

# 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 - **Professor of Theatre** - Department of Dramatic Art  
2018 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Professor Emerita 2018

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

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

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

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

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

Summer **Visiting Professor** - Women's Studies Program  
1990 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            St. Louis Black Repertory Company - Artistic Director: Ron Himes  
Resident Lighting Designer:  
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
- Spring  
2021            La Boheme - Florentine Opera Company (Milwaukee)  
Directed by Chuck Hudson
- Spring  
2020            Yale Repertory Theatre - New Haven  
A Raisin in the Sun, directed by Carl Cofield  
2019            Cadillac Crew (Premiere), directed by Tori Sampton & Jesse Rasmussen
- Spring  
2020            Playmakers Repertory Company - (Chapel Hill, N.C.) Canceled due to Covid  
Edges of Times (Premiere), directed by Kaja Dunn
- Winter  
2020            Northern Stage (Vermont)  
Citrus (Premiere), directed by Jameeka Holloway-Burrell
- Fall  
2019            Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
Pipeline, directed by Ron OJ Parson - 2019
- Summer  
2019            People's Light - Pennsylvania  
Dot - directed by Colman Domingo  
2019            Mud Row (Premiere) directed by Steve H. Broadnax

Winter  
 2018      Center Stage Theatre - Baltimore  
             *A Wonder in My Soul* - directed by Daniel Bryant

Fall  
 2018      Two River Theatre - New Jersey  
             *King Hedley*, directed by Brandon Dirden

Fall  
 2018      TheatreWworks - Colorado Springs  
             *A Raisin in the Sun* - directed by Nambi E. Kelley

Fall  
 2018      Children's Theatre of Charlotte - Charlotte, N.C.  
             *Last Stop on Market Street* (Premiere) - directed by Christopher Parks

Summer  
 2018      People's Light - Pennsylvania  
             *Skeleton Crew* - directed by Steve H. Broadnax

Spring  
 2018      *Torn Asunder* (Premiere) - St. Louis Black Repertory  
             Director: Ron Himes

Spring  
 2018      *Smart People* - Writers Theatre (Chicago)  
             Director: Hallie Gordon

Fall  
 2017      *A Raisin in the Sun* - Two River Theatre  
             Director: Carl Cofield

Summer  
 2017      *Eclipsed* - Synchronicity Theatre (Atlanta)  
             Director: Tinashe Kajase

Spring  
 2017      *Intelligence* (Premiere) - Arena Stage (D.C.)  
             Director - Daniella Topol

2011 -  
 2017      Playmakers Repertory Company - Chapel Hill, N.C.  
             *Trouble in Mind, Clybourne Park, A Raisin in the Sun, The Parchman Hour,*  
             *Surviving Twin, Mr. Joy, Count, and Dot*

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

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 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
- 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

#### **The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance**

Edited with Sandra L. Richards, Renee Alexander-Craft and Thomas F. DeFrantz  
(London: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group) 2018



***Selected Plays by Alice Childress***

(Chicago: 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)

Telling Stories of Home: Pedagogy, Practice and the Potential for Lasting Change

(with Tanya L. Shields) Chapter six

**Engaging the African Diaspora in K-12 Education** (New York: Peter Lang, 2020)

Editors' Kia Lilly Caldwell and Emily Susanna Chavez

*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, Laurette 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)

"African Women in Theatre" African Studies Program Presentation  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
February 20, 2019

"Black Women Behind the Scenes in the American Theatre"  
Festival of Fire, Santiago de Cuba July 2018

"African American Women Playwrights"  
Florida State University March, 2018

"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 (ASAHL)  
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,  
Lauretta 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  
Festival of Fire Santiago, Cuba June 2018

Lighting Design Workshop  
Howard University, Washington, D.C. November 2016



Lighting Workshop  
Albany State University, Albany, Georgia 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 Makerere 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/Reader

**The Civil Rights Theatre Movement in New York, 1939-1966: Staging Freedom**  
by Julie Burrell (New York: Palgrave Macmillan) 2019

**The American Negro Theatre and The Long Civil Rights Era.**  
by Johnathan Shandell. (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press) 2018

**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

The Judy Dearing Design Award Competition - Black Theatre Network  
Spring, 2019 & 2020

USITT Emerging Designer Award Reviewer - Winter, 2018

Fulbright Specialist Reviewer - Spring 2018

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* (Inaugural Exhibition) Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture Washington, D.C.
- 2017
- 2016 - **Subject Editor** - Routledge Performance Archive (RPA) online site.  
2020 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 **Consultant:** Curtain Call: Celebrating A Century of Women Designing for  
2008 Live Performance The New York Public Library for Performing Arts  
Lincoln Center, New York City
- Spring **Guest Editor** for *Black Theatre Network (BTN) Newsletter*  
1999 Special edition on *Theatre in Africa*
- Fall **Advisory Editor - Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia,**  
1991 ed. Darlene Clark Hine (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing, Inc., 1993)
- Spring **Film Researcher** - PBS/KCET Channel 28, Hollywood  
89 "Ode to Central Avenue." (Documentary)  
Producers: Carolyn King and Arthur Barron.
- Winter **Field Researcher** - "San Pedro Traditions Festival"  
89 City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department  
Folk Arts Program. Director: Dr. Willie Collins
- Fall **Researcher** - KCOP/Channel 13, Los Angeles  
88 "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 - Definition Theatre (Chicago) 2013 - present

Advisory Board - Congo Square Theatre (Chicago) 2001-2019

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

### AWARDS

(Selective)

- 2020 Wally Russell Professional Mentoring Award  
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) - Houston
- 2019 2019 Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) - Orlando  
Career Achievement in Academic Theatre Award
- 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 (USA) 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  
Member since 1989

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