

# KATHY A. PERKINS

## EDUCATION

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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2012 -<br>2018 | <b>Professor of Theatre</b> - Department of Dramatic Art<br>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill<br>Professor Emerita 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1989 -<br>2011 | <b>Professor of Theatre</b> - Department of Theatre<br>University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)<br>Professor Emerita 2011<br>Full Professor 1999<br>Associate Professor 1993<br>Assistant Professor 1989<br>1989-2009 Chair of Lighting Design Program<br>2009 - 2011 Chair of M.A. in Theatre History & Practice Program |
| Spring<br>2005 | <b>Sterling Brown Visiting Professor of Theatre</b><br>Williams College - Williamstown, Mass.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Spring<br>1997 | <b>Visiting Professor</b> - Ethnic Studies Program<br>University of Oregon (Eugene)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Summer<br>1995 | <b>Visiting Lecturer</b> - United States Information Service (USIS)<br>South Africa (Durban, Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Summer<br>1991 | <b>Visiting Professor</b> - Course: Black Women Playwrights<br>Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Ill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Summer<br>1990 | <b>Visiting Professor</b> - Women's Studies Program<br>University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1987 - 89      | <b>Affiliated Scholar</b> - Center for the Study of Women<br>The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1986 - 89      | <b>Curatorial Assistant (History)</b> - The California Afro-American Museum<br>Los Angeles, Calif. (Curator - Lonnie Bunch, III)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1985 - 87      | <b>Resident Lighting Designer</b> - 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)

- 2026-27      Playmakers Repertory Company - Chapel Hill  
Angry, Raucous, and Shamelessly Gorgeous, directed by Mike Wiley  
The Piano Lesson, directed by Justin Emeka
- Spring      South Coast Repertory - Costa Mesa, California  
2026      Fremont Ave., directed by Lili-Anne Brown - 2026
- Fall      Playmakers Repertory Company - Chapel Hill  
2025      You Can't Take it With You, directed by Nathaniel P. Claridad - 2025
- Fall      Arena Stage - D.C.  
2025      Fremont Ave. (Premiere) directed by Lili-Anne Brown
- Fall      The University of Michigan - University Productions - Ann Arbor  
2025      Gloria, directed by Judy Moreland - 2025
- Spring      Kudzu Calling (Premiere) - Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
2025      Director: Kevin Free
- Fall      BAMBU Bamba (Premiere) co-Designer - Bando de Brincantes (Porto Alegre, Brazil)  
2024      Director: Viviane Jughero
- Fall      Dracula: a feminist revenge fantasy, Really. Virginia Stage Company  
2024      Director: Melissa Mowry
- Fall      Crumbs from the Table of Joy - Playmakers Repertory Company  
2024      Director: Tia James

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| Winter<br>2024 | Bronzeville Boheme - The Florentine Opera - Milwaukee<br>Director: Nadja Simmonds                                                       |
| Winter<br>2024 | Blues in the Night - Alabama Shakespeare Festival<br>Director: Ron OJ Parson                                                            |
| Fall<br>2023   | Finding Freedom: The Journey of Robert Smalls (Premiere) - Charleston Gaillard Center<br>Director: JaMeeka D. Hollaway                  |
| Fall<br>2023   | What the Constitution Means to Me - Syracuse Stage<br>Director: Melissa Crespo                                                          |
| Summer<br>2023 | Wedding Band - Stratford Theatre Festival (Canada)<br>Director: Sam White                                                               |
| Winter<br>2023 | Steel Magnolias - Pittsburgh Public Theatre<br>Director: Marya Sea Kaminski                                                             |
| Winter<br>2023 | They Do Not Know Harlem (Premiere) - Playmakers Repertory Company<br>Director: Kathryn Hunter-Williams                                  |
| Fall<br>2022   | Wine in the Wilderness - Two River Theatre<br>Director: Brandon J. Dirden                                                               |
| Spring<br>2022 | Yemandja with Angelique Kidjo (Premiere) - MASS Moca (Massachusetts)<br>Director: Cheryl Lynn Bruce                                     |
| Fall<br>2021   | <i>Trouble in Mind</i> (Broadway Premiere) - Roundabout Theatre Company<br>Director: Charles Randolph-Wright                            |
| Winter<br>2021 | Edges of Times (Premiere) Playmakers Repertory Company - (Chapel Hill, N.C.)<br>Director: Jules Odendahl-James                          |
| Spring<br>2020 | Yale Repertory Theatre - New Haven                                                                                                      |
| 2019           | A Raisin in the Sun Director: Carl Cofield (Cancelled due to Covid)<br>Cadillac Crew (Premiere) Director Tori Sampson & Jesse Rasmussen |
| Winter<br>2020 | Citrus (Premiere) - Northern Stage (Vermont)<br>Director: Jameeka Holloway-Burrell                                                      |
| Fall<br>2019   | Pipeline - Alabama Shakespeare Festival<br>Director: Ron OJ Parson                                                                      |

