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TRISTON|PULLEN

Director | Scenographer | Playwright

As a director, I create theatre that focuses on the spiritual nature built within any given text, allowing rites of passage to help create storytelling. Using cultural, political, and religious perspectives to develop deep character connections and real human interactions, I strive to create productions that use a modern ritualistic lens to connect with the audience on a more meaningful level. Using a combination of Viewpoints, Suzuki, the tools and philosophies of Stanislavsky's system, and eastern forms of performance arts, I actively look at how to create innovative forms of art that are diverse and inclusive to both the team developing the art and the audience viewing the production. As a teacher, I ask students to broaden their theatrical horizons and to use theories as a tool for inspiration to create meaningful work, for both themselves and the community around them.

EDUCATION

The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2021

MFA in Theatre Directing

Directing: Stephen Hancock, Sarah Brown, John Yorke, and Holly Derr

Theatre History: Holly Derr

Arabian Theatre History: Sarah Brown

Period Styles Directing/Voice and Diction: Stephen Hancock

Movement: Jill Nee

Brecht: Holly Derr

Stanislavski: Holly Derr

Script Analysis: Stephen Hancock

Theory and Criticism: Holly Derr

Solo Performance: Sarah Brown

Contemporary Theatre History: Stephen Hancock

Visual History: Jennifer Gillette and Brian J. Ruggaber

Designer/Director Collaboration: Stephen Hancock

Laban Movement: Jill Nee

Heartland Intimacy Design and Training, 2021

Theatrical Intimacy Education, 2020

Instructional Touch

Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Santa Fe, NM 2017.

BFA in Acting

Minor in Technical Design (emphasis in Set Design)

Acting: Shepard Sobel, Jon Jory, Cristina Duarte, Acushla Bastible, Charles Gamble, Kathryn Morath, and Alaina Warren Zachary

Directing: Jon Jory

Voice/Diction: Laurie Romero

Shakespeare: Brain Gillespie

Suzuki and Viewpoints: Amanda Zarr

Script Analysis: Sheppard Sobel

Period-Style Acting: John Jory

Acting for the Camera: Robert Benedetti

Musical Theatre History: Aliana Warren Zachary

Theatre History: Marica Jory

Lighting: Chelsea Touchet

Set Design: Laura Fine Hawks

AutoCAD: Chris Hawks

POSITIONS HELD

Walt Whitman Initiative, New York, NY: 2020- Present

Board Member: Responsibilities include creating digital media for the Walt Whitman Initiative website, the annual *Songs of Myself* Marathon, the artwork to fight to historical preserve the last standing home of Walt Whitman in Brooklyn, and to create all artwork for the *Robust American Love Speaker Series*. I have worked with the Board of Directors to develop fellowships and internships through the Walt Whitman Initiative in New York City and help facilitate the *Robust American Love Speaker Series* live-streamed interviews.

Duties:

- Organized and assisted with technical support for the annual *Song of Myself* Marathon. This event is hosted in NYC, but since Covid-19, the event has been virtual.
- Organized and assisted with technical support for the *Robust American Love Speaker Series*. This speaker series was created to prompt conversations about Walt Whitman and his influence in art, politics, and our American culture.
- Organized and facilitated a nationwide poster contest for the *Song of Myself* Marathon.
- Developed a strategy to advertise and market productions for the chosen market segments.
- Assisted in developing internships and fellowships for the Walt Whitman Initiative.
- Generated marketing and publicity for all events and initiatives.
- Developed and promoted local and national patron attendance and relationships.
- Created initiatives in collaboration with local and national academics, artists, writers, and scholars.

University of Memphis, Memphis, TN: Instructor and Graduate Assistant, 2018-2021

“Theatre Intro:” Students were exposed to different forms of expression and how they relate to each other and to cultures as a whole. Students were given an awareness of Western and non-Western cultures and how each has helped create the world of theater as we know it today. Diving deep into the history, process, and individual elements of Theatre, students are encouraged to appreciate an art form rooted in storytelling. Hybrid/Online

Duties:

- Taught Introduction to Theater
- Taught Non-Western Theatre History

“Costume Shop Lab:” As one of the co-instructors, my responsibilities included teaching the students how to hand sew and how to use the sewing machines. I also managed their work as we processed notes for the costume for the production within the department. I oversaw administrative work such as tracking hours for all students and graduate assistants as well as communicating and facilitating guest speakers. In-person/Online

Duties:

- Supervised and managed the undergraduate students in the Scene Shop and Costume Shop.
- Managed the Costume Shop’s social media for the department.
- Assisted with the budgeting records for the costume shop.
- Built relationships with designers to help bridge gaps between designers and directors.

