

Djola Branner

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Playwriting

The New School for Drama, 2006

Master of Arts, Creative Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies

San Francisco State University, 1990

Bachelor of Arts, Psychobiology

University of California at Santa Cruz, 1980

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Universities & Colleges

Hampshire College, Amherst, 07/07 to present

Associate Professor

- designs and teaches theatre courses
- advises undergraduate students
- contributes to programmatic strategies
- participates in college governance & community service

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 01/00 to 06/03

Visiting Assistant Professor

- developed acting curriculum for BA students
- taught beginning and intermediate acting
- advised BA students

Minneapolis College of Art & Design, 09/98 to 12/01

Visiting Assistant Professor

- developed liberal arts curriculum for BFA students
- taught acting and dramatic writing
- advised BFA students

Macalester College, Saint Paul, 03/96 to 12/02

Adjunct Professor

- taught Haitian dance and folklore
- choreographed and directed dances & performances for annual concerts

Stanford University, Menlo Park, 03/94 to 06/94

Visiting Adjunct Professor

- taught traditional Haitian dance and folklore
- taught Dunham technique

City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, 01/91 to 06/93

Adjunct Professor

- taught traditional Haitian dance and folklore
- taught Dunham technique
- choreographed and directed student performances

School of the Arts, San Francisco, 09/89 to 06/94

Adjunct Professor

- taught traditional Haitian dance and folklore
- choreographed and directed student performances

TEACHING EXPERIENCE con't

Academies & Community Organizations

American Musical & Dramatic Academy, NYC, 10/06 to 06/07

Visiting Assistant Professor of Acting

- taught beginning acting and scene study

New Victory Theatre, NYC, 10/06 to 06/07

Teaching Artist

- taught theatre literacy (K–12)

Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, 10/94 to 08/06

Teaching Artist

- taught acting and writing workshops
- directed student performances
- taught writing and acting workshops
- directed student performances

The Loft, Minneapolis, 04/97 to 07/03

Teaching Artist

- mentored young writers of color
- taught dramatic writing to adults

Performing Arts Workshop, San Francisco, 09/90 to 06/93

Teaching Artist

- taught creative process to children (K-6)
- developed and staged personal narratives with youth (ages 14-17)

Institute of Choreography, San Francisco, 06/90 to 6/94

Dance Instructor

- taught traditional Haitian dance and folklore
- taught Dunham technique

Third Wave Dance, San Francisco, 03/87 to 06/90

Dance Instructor

- taught traditional Haitian dance and folklore
- taught Dunham technique

Cadaques Dance Center, Barcelona, Spain, 06/85 to 12/85

Dance Instructor

- taught traditional Haitian dance and folklore
- taught Dunham technique

CONFERENCES

Panels & Performances

Fire & Ink: Witness, Advocacy for GLBT People of African Descent, Detroit, 2015

- Presenter/Workshop: 'Writing/Embodying Autobiography'
- Performer: *sash & trim* – staged reading
- Performer: The Messiah Complex by Nia Witherspoon – staged reading

Festival of Original Theatre (FOOT): Queer(ing) Performance, University of Toronto, 2015

- Presenter/Panel: Verbatim Theatre and Black Queer Narratives
- Performer: Picasso's Black Canvas, by Antonio Cayonne

Fire & Ink: Cotillion, A Writer's Festival for GLBT People of African Descent, Austin, 2009

- Performer: *Delta Dandi* by Sharon Bridgforth – staged reading

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Playwright

sash & trim

Curtain, UMass, Amherst, 2008

cover

Samuel French One-Act Festival, NYC, 2006

oranges & honey

The New School for Drama, NYC, 2005

Queen Nanny, Queen Nanny

In the Heart of the Beast, Minneapolis, 2002

Mighty Real: A Tribute to Sylvester

National Black Theater Festival, Winston-Salem, 2001

Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, 2000

Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, 2000

the house that crack built

Pillsbury House, Minneapolis, 2000

Where I'm At

Southern, Minneapolis, 1998

Forever Hold Your Piece (with Patrick Scully)

Illusion, Minneapolis, 1997

Dance Theater Workshop, NYC, 1996

Sweet Sadie

Dixon Place, NYC, 1997

Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, 1997, 1994

Out North, Anchorage, 1996

Josie's Cabaret, San Francisco, 1994

Actor

River See

by Sharon Bridgforth, Theater Offensive, Boston, 2014

... and Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi

by Marcus Gardley, Curtain, UMass, Amherst, 2009

sash & trim

Curtain, UMass, Amherst, 2008

Fools & Lovers

adapted by Moonwork, Connelly, NYC 2006

con flama

by Sharon Bridgforth, Penumbra, Saint Paul, 2001

Black Nativity

by Langston Hughes, Penumbra, Saint Paul, 2001, 1999

Mighty Real: A Tribute to Sylvester

National Black Theater Festival, Winston-Salem, 2001

Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, 2000

Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, 2000

Angels in America, Part II: Perestroika

by Tony Kushner, Pillsbury House, Minneapolis, 2001

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE con't _____

Actor

The Darker Face of the Earth

by Rita Dove, Guthrie, Minneapolis, 2000

Blues for an Alabama Sky

by Pearl Cleage, Penumbra, Saint Paul, 1999

blood pudding

by Sharon Bridgforth, Frontera@Hyde Park, Austin, 1998

Forever Hold Your Piece (with Patrick Scully)

