

Amber M. Palson (Palmer)

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison WI	2020 – present
Doctoral Candidate Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies	
Areas of Specialization: LGBT Theater, Documentary Theater, Queer Theory, Historiography, Archiving, Visual Cultures, New Play Development, 20 th Century American Alternative Theater.	
Master of Fine Arts, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI	2017 – 2020
Creative Writing Playwriting	
Bachelor of Arts, Youngstown State University, Youngstown OH	2013 – 2016
Majors: Professional and Technical Writing Theater Studies	
Emphasis: Dramaturgy, Playwriting, and Arts Administration.	

AWARDS, GRANTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artistic/Playwriting:

Princess Grace Award in Playwriting (Finalist)	July 2021
The Kennedy Center Gary Garrison Ten Minute Play Award (National Winner)	Mar 2021
The Kennedy Center John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play (National Finalist)	Mar 2021
The Kilroys 2020 List	2020
City Theatre's National Award for Short Playwriting (Finalist)	Sep 2020
The Playwright's Realm Scratchpad Series (Semifinalist)	Sep 2020
Gwen Frostic Creative Writing Award (playwriting)	March 2020
Sandbox Play Festival Winner (Second Place)	Oct 2019
City Theatre's National Award for Short Playwriting (Finalist)	June 2019
Gary Garrison Ten Minute Play (Regional Finalist)	Jan 2018
Tessier Women's and Gender Writing Contest (First Place)	Mar 2016

Academic:

Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies Dissertation Write Up Award	April 2024
Skloot Travel Grant	June 2022
UW Madison's GLBT Alumni Council Scholarship	June 2021
Department-Level Graduate Research and Creative Scholarship Award	Apr 2020
All University Teaching Effectiveness Award	Apr 2019
Leslie H Cochran University Scholar (Full Ride Scholarship)	Aug 2013 – Dec 2016
Nexus Grant Award	Oct 2015
○ Awarded \$750.00 to complete documentary on the new play development process of <i>Tribunal</i> by Mark Milo Kessler. This was partnered with the Youngstown Jewish Community Center for its premiere.	

PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES AND RESEARCH

Guest Lectures and Invited Talks

- Playwriting By Playing | Invited Talk | Lesbians WriteOn | 2024
- Discussion of *In Search of The Mothman* | Invited Artist | Psychological Themes in the Performing Arts | University of Michigan—Ann Arbor | 2024
- Playwriting Panel Discussion* | Invited Panelist | Introduction to Theater | Edgewood College | 2024
- Angels in America and The AIDS Crisis* | Guest Lecture | *Angels in America: Perestroika* | University of Wisconsin Madison | 2024
- Andy Warhol and Hyperreality* | Invited Classroom Lecture | Western Art and Culture II | University of Wisconsin Madison | 2023 & 2024
- Coming Out! Documentary Theater in Early Gay Liberation* | Invited Classroom Lecture | Adaptation and Docudrama | Western Michigan University | 2023
- Discussion of *It's a Small World (or The Robot Play)* | Invited Artist | Contemporary Theatre | Carthage College | 2021
- Queerness in Theatre* | A Day of ACTION service event | Carthage College, Kenosha WI | 2020

Paper Presentations

- Outing Jonathan Ned Katz's "Coming Out!"* | Theatre History Symposium | Mid-America Theatre Conference | 2024
- "A Special History of Isolation and Obstruction" *American Lesbian Theater Then and Now* | Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Conference | 2024
- Activism and Aging: It's All The Rage* | Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Conference | 2024
- The Haunting of Ana Caro* | UW Madison Graduate Early Modern Student Society Symposium | 2022
- "A Great Artist Can Come From Anywhere": *Digital Liveness Through Community Creation in Ratatouille The TikTok Musical* | What Did We Learn From 2020? Panel | ASAP | 2021
- "Sometimes I am Not Me, Sometimes I am No One": *Liminality, Temporality and Digital Doubles in Teatro Línea de Sombra's Amarillo* | Religion and Theatre Focus Group Emerging Scholars Panel | ATHE | 2021

Research Teams

- Activism and Aging: The Raging Grannies of Madison and Dane County Archive | Active since 2022

Workshops

- Introduction to Playwriting Workshop* | Youngstown State University | 2024
- Writing Back to the Canon* | KCACTF Region 3 | Virtual | 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Getting Attached

- Ten Minute Play | *WE/US: 25 Ten-Minute Plays for the Gender Minority* | Smith and Kraus | 2024
- Monologue from ***Eddie Loves Debbie***
- Monologue | *We/Us: Monologues for The Gender Minority* | Smith and Kraus | 2022
- Monologue from ***Theresa's Breasts***
- Monologue | *We/Us: Monologues for The Gender Minority* | Smith and Kraus | 2022
- Monologue from ***The Speedy Gonzales Memorial Turtle Sanctuary***
- Monologue | *Best Women's Monologues of 2021* | Smith and Kraus | 2021