The McCauley Project, Sulphur Springs, TX 2019-2021

Co-Founder and Director: As part of a newly created foundation that works with Studio 1621 to raise money for the Fine Arts Department at Sulphur Springs Independent School District I worked as the creative and producing director. After the death of Charlie McCauley, long time Fine Arts Director in Sulphur Springs, Christie McCullough and Triston P. Pullen teamed up to create a foundation that would create scholarships for seniors in the Fine Arts Department as well as help create funds to further the Fine Arts Department’s programs. The McCauley Project is put on pause due to COVID-19.

Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, TX: Guest Artist and Instructor, 2018

“Viewpoints and Suzuki Master Class:” I trained students in the Viewpoints, a philosophy of movement translated into a technique for creating movement on stage, and composition, a practice of arranging components of theatrical language into a cohesive work of art for the stage. I trained students in the Suzuki Method to help them take control of their bodies during any performance and to encourage them to dive into building their characters from the feet up. This master class helps build ensembles and broadens the students’ experience within the different forms of theatre. During each masterclass, the students would create two different compositions based on a Shakespearean monologue and a contemporary pop song to use what was learned in the master class to turn theory into practical application.

Shadow Festival, Sulphur Springs, TX 2018-2021

Director of Social Media/Publicity and Entertainment Consultant: As part of a newly created charity that provides funding for Shadow Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center, a non-profit organization. Responsibilities included building and managing the new website, overseeing design,

programming, content, and publicity; finding, vetting, and organizing entertainment for the Renaissance festival; and the Victorian Stroll and Halloween Haunts. I was an advisor to both the President/Founder and the Executive Director on budgeting, planning, and organizing the overall events that had thousands of people participate annually.

Duties:

- Generated marketing and publicity for all events related to Shadow Festival.
- Developed and promoted local and national patron attendance and relationships.
- Created initiatives in collaboration with local artists, vendors, and performers.
- Organized fundraising initiatives.
- Developed social media and websites for the non-profit organization.
- Organized, promoted, and staged all gala events at Shadow Festival.
- Raised \$30,000 during the first year's main four-day event and raised \$56,000 the second year.

Keller ISD, Keller, TX: Guest Artist and Instructor, 2018

“Intro to Playwrighting:” English teachers at Keller ISD hired me to teach a workshop on playwrighting. As part of the workshop, I created a playwrighting contest that focused on 10-minutes plays. I reviewed and gave feedback to over 45 submitted scripts and award the top three playwrights. The first-place winner had his play read in a play festival in Memphis, Tennessee.

Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Santa Fe, NM: Instructor, Teaching Assistant, and Event Manager, 2016-2017

“Viewpoints and Suzuki Master Class:” I trained students in the Viewpoints, a philosophy of movement translated into a technique for creating movement on stage, and composition, a practice of arranging components of theatrical language into a cohesive work of art for the stage. I trained students in the Suzuki Method to help them take control of their bodies during any performance and to encourage them to dive into building their characters from the feet up. This master class helps build ensembles and broadens the students' experience within the different forms of theatre. During each masterclass, the students would create two different compositions based on a Shakespearean monologue and a contemporary pop song to use what was learned in the master class to turn theory into practical application.

“Film Acting (Basic and Advanced):” As the Teaching Assistant to Robert Benedetti and Cristina Duarte, I worked to help teaching juniors and seniors basic and advance film acting. My role was to be a second “director” in the room as well as the camera operator for the course.

“Audition Prep:” As the Teaching Assistant to Cristina Duarte, I developed a solid foundation of audition materials for students across all levels in the department.

“Acting Period Styles:” As the Teaching Assistant to Jon Jory, we taught Greek, Commedia Dell'arte, Shakespeare, Neoclassism, Restoration Comedy, and Naturalism styles of acting.

“Advanced Acting:” As the Teaching Assistant to Jon Jory, we used his book *Teaching the Acting Craft* and used the tools and examples within the book to create vibrant, realistic, and unique performances through monologues and scene work.

Duties:

- Generated marketing and publicity for all productions.
- Developed and promoted local patron attendance and relationships.
- Created initiatives in collaboration with local theaters and artists to foster community involvement.
- Assisted in fundraising initiatives.
- Developed and enhanced patron mailing lists.
- Organized, promoted, and staged all gala events at The Greer Garson Theater.
- Teaching assistant to John Jory, Robert Benedetti, and Alaina Warren Zachary. Classes included Acting II (Acting Technique and Stage Craft Classes), Acting IV (Period Styles), Audition Prep, and Acting V (Advanced Acting Craft for Film and Stage).
- Taught Suzuki and Viewpoints for the university, community, and New Mexico Thespian Convention.
- Directed six productions on the main stage (500 seat) and or the black box (100 seat) theatre.
- Assisted the lead faculty with department budget and administrative duties.