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| Summer<br>2019 | People's Light - Pennsylvania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2019           | Dot - Director: Colman Domingo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                | Mud Row (Premiere) - Director: Steve H. Broadnax                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Winter<br>2018 | Center Stage Theatre - Baltimore                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                | A Wonder in My Soul - Director: Daniel Bryant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Fall<br>2018   | Two River Theatre - New Jersey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                | King Hedley - Director: Brandon Dirden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Summer<br>2018 | People's Light - Pennsylvania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                | Skeleton Crew - Director: Steve H. Broadnax                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Spring<br>2018 | Torn Asunder (Premiere) - St. Louis Black Repertory                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                | Director: Ron Himes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Spring<br>2018 | Smart People - Writers Theatre (Chicago)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                | Director: Hallie Gordon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1990-<br>2018  | St. Louis Black Repertory Company - Artistic Director: Ron Himes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                | 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, and Torn Asunder. |
| Fall<br>2017   | A Raisin in the Sun - Two River Theatre                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                | Director: Carl Cofield                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Summer<br>2017 | Eclipsed - Synchronicity Theatre (Atlanta)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                | Director: Tinashe Kajase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Spring<br>2017 | Intelligence (Premiere) - Arena Stage (D.C.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                | Director: Daniella Topol                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2011 -<br>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<br>2016   | East Texas Hot Links - Writer's Theatre (Chicago)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                | Director: Ron OJ Parson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| Spring<br>2016 | <i>Migration (Premiere)</i> - eta Creative Arts (Chicago)<br>Director: Kemati Porter                                           |
| Summer<br>2015 | <i>Seven Guitars</i> - Actors Theatre of Louisville<br>Director: Colman Domingo                                                |
| Summer<br>2015 | <i>Freight (Premiere)</i> - HERE Arts Center (New York City)<br>Director: Joseph Megel                                         |
| Winter<br>2015 | <i>Blues for Mister Charlie</i> - Washington University (St. Louis)<br>Director: Ronald Himes                                  |
| Fall<br>2014   | <i>The Uncanny Valley</i> - The Brick (Brooklyn)<br>Director: Francesca Talenti                                                |
| Spring<br>2012 | <i>I Just Stopped by to See the Man</i> - Alliance Theatre<br>Director: Ron O.J. Parson                                        |
| Spring<br>2011 | <i>The Gospel According to James (Premiere)</i> - Indiana Repertory Theatre<br>Victory Gardens (Chicago) Director: Chuck Smith |
| Spring<br>2010 | <i>Sweet Tea</i> - (Premiere) About Face Theatre/Ellen Stone (Chicago)<br>Director: Daniel Alexander Jones                     |
| Spring<br>2010 | <i>Two Trains Running</i> - Geva Theatre (Rochester, NY)<br>Director - Ron O.J. Parson                                         |
| Winter<br>2009 | <i>The Whipping Man</i> - Penumbra Theatre (St. Paul, MN)<br>Director: Lou Bellamy                                             |
| Winter<br>2008 | <i>Blood Knot</i> - American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) - San Francisco<br>Director - Charles Randolph-Wright                  |
| Spring<br>2007 | <i>The Blue Door</i> - Berkeley Repertory Theatre<br>Director: Delroy Lindo                                                    |
| Winter<br>2007 | <i>Flyin' West</i> - Court Theatre (Chicago)<br>Director: Ron OJ Parson                                                        |
| Winter<br>2007 | <i>A Song for Coretta</i> - (Premiere) Spelman College<br>Director - Crystal Dickinson                                         |
| Winter<br>2007 | <i>Gees Bend (Premiere)</i> - Alabama Shakespeare Festival<br>Director: Janet Cleveland                                        |

