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MAPW Alumni Profile: Patricia Henritze

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Patricia Henritze



I graduated from the MAPW program: 2009

My program concentration and support area were: I had a split major in Creative Writing and Comp Rhet.

Some of the great stories from the MAPW are: At the same time I was in the MAPW, I was also teaching in the Theater program at Kennesaw. I'd tell my pals from the MAPW to peek in and wave during class, because I was teaching in the big lecture hall in the English building. I'd have all 105 students wave back at my friends (and shout their names) during lectures, just to lighten things up.

I would advice current and/or prospective MAPW students: I used the MAPW program to the fullest and tried to publish or submit nearly everything I wrote in classes. My memoir piece and capstone from Linda Niemann's class received honorable mention from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and later won an Orlando Prize from A Room of Her Own Foundation. I was also a Poetry finalist in Agnes Scott's Georgia Writers Festival, which I heard about through the listserv, and I wrote articles for a magazine where an MAPW classmate worked. I think that if you're going to spend time writing, you might as well try to do it well. Even if it's an ordinary assignment it can spark something that becomes part of your body of work.

Since I graduated from the MAPW: I have been teaching at a number of universities – Oglethorpe, West Georgia, Clayton State. I have an MFA Theater from Sarah Lawrence College, so I was already qualified to teach theater on the university level, but with my MAPW I've become more interdisciplinary. For example, one semester at Oglethorpe I taught writing in both the Theater and Art departments. I might not have been qualified to do that without my MAPW degree. In fact, I often teach in two different departments. At Clayton State, I teach in both the Theater and Communications Departments, which uses both my areas of concentration from the MAPW.

I'm also an active theater artist in Atlanta and beyond. As a writer, director and dramaturg, my focus is new works and collaborations. Another area that interests me is performance for non-actors. I've been up to Kennesaw to teach workshops in Linda Niemann's writing classes on how to perform your own material, and I recently did

a workshop for The Atlanta Women's Poetry Collective to help poets prepare for public readings. As an extension of this, I do corporate training, teaching communication skills to executives.

The projects that I have created or are creating are: I'm currently in residence at the Alliance Theater writing a new project: *Idi Amin, America and a Bar of Soap*. It's a solo show inspired by the life of Derreck Kayongo, who also performs the show. Derreck is the CEO of the Center for Human and Civil Rights, but he's also a CNN hero for founding the international aid organization Global Soap. Global Soap recycles discarded soap from hotels and distributes it to populations in need in order to fight hygiene-related diseases. The play is about his life in Uganda under Idi Amin, then as a refugee in Kenya and immigrant in the U.S.

My play *The Bitch of Balaclava*, loosely based on Florence Nightingale, was an O'Neill Conference finalist this year and was developed through Theater Emory's Brave New Works program and Working Title Playwrights. The play is currently in development with a producer in New York.

For several years, I was the Creative Director for *Life Sentence*, a music project about the life of Clarence Harrison, the first man exonerated by the GA Innocence Project. During that period, I also collaborated with performance artist Nicole Livieratos on a number of site-specific events called *Proximity*. We were part of *Creative Loafing's* "Best of Atlanta" list for 2011, which was very cool and surprising.

As you can see, I combine my theater, communication and writing skills in a wide variety of ways, working as a performer, teacher, trainer, playwright and dramaturg. I just finished working at the Alliance with their Theater for the Very Young program, which I loved. I don't know if I have a short attention span or if I'm just curious about everything, but I like to keep my work life interesting.

Here are some of my favorite recent projects:

Idi Amin, America and a Bar of Soap will be performed at the [Alliance Theater](#) on May 16th. People can find out the details, as we do, on our Facebook page and follow us for

future performances.

The Bitch of BalACLava; in addition to being an O'Neill finalist, just received Honorable [Mention](#) in the TRU Voices Series in New York, and had a showing at the Alliance Theater in 2015.

Undone: my extreme Shakespeare adaption was performed by Skyline Stageworks in 2014. It was called a "must see" by the [Shakespeare Standard](#).

Inside Voice: a collaboration of women writers at all stages of their careers was part Theater Emory's 2015 [Breaking Ground series](#) and I co-curated the residency and performance.

The organizations I belong to are:

[New Play Exchange/National New Play Network Member:](#)

[Working Title Playwrights Lifetime Member](#)

[Hambidge Arts Center Fellow](#)

[Dramatists Guild of America Member](#)

Ways to contact me and view my work:

[New Play Exchange Profile](#)

[Facebook](#)

[My playwriting website](#)