New Mexico Thespian Society, Albuquerque, NM: Guest Artist and Instructor, 2017

“Viewpoints and Suzuki Master Class:” I trained students in the Viewpoints, a philosophy of movement translated into a technique for creating movement on stage, and composition, a practice of arranging components of theatrical language into a cohesive work of art for the stage. I trained students in the Suzuki Method to help them take control of their bodies during any performance and to encourage them to dive into building their characters from the feet up. This master class helps build ensembles and broadens the students’ experience within the different forms of theatre.

“Audition Prep Workshop:” I adjudicated auditions for over 100 students for the New Mexico Thespian Society. At the end of every session, students would get a crash course in audition methods. The workshops were used to help students prepare for college and summer stock auditions.

Rains County ISD, Emory, TX: Guest Artist and Instructor, 2017

“Viewpoints and Suzuki Master Class:” I trained students in the Viewpoints, a philosophy of movement translated into a technique for creating movement on stage, and composition, a practice of arranging components of theatrical language into a cohesive work of art for the stage. I trained students in the Suzuki Method to help them take control of their bodies during any performance and to encourage them to dive into building their characters from the feet up. This master class helps build ensembles and broadens the students’ experience within the different forms of theatre. During each master class, the students would create two different compositions, one based on a Shakespearean monologue and a contemporary pop song, to use what was learned in the master class to turn theory into practical application.

Main Street Theatre, Sulphur Springs, TX 2016-2017:

Artistic Director: The theater in North East Texas hired me because they needed help rebuilding the organization. Responsibilities included organizing fundraisers, outreach programs for the community, creating a new season, revamping the branding to help appeal to a younger demographic, and to create a new budget that would allow the organization to improve the facilities while still producing quality productions.

Duties:

- During this one-year appointment, I was asked to commit to community outreach to obtain more sponsorships and patrons for the theatre.
- Planned the 2016-2017 Season as well as directed two shows during the season.
- Organized all Gala Events.
- Selected and scheduled upcoming season.
- Directed and produced a variety of plays, shows, and special events.
- Connected and collaborated with the Hopkins County Community for future initiatives and cultural programs.
- Developed comprehensive education plans for the summer workshops to reach diverse segments of the community.
- Developed a lecture and talkback series for playwrights, authors, actors, directors, and casting directors.
- Worked with the Board of Directors in developing fundraising strategies.
- Developed a strategy to advertise and market productions for the chosen market segments.
- Regularly arranged radio and newspaper interviews with the local press for upcoming shows and initiatives.
- Implemented and taught acting classes for adults and young adults.
- Oversaw all productions at the theatre.

Studio 1621, Sulphur Springs, TX 2015- 2021:

Founder and Artistic Director: Responsibilities included creating a theatre company that operated like a summer stock theatre company on a professional level, while being community focused. The mission statement of the theatre company was to provide the community with the opportunity to practice their crafts, develop their skills, to gain exposure and get first-hand experience with the arts in their community. I created a season that included one show and one fundraiser night of entertainment that allowed Studio 1621 to build enough revenue to give scholarship to high school students in the community.

Duties:

- Responsible for the budget for the Summer Stock Theatre Company.
- Directed six shows in the 4-summer season produced by Studio 1621.
- Organized the gala events.
- Selected and scheduled upcoming summer season.
- Worked with new playwrights and *New York Times* Best-Selling Author Colleen Hoover to adapt plays from published novels to give the work new life on stage.
- Directed and produced a variety of plays, shows, and special events.
- Connected and collaborated with the Hopkins County community for future initiatives and cultural programs.
- Developed comprehensive education plans for the summer workshops to reach diverse segments of the community.
- Developed a lecture and talkback series for playwrights, authors, actors, directors, and casting directors.
- Worked with the Board of Directors in developing fundraising strategies.
- Developed a strategy to advertise and market productions for the chosen market segments.
- Regularly arranged radio and newspaper interviews with the local press for upcoming shows and initiatives.
- Implemented and taught acting classes for adults and young adults.
- Oversaw all productions at the theatre.

- Created scholarships for local high school fine art students for college.

DIRECTING

Walt Whitman Initiative, New York, NY 2020.

