

Christen Mandracchia

Curriculum Vitae

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

2022

EDUCATION

- 2021** **University of Maryland, College Park**
PhD. in Theatre and Performance Studies
Dissertation: “Transforming the Beast: The Theatre Laboratories of the Disney Renaissance, 1984-1994”
Advisor: Dr. Franklin J. Hildy
- 2015** **Villanova University**
M.A. in Theatre
Thesis in Directing: “Directing *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*: Revealing Erased Otherness in Catholic Tradition”
Advisor: Dr. James Christy
- 2010** **Ursinus College**
B.A. in Theatre
Minor in History

CERTIFICATES

- 2021** **London School of Journalism**
Certificate in Writing a Personal History

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Article

- 2020** Mandracchia, Christen. “Don’t Feed the Plants!’: Monstrous Normativity and Disidentification in *Little Shop of Horrors*.” *Studies in Musical Theatre*. Volume 13, Issue 3, 2020.

Book Chapter

- 2019** Mandracchia, Christen. “It’s Good to Be Bad: Resistance, Rebellion, and Disney Villain Merchandise” in *Performance and the Disney Theme Park Experience*, ed. Jennifer Kokai and Tom Robson. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan. 2019.

Review

- 2023** Mandracchia, Christen. “The Sea Lad by Neith Boyce Directed by Alex Roe Metropolitan Playhouse New York, NY Live Streamed Virtually.” *The Eugene O’Neill Review*. New York, 2023.

Developmental Editor

- 2023** Danzig, Peter Andrew. *Don't Toy with Me: A Geek's Road to Acceptance, Calm, and Expression*. Leyline Publishing. 2023.
- 2021** McClain, Oronde. *PTSD Won't Define Me*. Amazon.com. 2021.

Articles in Process

“More than a Props List: Redefining Material Culture as Survival and Pleasure in Lynn Nottage’s *Ruined*”

“‘A Curiosity Indeed:’ Ira Aldridge, *The Black Doctor*, and the Black Body as Imperialist Battleground”

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

United Academics of Philadelphia
American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Biographers International Organization (BIO)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022** “‘Servant of the People’: Volodymyr Zelensky’s Wartime Communications as Theatre,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR). Working Group: “On the Brink: The Recurrent Risk of Catastrophe in Central Eastern Europe and Eurasia.” New Orleans, LA. November 2022.
- 2022** “Anyone Can Direct: The Broadway Jr. Phenomenon,” Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium (PTRS). Panel: “Alumni Roundtable,” Villanova, PA. May 2022.
- 2021** “Visions Fantastic: The Evolution of the Disney Theme Park Stage Show,” Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium (PTRS). Panel: “Theatrical Encounters: Performance, Space, and Sustainability,” Villanova, PA. May 2021.
- 2019** “‘The Triumph of Isabella:’ Digital Immersion into a Renaissance Mass-Spectacle,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR). Working Group: “Not a Pollyanna View”: Performance, Tourism, and Publics. Arlington, VA. November 2019.
- 2019** “‘Don’t Feed the Plants!’: Monstrous Normativity and Disidentification in *Little Shop of Horrors*” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). Bruce Kirle Panel. Orlando, FL. August 2019.

- 2019** “Animating the History of Theatre: An Exhibit & and Immersive Experience Exploring Performance through Art” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). Theatre History Focus Group Roundtable. Orlando, FL. 2019
- 2019** “The Triumph of Isabella – Virtual Reunification, Immersive Experience, and Augmented Reality in the Exploration of Performance through Art Past.” Digitizing the Stage, Session 7: Virtual Theatres: 3D Modelling and Virtual Reality. Oxford University, UK. July 2019.
- 2019** Panel Discussion: “Gender and Sexuality in Disney Musicals” DePaul Popular Culture Conference. Disney Theatrical Panel Roundtable. Chicago IL. May 2019.
- 2016** “A Beauty but a Funny Girl: a Queer Investigation of the Broadwayfication of Disney” Song Stage and Screen. Music in Gotham, The City College, City University of New York, 2016
- 2015** “A Beauty but a Funny Girl: a Queer Investigation of the Broadwayfication of Disney”, Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium, Villanova University, 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor

University of Maryland

Introduction to Theatre. Spring 2022.

Business of the Business. Spring, 2021.

Texts and Contexts. Fall, 2020.

University of the Arts

Theatre History I. Fall 2022. Fall 2021. Fall 2020.

Theatre History II. Spring 2022. Spring 2021.

Penn State, Abington

American Pop Culture and Performance. Spring 2017. Fall 2016.

