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Curriculum Vitae
RASHIDA Z. SHAW, PH.D.

Wesleyan University
Theater Department
275 Washington Terrace, Room 111
Middletown, Connecticut 06459
wesleyan.edu/theater

860-685-3716 (office)
860-685-2591 (fax)
rshaw@wesleyan.edu

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

African American & African Diaspora Theatre and Performance, Black Musical Theatre, Theatrical Spectatorship, Ethnography, Cultural Studies, Popular Culture, Critical Race Theory, and Gender and Sexuality Theory

EDUCATION

- 2011 PH.D., Theatre & Drama
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
DISSERTATION: *Theatrical Events and African American Audiences: A Study of Contemporary "Chitlin Circuit" Theatre*
COMMITTEE: Sandra L. Richards (Chair), Margaret Drewal, Gary Alan Fine, Richard Iton
- 2007 M.A., Theatre
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
- 1999 B.A., Sociology, Theater (Acting concentration), Honors
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
THESIS: *Color-Aware Enough to be Color-Blind: A Look at Color-blind Casting from the Perspective of the Black Actor*

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2011-2012 Assistant Professor, Department of Theater
Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
- 2010-2011 Instructor (tenure track), Department of Theater
Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
- 2009-2010 Lecturer, Department of Theatre and Dance
Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa
- 2007-2009 Instructor, Department of Theatre
Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 Forthcoming republication of: "An Isolationist Blacklist? Lillian Gish and the America First Committee," (co-authored with Gary Alan Fine) *Theatre Survey* 47.2 (November 2006): 283-288. In *Sticky Reputations: The*

- Politics of Collective Memory in Midcentury America* by Gary Alan Fine
(February 2012 - Routledge)
- 2009 "Insert [Chitlin Circuit] here: Teaching an *Inclusive* African American Theatre Course," *Theatre Topics*, Special Issue: Teaching African American Theatre, 19.1 (March): 67-76.
- 2008 "Roundtree hill," Theater, *Time Out Chicago*, no. 154 (February 7-13): 119.
- 2007 "Gospel, according to David," Theater, *Time Out Chicago*, no. 111 (April 12-18): 141.
- 2006 "An Isolationist Blacklist? Lillian Gish and the America First Committee," (co-authored with Gary Alan Fine) *Theatre Survey* 47.2 (November): 283-288.
- 2006 "Urban Development," Theater, *Time Out Chicago*, no. 73 (July 20-27): 137.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- 2009-2010 Dissertation Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity at Liberal Arts Colleges Fellowship, Grinnell College, Department of Theatre and Dance
- 2008-2009 Teaching Fellowship, School of Communications, Northwestern University
- 2008 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2007-2008 Fellowship, Department of Theatre, Northwestern University
- 1999 Honors Thesis, Department of Theater, Wesleyan University

JURIED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 "Engaging Black Audiences through the Popular: The Use of Music within Urban Circuit Theatre," Co-created Panel: "The Great Black Way: Explorations into the Past, Present, and Future of Black Musicals," *Music Theatre/Dance* focus group. Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Chicago, IL, August.
- 2011 "Technological and Historical Implications of Urban Circuit DVDs: Memory, Pedagogy, Research," Co-created Panel: "Local Performance/Global Circulation or: How Theatre Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Technology," *Multidisciplinary Focus: (DR) Dramaturgy Program, (TM) Theatre Management, (PSFG) Performance Studies Focus Group*. Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Chicago, IL, August.
- 2008 "Black Popular Culture and White Performances of 'Black' Authenticity in Tyler Perry's 'Chitlin Circuit' Plays," Reading Group: Examining the Trafficking of Fragmentary Blackness – *Black Cultural Traffick: Crossroads in Global Performance and Popular Culture*." American Society for Theatre Research, Boston, MA, November.

- 2007 "Body Snatchers: Black Men Inhabiting the Black Female Body or The New Black Mammy," Co-created Panel: "Identity Performances." *Black Cultural Interventions into Gender and Sexuality Conference*, Department of English, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, March.
- 2006 "The Relationship between Black Communities and Black Art: Creating Community within Chitlin Circuit Theatre," Seminar: "In Our Hands: Black Theatre at the Crossroads." *American Society for Theatre Research*, Chicago, IL, November.
- 2006 "Black Vernacular Movement on the Chitlin Circuit Stage," Black Theatre Association Focus Group: "Theatres with Mass Appeal: Lynching, the Chitlin' Circuit and the Cinema." *Association for Theatre in Higher Education*, Chicago, IL, August.
- 2005 "Black Theatre Emblemized: How *The Star of Ethiopia* self-fashioned Black Theatre & Drama during the New Negro Renaissance," Panel: "Language, Performance and History." *Many Minds, Many Voices: Shaping One Legacy, Ninth Annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference*, Black Graduate Association, Northwestern University, April.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 Panelist, "Black Theatre in Chicago (History)," *'Black Theatre is Black Life': A Series of Roundtable Discussions on Black Theatre and Dance in Chicago*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 25 June.
- 2010 Panelist, "Black Theater Town Hall: The New Black Conversation," *The New Black Fest*, BRIC Arts Media Bklyn, Brooklyn, NY, 17 October.
- 2010 Panelist, "Urban Circuit," August Wilson Center for African American Culture, Pittsburgh, PA, via Skype, 15 March.
- 2010 Panelist, "Exploring Commercial Theater," *Linking Platforms: Theater and Digital Media in the 21st Century*, Black Women Playwright's Group, Skokie, IL, 23 April.
- 2008 Panelist, "The Diversity of Black Audiences," *Black Women Playwright's Group: 1st National Meeting of Women of Color Writing Drama*, Loyola University, Chicago, IL, September.
- 2008 Presenter, "Chitlin Circuit Theatre: Examining the Dimensions of African American Spectatorship," *Winter Graduate Quarter Symposium*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, February.
- 2007 Witness, *Black Performance Theory Conference*, Performance Studies Department, Northwestern University, May.
- 2005 Respondent to Linda Ben-Zvi, "Staging 'the Other Israel' The Documentary Theatre of Nola Chilton," *Considering Calamity: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Innovative Methods of Performance Research*, The Graduate School and Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama Program, Northwestern University, April.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