Songs of Memories, by Triston P. Pullen (Reading)

Opera Memphis, Memphis, TN 2019

H.M.S. Pinafore, Gilbert and Sullivan, assistant director to Benjamin Smith

University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2018-2021.

The Women of Lockerbie, Deborah Brevoort

RED, John Logan

Small Mouth Sounds, Bess Wohl

The Three Sisters, Triston P. Pullen (World Premier)

Theatre Walk Festival, Santa Fe, NM 2017.

Speaking Shakespeare's Sonnets, William Shakespeare

New York Arts Program, New York, NY 2016

Quilter Bees, Triston P. Pullen (Reading)

Main Street Theatre, Sulphur Springs, TX 2016-2017.

String of Pearls, Michele Lowe

Get That Boy to Broadway, Dawn Sinclair (World Premier)

August Osage County, Tracy Letts

Studio 1621, Sulphur Springs, TX 2015-2021.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Tennessee Williams

On Golden Pond, Ernest Thompson

A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare

It Ends with Us, Colleen Hoover and Triston P. Pullen (Reading)

A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams

Warehouse 21, Santa Fe, NM 2015.

Almost Adults, Aaron Leventman

N&T Productions, Santa Fe NM 2016.

We Danced (Film), by Triston P. Pullen and Noah Hammons

Greer Carson Theatre Company, Santa Fe, NM 2014-2017.

Red Light Winter, Adam Rapp

The Shape of Things, Neil LaBute

Andre's Mother, Terrance McNally
Lynette at 3 am, Jane Anderson
Freak Show, Devised by Company
I'm Offended, Dawn Sinclair
Almost Adults, Aaron Leventman
The Bacchae, Euripides
Den of Thieves, Stephen Adley Guirgis, assistant director to Jon Jory
The Rivals, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, shadowed Shepard Sobel
Nine, The Musical, Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit, shadowed Alaina Warren Zachary
Something Lost, Something Found, devised by Company, assistant director to Alaina Warren Zachary
I Love You, Your Perfect, Now Change, Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts,
Sondheim on Sondheim, Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, assistant director to Bill Westbrook
Hooters, Ted Tally, assistant director to Robert Benedetti
Dancing on Dry Land, Rachel Robyn (Reading)
It Ends with Us, Collen Hoover and Triston P. Pullen (Reading)

Sulphur Springs Theatre Company, Sulphur Springs, TX 2013-2014.

Broken Mirrors, devised by Company
Addict, Jerome McDonough

INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHER

The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2020-2021

Or, Liz Duffy Adams
The Women of Lockerbie, Deborah Brevoort

SELECTED MOVEMENT COACHING

The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2018-2021

The Three Sisters, Anton Chekov, Director: Triston P. Pullen
Small Mouth Sounds, Bess Wohl, Director: Triston P. Pullen
RED, John Logan, Director: Triston P. Pullen
The Women of Lockerbie, Deborah Brevoort, Director: Triston P. Pullen

Rhodes College, Memphis, TN 2018

Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine, Lynn Nottage, Director: Thomas King

Studio 1621, Sulphur Springs, TX 2016

A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare, Director: Triston P. Pullen

SELECTED COSTUME DESIGN

The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2019

A Baseball Memory, Choreographer: Rachael Allison Arnwine

Brothers and Sisters, Choreographer: Michael Medcalf

Santa Fe University of Art and Design, Santa Fe, NM 2017

Red Light Winter, Adam Rapp, Director: Triston P. Pullen

SELECTED SET DESIGN

Southwest Community College, Memphis, TN 2018

Crumbs from the Table of Joy, Lynn Nottage, Director: Sheila Darras

Main Street Theatre, Sulphur Springs, TX 2016-2017

String of Pearls, Michelle Lowe, Director: Triston P. Pullen

The Wicked Witch of Wonderland and Alice in Zombie Land, Craig Sodaro, Director: Leah Conner

August Osage County, Tracy Letts, Director: Triston P. Pullen

Studio 1621, Sulphur Springs, TX 2015-2017

It Ends with Us, Colleen Hoover and Triston P. Pullen, Director: Triston P. Pullen

A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams, Director: Triston P. Pullen

WRITING/ADAPTATIONS

Frankenstein, an adaptation of Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*

This adaptation of *Frankenstein* tells the story of a woman deciding to bypass the patriarchy in order to create life. The classic tale would become a kind of rebirth through feminist and queer theory lens to show just how powerful the woman is in society and how she can create life and end it instantly. There is power in the perspective in the narrative and the creation.