Developing an Aesthetic. Spring 2017.

Theatre Production and Design. Spring 2016.

Delaware County Community College

Production and Design. Spring 2017. Fall 2016. Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant

University of Maryland

Broadway Mashup: Remixing America. Spring, 2020.

Theatre about Show Business. Fall, 2019.

Theatre Architecture from the Minoans to the Baroque Period. Spring, 2019.

Business of the Business. Fall, 2019. Fall, 2018.

Introduction to Theatre and Performance Studies. Spring 2018. Fall 2017.

Invited Guest Talk

Villanova University

“‘She Simply Seduced a Country’: *Evita* and Political Women”. Spring 2020. Spring 2016.
“Monsters in Musicals”. Fall 2019.

Kent State University

“Writing Critical Essays on Popular Culture”. Spring 2018.

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Assistant

University of Maryland

Manager for the International Program for Creative Collaboration and Research (IPCCR). 2018-2019.
IPCCR Technology Sub-Committee member
IPCCR Study Abroad Sub-Committee member
Recruitment Strategy and Planning. 2020-2021.

Villanova University

Graduate Set Assistant. 2014-2015.

Production

Penn State Abington

Production Manager. 2016-2017.
Resident Lighting Designer. 2016-2017.

Delaware County Community College

Technical Director. 2016-2017.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Villanova University

Alumni Representative for Theatre Department DEI Committee 2021-Present
Alumni Coordinator of Theatre Department Anti-Racism Coalition 2020-Present

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EMPLOYMENT

2019 “Triumph of Isabella” Immersive Experience at the 2019 V&A Performance Festival
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Sound Designer, Gallery Lectures

2019 “Triumph of Isabella” Immersive Experience at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre
Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, London, UK
Sound Designer

2018 Young Playwrights Theatre
Washington DC
Dramaturg

2016 Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival
Philadelphia, PA
Company Manager

SECONDARY EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

Production

Firebird Theatre

Production Manager, Assistant Director, Scenic Designer, Stagecraft Instructor. 2022
Stagecraft Instructor. 2014-2016
Technical Director. 2016

Harriton High School

Technical Director, Stagecraft Instructor. 2015-2017

Archbishop Carrol High School

Technical Director. Fall, 2015

Pope John Paul II High School

Production Manager. 2013-2014
Technical Director, Stagecraft Instructor, Resident Lighting Designer 2010-2014

AWARDS

2020 Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, University of Maryland

2017 NYMF Award: *Dorian Gray the Musical*, "Best of Fest"

2015 Sally Curley Award for Service to the Villanova University Theatre Department

2009 KACTF Certificate of Achievement in Ensemble Performance for *Jekyll and Hyde*

2007 KACTF Irene Ryan Nomination for performance as Ishtar in *Gilgamesh*

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2021 University of Maryland Fall Covid Fellowship, \$9000.00

2021 University of Maryland Summer Covid Fellowship, \$5000.00

2020 International Program for Creative Collaboration and Research, \$400.00

2019 International Program for Creative Collaboration and Research, \$2700.00
 2017 University of Maryland Dean's Scholarship, \$5,000.00
 2008, 2009, 2010 John B. Lynch Foundation Grant, \$2000.00.

COMMUNITY WORK AND ACTIVISM

2021-Present **Founder, True Storytelling and Communications Coach**
Golden Saga LLC, Public Relations
Clients: The McClain Foundation, The Lenny Martelli Foundation, Snow Cone Records, Penn Solutions, The Good Light Theatre, scholars, activists, and others whose lived experience can make a difference.

2021 **Public Relations Strategist (Volunteer)**
DC Paws Animal Rescue

2021 **Fundraising Strategist (Volunteer)**
Amelia Air Animal Rescue
 Amount Raised: \$32000.00

2020 **Website Design and Fundraising Strategist (Volunteer)**
COVID-19 relief nonprofit The Life Treasures Foundation
 Amount raised: \$6000.00

2015 **Theatre Instructor at St. Gabriel's System**
The Mitchell Program for Juvenile Inmates

PROFESSIONAL and UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Indicates Multiple roles

* Lighting Design ** Scenic Design *** Sound Design **** Projections Design

Directing

2020	<i>Distilled*</i>	Off-Off Broadway, The Secret Theatre
2019	<i>I've Been a Woman</i>	University of Maryland, Second Season
2017	<i>Dorian Gray the Musical* **</i>	Off Broadway, The Acorn Theatre
2016	<i>Venus in Fur* **</i>	The Center Theatre
2015	<i>Gypsy* **</i>	King of Prussia Players
2015	<i>The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* **</i>	Villanova University, (Thesis)