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| Winter<br>2006  | Fences - Court Theatre<br>Director: Ron O.J. Parson                                                                                                                            |
| Fall<br>2004/05 | Black Nativity - The Goodman Theatre<br>Director: Mike Malone                                                                                                                  |
| Summer<br>2003  | The Middle Passage: A Ritual of Healing (Premiere)<br>Grahamstown Festival and University of Cape Town, South Africa<br>Director: Nefertiti Burton and Dumile Magodia          |
| Winter<br>2003  | Wedding Band - Steppenwolf Theatre<br>Director: Ron O.J. Parson                                                                                                                |
| Winter<br>2003  | Blues for an Alabama Sky - Indiana Repertory<br>Director: Ron Himes                                                                                                            |
| Fall<br>2002    | In Real Life - Manhattan Theatre Club<br>Director: Daniel Sullivan                                                                                                             |
| Winter<br>2002  | From the Mississippi Delta - Congo Square (Chicago)<br>Director: Cheryl Lynn Bruce                                                                                             |
| Summer<br>2001  | In Real Life - The Mark Taper Forum<br>Director: Daniel Sullivan (Nominated for L.A. Ovation Award)                                                                            |
| Winter<br>2000  | In Real Life (Premiere) - Seattle Repertory Theatre<br>Director: Daniel Sullivan                                                                                               |
| Fall<br>2000    | Amy's View - Organic Theatre (Chicago)<br>Director: Ina Marlow                                                                                                                 |
| Spring<br>2000  | A Raisin in the Sun - The Goodman Theatre<br>Director: Chuck Smith                                                                                                             |
| Winter<br>2000  | Desire Under the Elms Court Theatre (Chicago) & Freedom<br>Theatre (Philadelphia) Director: Walter Dallas                                                                      |
| Fall<br>1998    | The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman Vs Mammy Louise<br>and Safreeta Mae New Federal Theatre (Off-Broadway)<br>Director: Paul Carter Harrison Producer: Woodie King, Jr. |
| Summer<br>1998  | A Coloured Place (co-design) The Playhouse (Durban, South Africa)<br>Director: Tina Johnson                                                                                    |

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| Winter<br>1995-98      | 4 Queens and No Trump, East Texas Hot Links,<br>Unquestioned Integrity: The Hill/Thomas Hearings,<br>Flyin' West, and Sty of the Blind Pig.<br>Onyx Theatre Ensemble, (Chicago) Artistic Director: Ron O.J. Parson |
| Spring<br>1998         | Blues for an Alabama Sky - The Goodman Theatre<br>Director: Chuck Smith                                                                                                                                            |
| Spring<br>1998         | Let Me Live (Premiere) - The Goodman Theatre<br>Director: Ron O.J. Parson                                                                                                                                          |
| Fall<br>1996           | Seeking the Genesis (Premiere) - The Goodman Theatre<br>Director: Walter Dallas                                                                                                                                    |
| Summer<br>1996         | Hang on in There, Nelson (Premiere) - Windybrow Arts Center<br>Johannesburg, South Africa    Director: Walter Chakela                                                                                              |
| Fall<br>1994           | A Raisin in the Sun - Alliance Theatre, Atlanta<br>Director: Woodie King, Jr.                                                                                                                                      |
| Fall<br>1993           | 125th Anniversary Tribute to Dr. W.E.B. DuBois<br>Carnegie Hall, New York City                                                                                                                                     |
| Fall<br>1992           | Broadway Bound - Missouri Repertory Theatre (Kansas City)<br>Director: George Keathley                                                                                                                             |
| Summer<br>1992<br>1990 | Delta Sigma Theta National Convention - Convention Designer<br>Baltimore Arena & Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland<br>Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida                                     |
| Winter<br>1990         | Jar the Floor (Premiere) - Written & Directed by Cheryl West<br>Parkland College, Champaign, Ill.                                                                                                                  |
| Summer<br>1989         | Spirit Time - The New Federal Theatre (Off-Broadway)<br>Director: Michi Jones    Producer: Woodie King, Jr.                                                                                                        |
| Spring<br>1989         | The Heart Outright - A Director's Theatre (Hollywood)<br>Producer: Dorothy Lyman    Director: Sheri Kane                                                                                                           |
| 1987-88                | Checkmates - Los Angeles and San Francisco<br>Director: Woodie King, Jr.                                                                                                                                           |
| Winter<br>1988         | Win/Lose/Draw - Skylight Theatre, Hollywood, Ca.<br>Director: Dorothy Lyman                                                                                                                                        |