I Am Human, Too, an adaptation of *Sinbad*.

Loosely based on the life of Abdellah Taïa., *I Am Human, Too* tells the story of a gay man from Morocco trying to save his life, from his oppressive captors, by telling Sinbad's story. During this contemporary retelling of *The Arabian Nights* story, Sinbad, while on the mythic quest to find the hidden truth of life, must come to terms with his identity and sexuality. Sinbad encounters evil jinns, mighty warriors, and harsh terrains. At the end of the play, Abdellah begs for justice and equality and declares that he bleeds red blood, too, that they are all the same. The play asks Middle Eastern countries to reevaluate their views on homosexuality. The play is written in the traditional forms of performance of pre-Islamic Arabia and current Islamic societies.

Songs of Memories, A Whitmanic Queer Discovery

Songs of Memories is a memory play that spans Walt Whitman's life, cradle to grave of Walt Whitman's life. I focus on Whitman's most significant successes and the most challenging failures within his relationships, life, and career. The play uses Whitman's poetry and prose to

examine why Walt Whitman died alone and to ask the question: If you could change your path in life, would you?

Daisies and Rue, an adaptation of *Medea* and *Hamlet*

This adaptation of *Medea* and *Hamlet* is set in modern times and explores motherhood's spiritual nature and how one mother deals with her disabled twins when the "system" actively works against her and her children.

The Three Sisters, an adaptation of Chekov's plays *The Three Sisters* using Suzuki and Brechtian elements.

It Ends with Us, The Play, an adaptation of Colleen Hoover's award-winning novel *It Ends with Us*.

Quilting Bees,

Based on the diaries of women in Hopkins County, Texas, during the Great Depression and how one group of women built a quilt and renewed their faith in God.

SELECTED VOCAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

North East Texas Choral

20 Years, 20 Hits- 20th Anniversary Spring Concert, Director: Carol Allen

Lead Vocalist performing a medley from *Phantom of The Opera*.

Pranzos, Santa Fe, NM 2015.

If Ever I Would Leave You, Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner

Flight, Craig Carnelia

Empty Chairs and Empty Tables, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil

SELECTED ACTING (STAGE) EXPERIENCE

University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2021

Big BANG Glitter Theory, Solo-Performance

Greer Carson Theatre Company, Santa Fe, NM 2015-2017

Sixth Floor, Loryn Haycock, Director: Jon Jory

Grease the Musical, Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, Director: Kathy Morath

Sundown Beach, Bessie Breuer, Director: Amanda Zarr

Exit, In Pursuit of a Bear, Lauren Gunderson, Director: Katharine McLeod

Blue Blaze Springs Show, Sulphur Springs, TX 2012-2021

Shine, Director: Christie McCullough

Jukebox Saturday Night, Director: Christie McCullough

Blazes on Broadway, Director: Christie McCullough
I've Got the Music in Me, Director: Christie McCullough
Lift TV, Director: Christie McCullough
Boots and Bling, Director: Christie McCullough
Car Tunes, Director: Christie McCullough

SELECTED ACTING (FILM) EXPERIENCE

***Bedevil*, Short Film**

Supporting Role, Director: Mikel D. Ledesma

***Shoot the Star*- Music Video**

Supporting Role, Director: Alex Addison

PANELS, SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Walt Whitman Initiative, *Robust American Love Speaker Series*, Episode # 4, 2020

"Songs of Memories: A Conversation About the Creation of a Whitmanic Play and the Queer Life of Walt Whitman." Karen Karbiener interviews me about my process writing *Songs of Memories* and connection to Walt Whitman. I spoke on my research over Whitman's queer life and advocated that Whitman was the first LGBTQIA+ advocate in America. I used undergraduates from the University of Memphis to perform scenes from the *Songs of Memories*.

INTERNSHIPS

Opera Memphis, 2019. I worked with Opera Memphis and served as an assistant director to Benjamin Smith during the production of *H.M.S Pinafore*.

E. Loren Meeker, 2017-2018. I worked with E. Loren Meeker by helping her prepare for her productions by translating operas into English. I translated *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *Lohengrin*, *Candide*, *Turandot*, *Pellias et Melisande*, *Daughter of the Regime*, *La Pietra del Paragone*, and *Rigoletto*.

The New Group, 2016. I worked as part of the stage management team and worked closely with the music team during *Sweet Charity*, starring Sutton Foster.

New York City Arts Program, 2016. I studied under Dana Tarantino to get first-hand experience on how Broadway and Off-Broadway produce productions.