

Kristyl Dawn Tift

Education

PhD candidate, Theatre & Performance Studies, University of Georgia, 2016
Women's Studies Graduate Certificate candidate, University of Georgia, 2014
MFA, New School for Drama, Acting, 2007
BA, Georgia Southern University, Theatre (Major), Music (Minor), 2004

Dissertation

"In the morning I am all I ever wanted to be': African American Lesbian Identity and Performativity in the Utopian Mo(u)rning Space," Dr. Emily Sahakian, Joint Professor in Theatre & Film Studies and Romance Languages

Areas of Specialization

Women and Gender Studies, Queer-of-color Performance, African Diaspora Drama, Theater for Social Change, Western Theatre (1800s to the present), Acting, Directing, Voice, Musical Theater, Public Speaking

Research Interests

LGBTQ Identity, Performativity and Civil Issues; Feminism and Popular Performance; African Diaspora Dance, Ritual and Performance

Published Articles

Book Review of Ramón H. Rivera-Servera's *Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics*, *Theatre Journal* (May 2014).

"Breaking Form: (Re)presenting Black Queer Females in Contemporary Black Theatre," *Black Theatre News Conference Magazine* (July/Aug 2012).

"Black Theatre in the Hands of Generation X," *Black Masks* (Aug/Sept 2006), 13-14.

Presentations/Panels

Chair and Panelist, "Critical Explorations of Politics, Culture, and Identity in Slam Poetry," Black Theatre Network Conference, New York University, August 2-5, 2014

"In the morning I am all I ever wanted to be' — Race, Gender, Class, Sexuality, and Nation in the Poetry of Staceyann Chin"

- Women & Girls in Georgia Conference, "Politics, Disruption, and Co-optation" panel, Session Chair: Daleah Goodwin, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, October 19, 2013

“Catching Glimpses: ‘Blood Memories’ As Medicine in Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*”

- Northwestern University Performance Studies Graduate Student Conference, “Spectacular Bodies: Black Aesthetics and Representations in Popular Music” panel, Faculty Discussant: Dr. Ivy Wilson, Evanston, IL, October 11-13, 2013

“Queering the Politics of Black Respectability: Divisions of Flesh and Spirit in LeRoi Jones’ *The Baptism* (1964)”

- Joint departmental colloquium with Carina Brankovic, PhD student in Religious Studies at University of Heidelberg, Theatre & Film Studies Dept., University of Georgia, August 23, 2013
- Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), “Playing In the Dark: Black Queer Performance and Performativity,” Respondents Drs. Jennifer DeVere Brody and Paul Jackson, BTA Panel, Orlando, FL, August 2013
- Graduate Student Association 13th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Georgia, April 2013
- Inaugural Black Queer Sexuality Studies Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, October 20, 2012

“Why Can’t I Be a Tomboy? – *Reciprocity and Dialogic Performance* as Pedagogy and Epistemology”

- Institute of Women’s Studies Symposium, University of Georgia, March 2013

“Breaking Form: (Re)presenting Black Queer Females in Contemporary Black Theatre”

- Black Theatre Network’s 26th Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, July 27-30, 2012
- Graduate Student Association’s 12th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Georgia, March 2012
- Institute of Women’s Studies Symposium, University of Georgia, February 2012

Academic Employment History

University of Georgia, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Institute of Women’s Studies, 2014-2015

University of Georgia, Teacher of Record/Grad Assistant, Theatre & Film Studies, 2011-2014

Georgia Southern University, Assistant Professor of Theatre (Temporary), 2007-2008

University Service

Coordinator, Student Spotlight Events, UGA Arts Festival, 2012 & 2013

Facilities Manager, UGA Theatre & Film Studies Department, Spring 2013

Faculty Supervisor, Theatre & Performance Club, Georgia Southern University, 2007-2008

Membership Positions

UGA Arts Council University of Georgia, 2012-2014

Graduate Liaison Black Theatre Network, 2012-2014

Graduate Rep University of Georgia Arts Council, 2012-2014

Member Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2013-2014

Member National Women's Studies Association, 2014

Member Graduate and Professional Scholars, University of Georgia, 2011-2016

Lifetime Member Omicron Delta Kappa, inducted at Georgia Southern University, 2003

Honors/Awards

Dissertation Completion Award (Nominated by Department), University of Georgia, 2014

Diversity Research Scholarship (Nominated by Department), University of Georgia, 2014

Sylvia H. Pannell Travel Grant, Theatre & Film Studies Dept., University of Georgia, 2013

Amazing Student, University of Georgia, 2013

Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Georgia, 2012

Black Faculty and Staff Organization Graduate Scholarship, University of Georgia, 2012

2012 S. Randolph Edmonds Young Scholars Competition, Black Theatre Network, 2012

Drama Merit Scholarship, New School for Drama, 2006

Southern Talon Award for Outstanding Service/Leadership, Georgia Southern University, 2004

Leadership/Service Honor from Georgia Southern University, 2004

ACTF Irene Ryan Scholarship Nominee, Georgia Southern University, 2004

2003 & 2004 Southeastern Theatre Conference Finalist, Georgia Southern University, 2004

Dorothy F. Lee Scholarship for Theatre & Performance at Georgia Southern University, 2002

Devised Work (written, directed, performed) – full resume available upon request

Flyin' West – The Cellar Theater, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2014)

Director of the historical drama written by Pearl Cleage.

Teachers Tell All— The Cellar Theater, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2013)

Performer and co-writer, directed by Drs. Emily Sahakian and Melissa Cahnmann-Taylor.

Under Construction – The Cellar Theater, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2013)

Performer and monologist, directed by Adron Farris.

The Jazz Singer's Face Is Black & Blue – UGA Arts Festival Event (2012)

Playwright of full-length play read and workshopped at the University of Georgia.

A Monologue, A Memory, A Rant, and A Prayer – Arena Theater, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2012). **Performer** of monologue written by Kimberlé Crenshaw, directed by Tyler S. Bugg. All proceeds went to The Cottage (a local foundation for women and girls).

He Said, She Said, Ze Said – Arena Theatre, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2011)

Performer, Researcher, and Co-writer in a play about gender, sexuality, and rape researched and created by Dr. Emily Sahakian's Community-based Theater course.

Colored Blue – Emory University Center for Ethics, Atlanta, GA (2009)

Performer in staged reading of a play about domestic violence, directed by Marvel Micheal.

Polka Dots & Stripes – New School for Drama, NYC (2006)

Playwright of the one-act play, workshopped with Ron Leibman, Christopher Shinn, and Jamie Richards, in Playwrights, Actors and Directors (PAD) Lab.

SOLED OUT! – Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (2004)

Performer and Monologist in an original collaborative play addressing materialism in the Western world. Directed by Dr. Belen Calingacion, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence.

The Invisible Ones – Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (2003, 2004)

Writer, Director, and Performer in a one-act play about hunger and homelessness in Atlanta, commissioned by GSU for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. All proceeds went to the United Way.