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| Fall<br>1987   | Some Sweet Day - A Director's Theatre, Hollywood, Ca.<br>Director: Claude Purdy                                                                   |
| Spring<br>1987 | Cast Me Down (Premiere) (Off-Broadway) - New York City<br>Original Direction: Michi Jones                                                         |
| Spring<br>1986 | "A Night for Dancing" The Callboard Theatre (Hollywood)<br>Artistic Dir.: Otis Sallid                                                             |
| 1985 - 87      | Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Theatre, Los Angeles<br>Artistic Director: Lula Washington                                                         |
| 1982 - 84      | "DANCEAFRICA" The Opera House, Brooklyn Academy of<br>Music (BAM) Brooklyn, New York. Producer: Micki Shepard                                     |
| Spring<br>1983 | Paper Dolls - Richard Allen Center for Culture (RACCA) New York City<br>Producer: Hazel Bryant Director: Susan Watson Turner                      |
| 1981 - 83      | Thelma Hill Performing Arts Dance Festivals<br>Brooklyn, New York. Producer: Larry Phillip                                                        |
| Winter<br>1982 | Assistant to the Designer, Designer Shirley Prendergast<br>Waltz of the Stork (Broadway) Century Theatre<br>Producer/Director: Melvin Van Peebles |
| Fall<br>1980   | La Grima Del Diablo Off-Broadway<br>The Negro Ensemble Company (NEC)<br>Director: Richard Gant                                                    |
| Summer<br>1979 | "Lena Horne in Concert" - Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom<br>New Orleans, Louisiana                                                                 |
| Summer<br>1979 | The Glorious Monster (Off-Broadway) New Federal Theatre<br>Director: Glenda Dickerson Producer: Woodie King, Jr.                                  |
| Spring<br>1979 | Sound of Soul: A Musical Review - Switzerland & Austria<br>Director: Geoffrey W. Newman                                                           |
| Spring<br>1979 | Assistant to the Lighting Designer, G. Houdovernik<br>RAISIN, (European Premiere) Switzerland, Austria, Germany                                   |

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Anthologies/Edited Works**

***Telling Our Stories of Home: International Performance Pieces by and About Women***  
(London: Bloomsbury Publishing/Methuen Drama) 2022

**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***  
(Urbana - 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)

Hidden Gems: A History of Black Designers in the American Theatre in **Milestones in Black American Theatre and Performance** Editors Monica W. Ndounou & J. Eve Graves  
(London: Routledge/Taylor& Francis Group) forthcoming

Rose Mbowa (1943-1999) in **Routledge Handbook of African Theatre and Performance**  
Editor, Kene Igweonu (London: Routledge/Taylor& Francis Group) 2024

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.

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)

"A Life in the Theatre" Spelman College Atlanta, Ga. April 2025

"Distinguished Lighting Designer Keynote Speech: My Career in Design"  
South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC)  
Baltimore, Md. March 2025

"Black Women Playwrights in America: Past and Present"  
Bando de Brincantes Porto Alegre, Brazil November 11-14, 2024

"Staging Resistance: Publishing, Designing and Producing Plays by African Women."  
Keynote speaker for Resisting Theatre: Plays, Politics and the Academy  
Conference, University of York, and the Royal Holiday (University of London)  
June 19, 2021 (via Zoom)

"The Training of African American Stage Designers" Keynote speaker  
The African Theatre Association (AfTA) Conference  
July, 2020 Berlin (via Zoom)

"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 (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

"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

"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

*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

"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  
Taiwan College of Performing Arts Taipei, Taiwan May 2026

Lighting Design Workshop  
Spelman College April 2025

Lighting Design Workshop  
Taiwan College of Performing Arts Taipei, Taiwan May 2024

Lighting Design Workshop  
Festival of Fire Santiago, Cuba June 2018

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

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 Stage management workshop  
Windybrow Performing Arts Center, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Witbank Center for Performing Arts, Witbank, South Africa March 2002

Lighting Design and Stage management 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 August Wilson Residency Award in Design 2025, 2026  
College of Fellows of the American Theatre, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center

The Judy Dearing Design Award Competition - Black Theatre Network  
Spring, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024, 2026

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

(Representative Listing)

2021 **Consultant** - PlayCo's Artist Residency Program  
The Play Company New York City

2013 - **Consultant/Scholar** - *Taking the Stage: African Americans in Entertainment*  
2016 (Inaugural Exhibition) Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture Washington, D.C.

2016 - **Subject Editor** - Routledge Performance Archive (RPA) online site.  
2020 African and African Diaspora Theatre and Performance

- Spring 2016 **Co-Director** - *Telling Our Stories of Home: Exploring and Celebrating changing African African Diaspora Communities*. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Spring 2010 **Artistic/Producing Director: Celebrating African Women Writers Festival**  
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

Advisory Board: Digital Theatre (UK) 2022

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

Black Theatre Network (BTN) Archivist (1993-2003)

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)

- 2025      Lighting Design Award - South Eastern Theatre Conference
  
- 2022      Owen Dodson Legacy Award for Technical Theatre  
Department of Theatre Arts - Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts  
Howard University   Washington, D.C.
  
- 2022      Fellow of the Institute - Recognition for outstanding service to theatre and the institute  
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
  
- 2022      Henry Hewes Design Award for *Trouble in Mind*
  
- 2021      Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA)  
The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
  
- 2021      Distinguished Achievement Award in Education  
Distinguished Achievement Award in Lighting Design & Technology  
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
  
- 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, Clarissa, 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

1981/82 Outstanding Young Woman of America

### 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