Illusion, Minneapolis, 1997

Dance Theater Workshop, NYC, 1996

Sweet Sadie

Dixon Place, NYC, 1997

Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, 1997, 1994

Out North, Anchorage, 1996

Josie's Cabaret, San Francisco, 1994

Dark Fruit

selected venues include:

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, 1994

Drill Hall Arts, London, 1994

Lincoln Center, NYC, 1993

Wexner Arts, Columbus, 1993

Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, 1993

ICA, London, 1993

Public Theater, NYC, 1991

Fierce Love: Stories From Black Gay Life

selected venues include:

Lincoln Center, NYC, 1994

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, 1994

Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, 1994

Wexner Arts, Columbus, 1993

ICA, London, 1993

Drill Hall Arts, London, 1992

Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, 1991

Dance Theatre Workshop, NYC, 1991

Actor (film)

"Black Is... Black Ain't", Marlon Riggs, director (1994)

"Anthem", Marlon Riggs, director (1991)

"Normal Deviant Behavior", Adam Chin, director (1990)

"Tongues Untied", Marlon Riggs, director (1989)

Dancer

Drummers & Dancers of Langa, Morris Johnson, director (1994 to 1997)

Flesh & Spirit, Djola Branner, artistic director/choreographer (1989 to 1994)

La Petit Croix, Blanche Brown, director (1985 to 1988)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE con't _____

Director/Choreographer

Seriously... What Did You Call Me?

by Onawumi Jean Moss, Ko Festival, Amherst, 2015

oranges & honey

The New School for Drama, NYC 2005

Making Lemonade

by Patrick Scully, Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, 2003

Journey/Sanctuary

by Cathy Young, Robert Robinson & Mary Easter, Southern, Minneapolis, 2001

The B-Sides

by Bianca Pettis, The Garage, Minneapolis, 1998

The Magic of Laughter

by Danielle Daniel, Fringe Festival, Minneapolis, 1997

Esker

by Tim Herwig, Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, 1997

Dramaturgy

Leaves of Grass/Uncut

by Patrick Scully, Dixon Place, NYC, 2016

Making Lemonade

by Patrick Scully, Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis, 2003

PUBLICATIONS _____

Contributing author

Black Gay Genius (Vintage Entity Press, 2014)

Mighty Real: An Anthology of African-American Same Gender Loving Writing

(Effusses/Sangha Publications, 2010)

Voices Rising (RedBone Press, 2007)

In the Life (Redbone Press, 2007)

The Performer's Guide to the Collaborative Process (Heinemann, 2001)

Monologues for Actors of Color: Men (Routledge, 2000)

Staging Gay Lives (Westview Press, 1996)

Colored Contradictions (Plume, 1996)

ZYZZYVA (Vol. VIII, No. 3, 1992)

Contributing editor

Evergreen Chronicles (quarterly, Minneapolis, 1995-98)

Bay Guardian (weekly, San Francisco, 1991-94)

Collected plays

sash & trim (RedBone Press, 2013)

Collected poems

lyrics of the last born (Magpie Publications, 1996)

GRANTS

Fellowships

Whiting Foundation, Amherst, 2016
Bush Foundation, Saint Paul, 2000
Performance Artist – McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, 1999
Interdisciplinary Artist – Jerome Foundation, Minneapolis, 1998
Playwright – Jerome Foundation, Minneapolis, 1994

Production

Mighty Real: A Tribute to Sylvester

Creative Capital, NYC, 2000
Philanthrofund, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, 2000
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Saint Paul, 1998
Jerome Foundation, Saint Paul, 1998
Forever Hold Your Piece (with Patrick Scully)
Many Voices Collaboration Grant, Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis, 1996

Development

Mighty Real: A Tribute to Sylvester

Faculty Development Grant, Hampshire College, 2008
the house that crack built (with Aaron Barnell)
Diverse Visions Regional Grant, National Endowment for the Arts, 1996

AWARDS

Out on the Edge, Theater Offensive, 2014
Lambda Literary Award (finalist), LGBT Drama, Lambda, *sash & trim and other plays*, 2014
Best Thespian, *Lavender Magazine*, Minneapolis, 2000
Austin Critic's Circle (nominee), Best Actor in a Supporting Role, *blood pudding*, 1998
Bessie Award, Outstanding Performance, Dance Theater Workshop, *Fierce Love*, 1992

ARCHIVES

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Performing Arts Research Collections
Hemispheric Institute Digital Video Library, New York University (coming in 2017)

AFFILIATIONS

Dramatists Guild