Obituary of the Female Artist

Flash Fiction | Jenny Magazine | Issue 17 2019

Monologue from ***It's a Small World (or The Robot Play)***

Monologue | Best Men's Monologues of 2019 | Smith and Kraus 2018

Oasis

Short Story | Jenny Magazine | Issue 10 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (UNIVERSITY)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

ENGL 410 (Creative Writing: Playwriting Workshop) Substitute Lecturer Spring 2024

As the replacement lecturer for this course, I stepped in after the original instructor took an unexpected leave. In this position, I reorganized the remaining course materials, communicated with students, ran workshop, taught playwriting methods and forms, created assignments, graded materials, and held one-on-one meetings with students. All work completed during this position was to facilitate a smooth transition between instructors and maintain a high standard of content competency from students.

ILS 204 (Western Culture: Literature and Arts II) Comm B Teaching Assistant Spring 2022, 2023, & 2024

As a teaching assistant to Dr. Mike Vanden Heuvel (2022 & 2024) and Dr. Karen Britland (2023), duties include lesson planning and leading discussion groups, grading assignments, meeting with students in office hours, and conforming methods to facilitate a cohesive vision of the class between sections. Along with the traditional TA duties, a major component of this position was adhering to the Comm B requirements and providing support in student writing development through extra materials concerning composition and the writing process, one-on-one conferences with students to set writing goals, and support in presentation skills.

ILS 200 (Critical Thinking & Expression) Teaching Assistant Fall 2022, 2023, 2024

As a teaching assistant Phillip Pinell (2022) and George Carlo Clark (2023), duties include lesson planning and leading discussion groups, grading speeches and papers, meeting with students in office hours, and conforming methods to facilitate a cohesive vision of the class between the other teaching assistants.

ILS 203 (Western Culture: Literature and Arts I) Teaching Assistant Fall 2021

As a teaching assistant to Dr. William Aylward, duties include lesson planning and leading discussion groups, grading exams, meeting with students in office hours, and conforming methods to facilitate a cohesive vision of the class between the other teaching assistants and Dr. Aylward.

THEA/ENGL 120 (Introduction to Theatre and Dramatic Literature) Teaching Assistant Fall 2020-Spring 2021

As a teaching assistant to Dr. Mary Trotter, duties include lesson planning and leading discussion groups online, grading assignments, meeting with students in office hours, and conforming methods to facilitate a cohesive vision of the class between the other teaching assistants and Dr. Trotter.

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

ENGL 3680 (Introduction to Playwriting) Instructor Spring 2019

Instructed an introductory playwriting course. Duties included creating a syllabus, lesson planning, instructing the course, leading workshop, grading all assignments, conferences with students about their progress as playwrights and general classroom management. The course covered introductory elements of playwriting through discussions about plays, performances, the new play development process, and supplementary

readings. Students' work would be discussed in a workshop setting and final portfolios would reflect the revision process.

ENGL 1050 (First Year Writing) Instructor

Fall 2017-Fall 2018, Fall 2019

Instructed ENGL 1050 (Thought and Writing). Duties included creating syllabus and lesson plans, instructing the course, grading all assignments, and general classroom management. The course covered elements of rhetoric through four projects: a personal narrative, a persuasive essay, a research analysis, and an out-of-genre writing project. Students would also participate in peer review, in class writings, discussions of readings, and conferences about their progress.

New Play Project Graduate Teaching Assistant

Summer 2018

Aided Dr. Steve Feffer in the instruction and management of the New Play Project course. Duties included leading workshop discussions, running social media for live performances, and general organization of the course and the Activate Midwest New Play Festival.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (K-12)

Badger Precollege

Write On! Words Have Power! Writing for Social Justice Curriculum Designer and Instructor

Summer 2024

As the Curriculum Designer and Instructor, duties include creating curriculum to address the course theme and general rhetoric and composition skills, lesson planning, acting as the primary instructor and leading the teaching assistant.

Middleton Parks and Recreation, Middleton, WI

Middleton Rising Stars Program Director

Summer 2023, Summer 2024

Served as program director and primary instructor for the new Rising Stars summer theater program for grades 1-2 and 3-4. Duties included creating the program curriculum, lesson planning, collaborating with the teaching assistant and classroom management. The program culminated in two original performances created by the students, from concept to final product. I acted as a script manager, director, and costume/puppetry technician in this process.

Prairie Music and Arts, Sun Prairie, WI

Middle School Drama Instructor

Jan 2021-August 2021

As instructor of record, duties include lesson planning, course instruction, classroom management, and technology management. Class topics included fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, playwriting, acting, design and technology, and directing.

