

# PEGGY STAFFORD

## EDUCATION

### **M.F.A. Creative Writing**

Bennington College, Bennington, VT

### **B.A. English**

Seattle University, Seattle, WA

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2017 – present

### **Assistant Professor of Playwriting, Chair of BA Playwriting Program, Purchase College, SUNY**

Responsible for programming, staffing, overseeing, and implementing the undergraduate BA Playwriting and Screenwriting Program at Purchase College. Produce two annual playwriting festivals: New Plays Now and Make It Play. Work with co-chair and Board of Study to administer and deliver the major to over 150 students.

Courses: Introductory Playwriting, Advanced Playwriting, Making New Plays, Plays and Playgoing, Junior Seminar in Playwriting, Senior Project Advisor, Learning Assistant Mentor, Internship Advisor

Fall 2014 – Fall 2016

### **Adjunct Lecturer in Playwriting, Purchase College, SUNY**

Courses: Introductory Playwriting, Advanced Playwriting, Introductory Creative Writing, Senior Project Advisor, Internship Advisor, Learning Assistant Mentor

Fall 2016 – Fall 2017

### **Marymount Manhattan College, Visiting Lecturer, Theatre**

Courses: Introductory Playwriting, Intermediate and Advanced Playwriting

Fall 2016

### **University of Rochester, Visiting Lecturer, Theatre**

Flew from NYC to University of Rochester once a week to teach Introductory Playwriting in UR's International Theatre Program.

Course: Playwriting

Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

### **NYU Tisch/Playwrights Horizon Theatre School, Visiting Lecturer, Theatre**

Course: Playwriting

Fall 2013

### **Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, Visiting Lecturer, Theatre**

Course: Playwriting

2011 – 2013

### **Sense Writing, New York, Writing Instructor**

Course: 12-week writing course exploring fundamentals of autobiography and playwriting.

2005 - 2010

**Fifth Avenue Committee, Brooklyn, NY, Writing Instructor**

Course: Designed and taught playwriting for non-native English speaking students.

1994 – 1998

**Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle, WA, Artist in Residence**

Course: Playwriting workshops in the Seattle Public Schools.

**THEATRE PRODUCTIONS / READINGS / WORKSHOPS**

*Ambulette*

Directed by Meghan Finn, staged reading, RiverArts, NY, 2024

*Behind the Attic Wall*

Directed by Meghan Finn, Powerhouse Theatre at Vassar College, 2023

Directed by Meghan Finn, workshop produced by The Mercury Store, Brooklyn, 2022

Directed by Meghan Finn, staged reading, The Tank Theatre, NYC, 2020

*Everything Is Here*

Directed by Meghan Finn, 2017-18 Vineyard Theatre Staged Reading Series, NYC

Directed by Sanaz Ghajarrahami with Anne Kauffman & Ken Rus Schmoll workshop production by Clubbed Thumb, NYC, 2016