- 2011-2012 Assistant Professor, *Department of Theater, Wesleyan University*
Undergraduate Courses
THEA 302 "Contemporary Theater: Theories & Aesthetics" (Fall)
THEA 175 / AFAM 177 "August Wilson" (Fall)
- 2010-2011 Instructor, *Department of Theater, Wesleyan University*
Undergraduate Courses
THEA 203 "History of Drama and Theater I" (Fall and Spring)
THEA 280 / AFAM 279 "Script Analysis" (Spring)
THEA 323 / FGSS 332 / AFAM 323 / AMST 299 "Survey of African American Theater" (Fall)
- 2010-2011 Senior Thesis Advisor, *Department of Theater, Wesleyan University*
Student: Ross Shenker
- 2010-2011 Senior Thesis Reader, *Department of Theater, Wesleyan University*
Student: Ben Vigus
- 2009-2010 Lecturer, *Department of Theatre and Dance, Grinnell College*
Undergraduate Courses
"Survey of Black Theatre: Playwrights of the African Diaspora"
- 2007-2009 Instructor, *Department of Theatre, Northwestern University*
Undergraduate Courses
"African American Musicals in Theatre and Film"
"Survey of African American Theatre"
"Gender and Sexuality in Black Theatre"
"Political Drama and Performance in African American Theatre"
- 2005-2006 Teaching Assistant, *Northwestern University*
Undergraduate Courses
"Theatre in Context" (*Department of Theatre, Dr. Mary Poole*)
"Post-Integration Blues" (*African American Studies, Dr. Alexander Weheliye*)
"Law and Society: Crime and Control" (*Department of Sociology, Dr. John Hagan*)
- 1999 Teaching Assistant, *Wesleyan University*
Undergraduate Courses
"Plays for Performance" (*Department of Theater, Dr. Kimberly Holton*)

GUEST LECTURER

- 2010 *Wesleyan University, Department of Theater*
THEA 150: "Plays for Performance" (Dr. Claudia Tatinge Nascimento)
Lecture: Djanet Sears' *Harlem Duet*
- 2008 *Northwestern University, Department of Theatre*
"THEA 366-14: Chicago Theatre" (Dr. Stefka Mihaylova)
Lecture: Chicago Black Theatre Companies and Chitlin Circuit Theatre

- 2006 *Northwestern University, Department of Theatre*
"THEA 244-2: Contemporary American Drama" (Prof. Robin Witt):
Lecture: August Wilson's *Fences*
- 2008 *De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois, Communication and Media*
"CMN 291: Research Methods" (Dr. Hollis Griffin)
Lecture: "Audience Studies and Ethnography"

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2011-2012 Elected position, Member-At-Large, Black Theater Association (BTA)
- 2011 Revised content in Theater Department Handbook, *Wesleyan University*
(Fall semester)
- 2010-2011 Outside of the Box Committee, *Wesleyan University*
- 2010-2011 Cross-curricular planning with English Department regarding cross-
listing opportunities
- 2009, 2007 Coordinator, IPTD's Candidates' Journal Caucus, Interdisciplinary Ph.D.
in Theatre and Drama program, *Northwestern University*
- 2008 Graduate Student Coordinator of Professional Development Workshops,
Critical Studies in Theatre & Performance Cluster, Fall, *Northwestern*
University
- 2007-2009 Mentor for Theatre and Performance Studies Undergraduates, Black
Graduate Student Association Mentor Program, *Northwestern University*
- 2007-2008 Graduate Student Representative (Elected Alternate), Executive
Committee of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama program,
Northwestern University
- 2007-2008 Steering Committee and Head of Respondents Committee, "Theatre:
Crossroads of the Humanities," Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre and
Drama conference, *Northwestern University*
- 2007 Blind Reader for article submission, Fall, *Social Psychology Quarterly*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Black Theatre Association (BTA)
Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)

SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- 2002-2004 Actor, *Shakespeare Ensemble Company, New York City, New York*
- 1999 Actor Training Certificate, *Stanislavsky Summer School, Harvard University,*
Cambridge, MA

- 1995-1999 Actor (multiple productions, including Honors Thesis Acting Project) & Director and Co-creator, *Colorworks* (student run-theatre group), *Wesleyan University*
- 1995 Calparrio Travel Drama Award in Acting, *Good Hope School*, St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
- 1993-1995 Actor (multiple roles), *Solutions Improvisations* St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
- 1992-1995 Actor (multiple productions), *Good Hope School* St. Croix, U.S.V.I.