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP) English Instructor

Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Instructed an accelerated Honors 9 and 10 English course for middle school and high school students. Duties included creating the syllabus, lesson plans, instructing the course, grading all assignments, classroom management, and communication with parents throughout the year. The course covered literature, composition, Shakespeare, creative writing, grammar and soft skills (time management, organization, etc).

Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP) Choose Your Own Adventure Camp Instructor Summer 2019

Created and instructed a week long creative writing camp exploring the Choose Your Own Adventure genre for middle school students. Created writing exercises and activities, provided lecture materials, facilitated a collaborative classroom environment, instructed and led workshop with inexperienced writers and provided feedback.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

StageQ, Madison WI

Board Member

July 2020 – April 2023

Collaborated with other board members to implement the mission of StageQ. Contributed to conversations about upcoming productions, new play development, and educational initiatives. Served as a member of the Artistic Committee and Co-Chair of the CapitalQ Play Festival Committee.

Literary Manager

June 2022 – April 2023

Managed all of StageQ's new play development initiatives, including the artistic components of the CapitalQ Theatre Festival. Educates members of the StageQ community on new play development, Dramatist Guild standards, and contemporary playwriting trends.

Middleton Parks and Recreation, Middleton WI

Office Assistant

Summer 2021, Summer 2022

Worked primarily with the Office Manager to manage the day-to-day logistics of the Parks and Recreation department. Duties included addressing individual citizen concerns, scheduling and booking reservations for Parks and Recreation sports, recreation activities and facilities, writing and editing public facing documents, aiding in social media and website management, and assisting the Office Manager with any additional tasks. This position required a high level of customer service, collaboration, and organization skills.

The Kalamazoo Short Play Reading Series, Kalamazoo MI (Online)

Founder

June 2020

Created and implemented the idea for a three-week short play reading series. Reached out to playwrights, directors, and actors, who volunteered their time and talent to draw attention to a charity of their choosing. Created all marketing materials and spearheaded social media management. Ran all tech rehearsals and video streaming technologies for the performances. Coordinated schedules and communication between directors, actors and playwrights all online.

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI

Assistant Graduate Coordinator of Creative Writing

Aug 2019-April 2020

Worked alongside creative writing faculty and the WMU English Department to facilitate visiting artists for the Gwen Frostic Creative Writing Readers Series. Served as a liaison between the department and visiting artists, organized and coordinated all logistics of the readings, managed WMU Creative Writing's social media pages, coordinated the annual Frostic Creative Writing Awards, coordinated the annual Frostic Travel Grant, and created marketing materials for events in the department.

Bristol Valley Theater, Naples NY

Arts Administration Intern

June – Aug 2016

Worked with Artistic Director and Associate Artistic Director in advertising, marketing, and general management of the theater. Worked closely on the New Works Initiative.

PLAY PRODUCTIONS

Full Length

In Search of The Mothman

Theatre Nova, Ann Arbor Michigan (Professional) Oct 2024

It's a Small World (or The Robot Play)

Youngstown State University, Youngstown Ohio (University) Feb 2024

Bristol Valley Theatre, Naples New York (Professional) Aug 2022

Short Plays

Baby Dyke Whisperer

The Q Collective Coming Out Play Festival, St Louis Missouri Oct 2019

I Love a Place I've Never Been

Within These Walls: Stories of Home, Forward Theater Co., Madison Wisconsin June 2021

Theresa's Breasts

CapitalQ Theatre Festival, StageQ, Madison Wisconsin June 2022

The Speedy Gonzales Memorial Turtle Sanctuary

Theatre Roulette, MadLab Theatre, Columbus Ohio Dec 2021

Sandbox New Work Festival, Tipping Point Theatre, Northville Michigan Oct 2019

PLAY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND READINGS

Full Lengths

In Search of The Mothman

American Stage's 21st Century Voices, Virtual Jan 2021

It's a Small World (or The Robot Play)

Bristol Valley Theatre New Play Initiative, Naples New York July 2019

Pegasus Playlab, Orlando Florida June 2019

Flint Repertory Theatre New Play Festival, Flint Michigan Jan 2019

Activate New Play Festival, Kalamazoo Michigan June 2018

It's All About Me, Not You

Queer Theatre Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Michigan April 2020

*Cancelled due to Covid-19

Lacking Experience (formerly known as Voodoo Child)

The Mitten Lab, Interlochen Performing Arts & Parallel 45, Traverse City Michigan (Excerpt) Sep 2019

Activate Midwest New Play Festival, Kalamazoo Michigan June 2019

One Act Plays

Miss Julie

Allegheny College, Allegheny Pennsylvania Sep 2022

Theatre Kalamazoo New Play Festival, Kalamazoo Michigan Feb 2020

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 3 Jan 2020

Theresa's Breasts

The Kennedy Center American College Theater National Festival	May 2021
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, Region 3	Jan 2021
Women's Theatre Festival Occupy The Stage, Online	Nov 2020