*16 Words or Less*

Directed by Portia Krieger at Clubbed Thumb Summerworks, NYC, 2014

Directed by Jessica Kubzansky, staged reading, Circle X, Los Angeles, 2014

Directed by Davis McCallum, staged reading, Clubbed Thumb, 2014

Directed by Meghan Finn at Playwrights Horizon/Superlab, NYC, 2013

*Jewel Casket*

Directed by Alexandra Aron at Dixon Place PuppetBlok, NYC, 2014

Directed by Alexandra Aron, workshop, New Georges, NYC, 2013

*All In*

Directed by Liz Carlson, Radio Play, Naked Angels, NYC, 2014

*Motel Cherry*

Directed by Meghan Finn at New Georges & Clubbed Thumb Summerworks 2012, NYC

HUFFINGTON POST BEST THEATRE OF 2012

*Wapato*

Directed by Rebecca Patterson at Women's Project, NYC, 2007

Directed by Melissa Kievman at New Georges, NYC, Workshop, 2003

*Three Miracles and a Giant*

Directed by Mike Shapiro at P73 Productions/HERE Arts, NYC, 2004

*Little Miss 1565*

Directed by Lear DeBessonet, staged reading, Soho Rep, NYC, 2004

Directed by Katie Pearl, staged reading, Soho Rep, NYC, 2005

*Eleanor & Hick*

Directed by Darren Katz, musical workshop at MTC Studios, NYC, 2010

*Trunk & Net*

Directed by Mike Shapiro, Bottom's Dream, LA, 2002

Directed by Mike Shapiro, On The Boards, Seattle, 2002

## FILM AND TELEVISION

*16 Words or Less*, Directed by Meghan Finn, Staging Film Production

Official Selection in festivals (2020-22) including: Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival, NYC Indie Theatre Film Festival, Boden International Film Festival (*award for Best First Short Film*), Port Townsend Film Festival, Coney Island Film Festival, Vancouver Independent Film Festival (*finalist Best International Narrative Short*), Rome Independent Prisma Awards, Montreal Independent Film Festival, LA Indies (*award First Time Filmmaker*), Durgapur International Film Festival (*award Best Short Film*), Chicago Indie Film Awards, Cotswold International Film Festival, Austin Indie Fest (*finalist Best Short*), FLICKFAIR Film Festival, Milan Arthouse Film Festival, Berlin Shorts Award (*semi-finalist*), Near Nazareth Festival (*semi-finalist*), Stockholm Short Festival (*semi-finalist*), Brooklyn Women's Film Festival, Waterford International Film Festival, and featured on CUNY TV Presents: NYC Indie Theatre Film Festival

*Monkeying Around*, WGBH/PBS

Writers Room, show development, 2018

*A Problem with Sharks*, Wild Life Pictures

Official Selection in festivals (2000) Seattle International Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival, GenArts, Palm Springs Film Festival

*Noggin*, Nickelodeon, 2000

*D-Tour Series*, Discovery Channel, 2000

## RESIDENCIES / WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

*Solid Foundations, Well Built Stories: A Comprehensive Course in Writing for Television*, Francine Volpe, Liz Garcia & David Matthews, 2021

Revising Workshop, Pelagic School, Karinne Keithley Syers, 2021

"*Imagining with Irene*," a three-day symposium celebrating and elevating the life and legacy of playwright/director/visionary Maria Irene Fornes. *Aesthetics and Inquiry, In the Writers Room*, and *The Last Years*, UCSD, 2020

*Devising Within a Democracy Workshop* with the TEAM's Rachel Chavkin, NYC, 2020

Residency, *Erik Ehn Silent Retreat*, Barksdale, TX, 2017, 2016

Residency, Two River Theatre, NJ, 2015, 2013

Playwright-in-Residence, Juniata College, PA, 2014

Audrey Residency at New Georges, *Jewel Casket*, 2013

Vineyard Theatre Bootcamp, Paula Vogel, 2010

Performance & Playwriting Workshop with Lisa D'Amour, NYC, 2006

Pataphysics Playwriting Workshop with Mac Wellman, NYC, 2004

Pataphysics Playwriting Workshop with Jeffrey M Jones, 2004

Pataphysics Playwriting Workshop with Maria Irene Fornes, 2002

Movement Workshop with Annie B Parsons, NYC, 2002

Playwright-in-Residence, The Playhouse, Derry, Northern Ireland, 2000

## **PUBLICATIONS / SELECTED PRESS**

*“Zoo Story by Edward Albee,”* HOW TO TEACH A PLAY, Editors Kelly Younger (Loyola Marymount University) and Miriam Chirico (Eastern Connecticut State University), Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020

*“Shaping the Room: Christina Anderson and Paula Vogel on Teaching, Theatre, and Making a Life”* Brooklyn Rail, June 2017

*“The Play, Space, and Grace of Antlia Pneumatica”* Brooklyn Rail, April 2016

*Writers in the Sky* by Stuart Miller, American Theatre, March 2016

*Maria Striar Talks with CT Summerworks Playwrights*, HowlRound, May 28, 2014

*“I’ll Never Be My Same Old Self Again,”* Culturebot, June 5, 2014

*“The Ten Year Prelude,”* by Jeffrey M Jones, Culturebot, October 1, 2013,

*Motel Cherry* included in *HUFFINGTON POST BEST THEATRE OF 2012*

*“Can I Hold Your Gerbil Again?”* by Bess Rowan, Huffington Post, June 12, 2012

## **AWARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Fellow at The MacDowell Colony, 2024

Purchase College Faculty Support Award: *Solid Foundations, Well Built Stories: A Comprehensive Course in Writing for Television* with Francine Volpe, Liz Garcia, and David Matthews, 2021

Purchase College Faculty Support Award: Finishing funds for short film, *16 Words or Less*, 2019

Eugene Grant Incentive Merit Award, SUNY Purchase for Listen/Here Project, 2018

Commission, Clubbed Thumb Theatre/Playwrights Horizon Theatre School, *Everything is Here*, 2016