Assistant Directing

2013	<i>The Wizard of Oz* *** ****</i>	King of Prussia Players
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Production Dramaturgy

2020	<i>Noises Off</i>	University of Maryland
2019	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Steel River Playhouse
2018	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	University of Maryland

Stage Management

2016	<i>I Will Speak for Myself*</i>	Off-Broadway, 59 E 59 Street Theatre
2015	<i>Altar Call***</i>	Random Acts of Theatre
2015	<i>Other Tongues</i>	Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival
2014	<i>School for Lies</i>	Villanova Theater Company

Assistant Stage Management

2013	<i>Red Herring</i>	Villanova Theater Company
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Technical Direction

2019	<i>Triumph of Horus***</i>	University of Maryland, Second Season
2017	<i>Urinetown</i>	Delaware County Community College
2017	<i>The Diversity Skit* **</i>	Penn State Abington
2016	<i>Middletown**</i>	Delaware County Community College
2016	<i>Metamorphoses*</i>	Penn State Abington
2016	<i>Hands on a Hardbody**</i>	Delaware County Community College
2014	<i>Daddy Issues*</i>	Villanova Thesis Project by Seth Martin

Lighting Design

2019	<i>Clown Sex Ed</i>	Tribe of Fools
2019	<i>Twelve Angry Jurors</i>	Vagabond Theatre
2016	<i>Bedlam: Shakespeare in Rehab</i>	Manayunk Theatre Co., Philly Fringe 2016
2015	<i>ALT/MODE</i>	Central Park Summer Stage Concert Series
2014	<i>Recalculating</i>	Villanova Thesis Project by Lauren Fanslau
2014	<i>The Music Man</i>	Steel River Playhouse
2014	<i>Women's Voices</i>	Penn State Abington
2013	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Penn State Abington
2012	<i>A Chorus Line</i>	King of Prussia Players
2012	<i>The Pajama Game</i>	King of Prussia Players
2012	<i>Day for a Dream</i>	Call Me Crazy Dancers, Philly Fringe 2012
2012	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	King of Prussia Players
2012	<i>Nobody But Somebody***</i>	Riant Theater, Strawberry One Act Festival
2011	<i>Meat Man</i>	Reel 9, Philly Fringe 2011

Set Design

2019	<i>Of Government</i>	University of Pennsylvania
2018	<i>The Newsies ****</i>	Steel River Playhouse

Sound Design

2019	<i>HAPA</i>	University of Maryland, Second Season
2008	<i>Sexual Perversity in Chicago</i>	Ursinus College

SECONDARY EDUCATION PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Indicates Multiple roles

* Lighting Design ** Scenic Design *** Sound Design **** Projections Design

Technical Direction

2017	<i>Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown**</i>	Harriton High School
2016	<i>Museum**</i>	Harriton High School
2016	<i>Music Man Jr.* **</i>	Firebird Theatre
2016	<i>Xanadu Jr.* **</i>	Firebird Theatre
2016	<i>Seussical the Musical</i>	Firebird Theatre
2016	<i>Sleeping Beauty, Kids* **</i>	Firebird Theatre
2016	<i>How to Succeed in Business Without Trying**</i>	Harriton High School
2015	<i>Working: The Musical**</i>	Harriton High School
2015	<i>Annie**</i>	Archbishop Carrol High School
2014	<i>West Side Story*</i>	Pope John Paul II High School

Director/Assistant Director

2022	<i>Legally Blonde the Musical**</i>	Firebird Theatre
2013	<i>How the West was Done*</i>	Pope John Paul II High School

Assistant Technical Direction

2013	<i>Beauty and the Beast*</i>	Pope John Paul II High School
2012	<i>Anything Goes*</i>	Pope John Paul II High School
2011	<i>Les Miserables*</i>	Pope John Paul II High School

Lighting Design

2022	<i>SpongeBob the Musical</i>	Wolf Performing Arts Center
2015	<i>Peter Pan Jr.</i>	Firebird Theatre
2015	<i>Alice in Wonderland Jr.</i>	Firebird Theatre
2014	<i>Shrek the Musical</i>	Firebird Theatre
2014	<i>Beauty and the Beast Jr.</i>	Firebird Theatre
2012	<i>Footloose</i>	Notre Dame High School

Design portfolio for professional and educational productions available upon request. For pictures and video of selected credits see <https://www.christenmandracchia.com/>

References

Franklin J. Hildy
University of Maryland
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Valerie M. Joyce
Villanova University
valerie.joyce@villanova.edu
(610) 519-7174

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University of the Arts
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