)  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
- 1996 Herbert D. Greggs Publication Award  
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
- 1995 Arnold O. Beckman Research Award (UIUC)
- 1994-95 Center for Advanced Study Fellow (UIUC)
- 1994 United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)  
Edward F. Kook Endowment Fund
- 1993 New York Times Company Research Award
- 1991 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Book of 1990  
(*Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays Before 1950*)
- 1990 Outstanding Young Alumna Award - Howard University
- 1990 The Arnold O. Beckman Research Award - UIUC
- 1989 Resolution from the City of Los Angeles City Council, in  
Conjunction with Mayor Tom Bradley, for outstanding achievement  
in the areas of stage lighting and African-American history.
- 1989 Best Lighting Designer - The National Association  
for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Theatre  
Image Award. Hollywood/Beverly Hills Branch.

- 1989 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Research Grant.
- 1988 Institute for American Cultures/Center for the Study of Afro-American Studies (IAC/CAAS) Grant. University of California - Los Angeles.
- 1987 Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund
- 1986 NEH Travel to Collections Grant
- 1984 NEH Summer Faculty Grant
- 1982 Faculty Research Grant, Smith College
- 1981-82 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities
- 1981 & Outstanding Young Woman of America
- 1982

**Professional Organizations**

United Scenic Artists Association (USAA) Local 829  
1986-present

College of Fellows of the American Theatre (Inducted 2007)  
Board Member (2010-2013) Living History Archivist (2014-2016)

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)  
(Director at Large 1994-1997 and Co-Vice Commissioner  
for Education 1996-1998) Member since 1990

Black Theatre Network (BTN) - Archivist 1993-1998, 2006

Association for the Study of African American History & Life  
2014 - 2016