Fellow at The MacDowell Colony, 2016

Kilroys, The List (*nominated*), *16 Words or Less*, 2014, 2015

Finalist Eugene O’Neill Puppet Lab, *Jewel Casket*, 2014

Fellow at The MacDowell Colony, 2012

Commission, Seattle Children's Theatre, *Door in the Wall*, 2010

Commission, Women's Project Theatre, NYC, *Wapato*, 2007

Fellow at The MacDowell Colony, 2007

Commission, Phase 2, Soho Rep, NYC, *Little Miss 1565*, 2004

Finalist O'Neil National Playwrights Conference, *Little Miss 1565*, 2004

Awarded Rain City Project Sweetness Grant, 2002

Awarded Northern Ireland Arts Council Travel Grant, The Playhouse, Derry, Northern Ireland, 2000

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Conceived and produced *Fornés Fest*, a month-long celebration of the life and work of Maria Irene Fornés. The festival included productions of Fornés' plays, playwriting classes utilizing her writing exercises, readings, lectures, and a screening of the documentary in the FMS Screening Series.

Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Communication, 2022

*Teaching & Learning in the Diverse Classroom*, Center for Teaching Innovation, Cornell University, 2022

Moderated post-play discussion with playwright MJ Kaufman and director Sarah Hughes, *A Walrus in the Body of a Crocodile*, 2021

Tenure Review Committee for Assistant Professor of Playwriting, 2021

Created new course "Improv for Writers," 2021

Shared Analysis Review Committee Member, 2020

Research and development of Purchase Writers' House, 2020

Outreach and recruitment of New York State high school students for PSW program, 2020

Judge for Roundpier, a national screenwriting competition for young writers, 2021

Hosted admissions outreach event at LaGuardia Community College, 2021

Partnered with faculty at Corning Community College to develop foundation courses in playwriting for transfer students, 2021

Television Studies Minor development team, 2021

Collaborated with PSW co-chair to create department promotional video during Covid to help with retention of current students and recruitment of new students, 2020

Search Committee for Playwriting and Screenwriting Assistant Professor, 2019

Proposed new Study Abroad Program – *Northern Ireland: Theatre, Peacebuilding, and Finding Common Ground*, scheduled to launch in Summer 2023

Proposed new M.F.A. Playwriting Program with Todd London, 2019  
Hosted Tony-Award Winning Simon Stephens (*A Curious Case of the Dog in the Night Time*) on campus for dialogue with playwriting students, 2019

Hosted playwright Kate Benson on campus to speak with playwriting students about her award-winning play, *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes*, 2018

Accessibility Training Workshop with Rebecca Oling, 2018

Strategized with Faculty Director of Pedagogy about assessment and learning outcomes for “creativity,” 2018

Consulted with Amy Fiske (Program Coordinator Autism Spectrum Disorder) to build strategies for working with Playwriting and Screenwriting students on the spectrum, 2018

Moderated post-play discussion with playwrights Amina Henry (*Bully*) and Basil Kreimendahl (*We’re Gonna Be Okay*), 2018

Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Communications, 2018

Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor of Screenwriting, 2018

Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor of Film, 2018

Created new course with director Katie Pearl exploring techniques for developing narrative and dramatic structures in site-specific spaces, 2018

Developed new course in collaboration with the Music Department for composers and playwrights. Focus placed on the process of artistic collaboration, pairing librettists and composers to create original work, 2018

Proposed Freshman Orientation Cross-Campus Climate Change Conversation, 2018

Worked with Assistant Dean, School of Liberal Studies, on the creation of a new course, “Water,” 2018

Worked with Playwriting and Screenwriting Board of Study to develop and implement new minor requirement for the PSW Major, 2017

Hosted director Katie Pearl on campus for Artist-Citizen Workshop, 2017

Served on panel for *Telling Our Stories: Oral History and Ethnography in Our Communities*, organized by the Transmedia Oral History Project and Casa Purchase, 2017

Judge for the Poetry Out Loud Competition, an outreach event sponsored by Admissions, 2017

## **SERVICE TO THE FIELD / PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Judge, Clubbed Thumb Biennial Playwriting Commission, 2016

Mentor, Clubbed Thumb Emerging Playwrights, 2015 – 18

Panelist, Barnard College, “New Play Development,” 2014

Judge, New Georges Audrey Residency, 2013

Affiliated Artist, Clubbed Thumb Theatre, 2012 - present

Member, Clubbed Thumb Writers Group, 2012 – present

Member, Machiqq (Ladies Auxiliary Playwriting Team), 2010 - 2016

Affiliated Artist, New Georges, 2002 – present

Member, Women's Project Playwrights Lab, NYC, 2006 - 08

Member, Soho Rep's Writer/Director Lab, NYC, 2002 - 03

Member, Annex Theatre Company, Seattle, 1990 - 2000

Dramatists Guild Member, 2012 - present