

Paul Michael Thomson

EDUCATION

In-Progress **The University of Massachusetts Amherst**, Amherst, MA

Ph.D. Afro-American Studies (4.0 GPA)

Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies

2015 **The University of Arizona Honors College**, Tucson, AZ

B.A. Africana Studies, B.F.A. Acting Performance, *summa cum laude* (4.0 GPA)

Minors: Spanish, Art History

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

The Black Arts Movement, African-American Theatre in the 20th and 21st Centuries, Conceptions of Black Creativity, W.E.B. Du Bois as Creative, Acting Pedagogy, New Play Development, 20th Century Black Literature, Womanist Literature, Black Feminisms, Afro-Diasporic Theatre

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

2023-2024 New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture & Library for the Performing Arts, Short-Term Research Fellowship

2022 Black Metropolis Research Consortium, Summer Short-Term Fellowship

2022 W.E.B. Du Bois Center, The University of Massachusetts Amherst, Graduate Research Fellowship

2022-2024 College of Humanities & Fine Arts, The University of Massachusetts Amherst, Humanities & Fine Arts Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

2023 Thomson, Paul Michael. "'I thought I loved him, [...] the pale coward': The Politics of Interracial Love in W.E.B. Du Bois' *Seven-Up*." *Theatre History Studies*, vol. 43. (under review)

PRESENTATIONS

2023 "The Process Is the Product(ion), or: Collective Leadership Works." Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference. Panel with Saharra Dixon, Jennifer Onopa, and Tatiana Rodriguez. August 4.

2023 "Restructuring Artistic Organizations Based on Black Feminist Principles (or Actually Sharing the Spotlight)." Power, Resistance, and Identity Conference. Politics of Space & Place Panel. Department of Sociology and the Labor Studies Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Moderated by Anna Walden. May 18.

2022 "'it's real to me': Super Soul, Space, and Seeing *The Wiz* Through a Black Arts Lens." W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Moderated by Dr. James E. Smethurst. December 6.

2022 "'the black ensemble is a necessity': Theatre, Chicago, the Black Arts Movement, and Beyond." Black Metropolis Research Consortium. Moderated by Dr. Thabiti Lewis. August 12.

2015 “Girl Talk: Dialogue as Discourse in Black Feminist Drama.” Honors Pinnacle. The University of Arizona Honors College. Moderated by Dr. Patricia MacCorquodale. Spring.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Massachusetts Amherst

Primary Instructor, Undergraduate Course:

2023 Performing Power, Performing Progress: Race, Gender, & Class Onstage

2023 Grassroots Experience in American Life & Culture: Afro-American Art & Activism

Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Courses:

2023 Afro-American Literature & Culture: Afrofuturism

2022 Afro-American Literature & Culture: The 1960s & 70s

2022 20th-Century Survey of Afro-American Literature

The Forge Studio, Chicago, IL

Primary Instructor, Professional Courses:

2021 Introduction to Playwriting

2019, 2020 Breaking Down the Text

Court Theatre, The University of Chicago

Teaching Artist, Undergraduate Workshops:

2020 Monologue Writing & Performing

About Face Youth Ensemble, About Face Theatre, Chicago, IL

Teaching Artist, High School Workshops:

2020 Introduction to Playwriting

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2022–2023 Workshop Series Coordinator, W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, The University of Massachusetts Amherst

2022 – Senator, University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate Student Senate

2022 – Founding Member, Graduate Student Council, W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, The University of Massachusetts Amherst

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 The University of Massachusetts Press

Acquisitions & Marketing Intern

2017 – The Story Theatre, 501(c)(3)

Founder, Board Treasurer, & Governing Ensemble Member

- Produced 6 world-premiere productions, developed 5 new plays from inception to presentation, contracted over 100 local Chicago artists
- Increased reach from zero patrons to over 400 individual donors, 1000+ audience members, 5 governing ensemble members, and 5 board members
- Curated all digital and written content, including marketing on social media, print campaigns, donors outreach, and, most recently, multiple successful grant applications
- Worked with community organizers and other local nonprofits to establish best practices surrounding activism through art. Collaborators include: PO Box Collective;

Hyde Park Arts Center; Center on Halsted; Howard Brown Health; interACT:
Advocates for Intersex Youth; NAMI Chicago; and Elyssa's Mission.
2015 – Playwright, Nationally Produced (*résumé available upon request*)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2023 – Association for Theatre in Higher Education
2021 – Black Women's Studies Association
2021 – Graduate Employee Organization (UAW 2322)

VOLUNTEER WORK

2020 – Vote Save America
2012 – 2015 Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Tucson

AWARDS & HONORS

2023 Winner, "Best Ensemble," The Story Theatre, Joseph Jefferson Awards
2021 Winner, AMPLIFY New Play Contest, Definition Theatre
2020 "Best New Theatre Company," The Story Theatre, *Chicago Reader*
2018 "Best 'Under-the-Radar' Play of 2018," *Leave Me Alone!*, The Heath Fund
2016 M.E.H. Lewis Memorial Scholarship, Chicago Dramatists
2015 Most Outstanding Senior, College of Fine Arts, The University of Arizona
2015 Dean's Award of Excellency, Honors College, The University of Arizona
2014 Hattie Lockett Poetry Award, The Poetry Center, The University of Arizona
2013 Pillars of Excellence Award, Honors College, The University of Arizona
2011 Scholar Designate, The Flinn Foundation
2011 Valedictorian, Mesa High School