Ten Minute Plays

Baby Dyke Whisperer

Forge Theater Pride Pieces	Oct 2021
City Reads National Award Virtual Reading (online)	Dec 2020
Theatre Kalamazoo New Play Festival	Feb 2019

Bev Playing Bev in the Money Shot

The Kennedy Center American College Theater National Festival	May 2021
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, Region 3	Jan 2021
Kalamazoo Short Play Reading Series (concert reading)	June 2020

I Love a Place I've Never Been

Gateways Reading Series, Otherworld Theatre Company, Chicago Illinois	May 2019
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The Speedy Gonzales Memorial Turtle Sanctuary

City Theatre She Shorts Reading, Fort Lauderdale Florida	Sep 2019
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 3	Jan 2018

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Script Writing

Oak Hill Collaborative, Youngstown OH

Freelance Script Writer Sep 2020

Wrote and edited scripted sections of Raspberry Pi, After School online, a computer science educational video series that teaches kids about computer science and programming. Worked with computer scientists to take notes and ideas about each week and turn those ideas into scripts for Elementary and Middle School age students.

Consulting

Western Michigan University Department of English, Kalamazoo MI

Marketing Consultant Sep – Dec 2019

Worked with the English department graduates studies faculty to create marking materials for student enrollment and engagement.

Western Michigan University Writing Center, Kalamazoo MI

Consultant Jan 2018 – June 2018

Worked with students at WMU to sharpen writing skills within the context of specific assignments. Aided in all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to final drafts.

Copy Editing

The Jambar Newspaper, Youngstown, OH

Senior Copy Editor Fall 2016

Led copy editing section in editing articles for grammar and Associated Press style, as well as trained other copy editors.

Copy Editor Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Led the copy editing section in editing articles for grammar and Associated Press style and trained Assistant Copy Editors.

Assistant Copy Editor Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Assisted the Copy Editor and trained in AP style.

Literary Magazines

Third Coast Magazine, Kalamazoo MI

Drama Editor Aug 2018 - 2020

Read and made final selections for the *Third Coast* publication.

Playwriting Reader Jan-Mar 2018

Read and helped with the selection process for the *Third Coast* publication.

Jenny Magazine, Youngstown, OH

Playwriting Intern Jan-May 2016

Led the Issue 10 ten minute play contest, along with a playwriting workshop and other Jenny Magazine duties.

Organized the staged reading of *Confessions Air* at the Jenny Magazine premiere party. Created the Drama section of Jenny Magazine.

Section Reader for Nonfiction Aug-Dec 2015

Section Reader for Poetry Jan 2014-Dec 2015

Judge, Reader and Selection Committees

Gwen Frostic Playwriting Award Judge (Undergraduate and Graduate) 2023

CapitalQ New Play Festival Reading Committee Leader 2022, 2023

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Reader 2021, 2023

Bay Area Play Festival National Committee Reader 2021, 2022

Activate Midwest Reader 2019

RESIDENCIES

The Mitten Lab

Bear Lake MI Sept 2019

Given space, time and dramaturgical resources to generate new work and further develop existing work.

Partnered with Interlochen Arts Academy and Parallel 45 Theatre company for a excerpt reading at the end of the week.

Queer Theatre Kalamazoo 2019-2020

Kalamazoo MI

Given resources and a performance space to develop a new play, culminating in a reading at the end of the residency. Acted as part of the literary management team in selecting short plays for their new works festival and selecting their 2020-2021 season.

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Directing (Staged Readings)

The Kalamazoo Short Play Reading Series (Online) June 2020

Panties by Abigail Goodhart, *It Wasn't So Bad* by Nicole L.V. Mullis, *Cultus* by Avery Kostrzewa, *Bev Playing Bev* in "The Money Shot" by Amber Palmer, *Water Body* by Will Brighton, *Auditory Addiction* by Olivia Trappen, *Timeless* by Annie Kustasz.

The Gwen Frostic Reading Series

The Malignant Ampersands by Brett Neveu (excerpt) Dec 2019

Directing (Productions)

Youngstown State University, Youngstown OH Dec 2016

This Flight Tonight by Wendy MacLeod

Dramaturgy

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches July 2024

Puppetry

Poland Library Puppetry Camp, Poland OH

Puppetry Assistant/Volunteer July 2015

Assisted in the puppet construction and general running of a local puppetry camp.

Youngstown State University, Youngstown OH

Puppeteer in YSU Puppetry Showcase. May 2015

MEMBERSHIP

The Dramatist Guild

Associate Member Spring 2018 – Present

Theater and Drama Graduate Student Organization

Vice President Fall 2023 – Present

Member Fall 2020 – Present

New Play Exchange

Playwright Summer 2016 – Present

YSU Scholars and Honors Program/Honors College

University Scholar Fall 2013 – Fall 2016