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| Nicholas Fesette  Assistant Professor of Theater · Oxford College of Emory University  nicholas.fesette@emory.edu · 518-578-5607 · nickfesette.net · @nfesette |
| Research and teaching interests: critical prison studies, abolition, performance studies, theater history, modern and contemporary drama, critical theory, acting and directing |

# Employment

2018 – Present OXFORD COLLEGE of EMORY UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of Theater

Director of Theater Program

# Education

# 2018 PH.D. CORNELL UNIVERSITY Theatre Arts minor: Directing

# 2016 M.a. cornell university Theatre Arts

# 2009 b.a. Hamilton College Theatre *magna cum laude* minor: Creative Writing

# publications

Book chapter

2020 “Carceral Space-Times and *The House that Herman Built*,” *Race and Performance after Repetition*, eds. Soyica Diggs Colbert, Douglas Jones, and Shane Vogel, Duke University Press <https://www.dukeupress.edu/race-and-performance-after-repetition>

\*This book won the 2021 Errol Hill Award, presented by the American Society for Theatre Research\*

Peer-reviewed articles

2022 “Abolition Dramaturgies: Reformance, Waywardness, and the End of the World,” *Theatre Journal*, vol 74, number 2, June <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/858581>

2021 “Prison Theatre and the Right to Look,” (with Bruce Levitt and Jayme Kilburn) *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, Vol. 26, Issue 3, July <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13569783.2021.1938989>

2019 “Horizons of (Un)Freedom: Reflections on Critical Hope from Behind the Wall” (with the Phoenix Players Theatre Group), *PUBLIC: A Journal of Imagining America*, Vol 5, Issue 2, February <http://public.imaginingamerica.org/blog/article/horizons-of-unfreedom-reflections-on-critical-hope-from-behind-the-wall/>

2017 "Pedagogies of Self-Humanization: Collaborating to Engage Trauma in the Phoenix Players Theatre Group” (with Bruce Levitt), *Teaching Artist Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 3-4 <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15411796.2017.1386050>

2015 “Performance, Prison Strike, Zombie: Steve McQueen’s *Hunger* and the ‘Reflection Machines,’” *Etudes*: *An Online Theatre & Performance Journal for Emerging Scholars*, Vol. 1, No. 2, Sept <http://www.etudesonline.com/sept2015fesette.html>

Review

2022 “‘The great contraband a person can sneak into a prison is joy,’” (review of *Prison Theatre and the Crisis of Global Incarceration* by Ashley E. Lucas), *Performance Research*, Vol. 26, Issue 5, May <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13528165.2021.2029153>

Other scholarly writing

2018 “Auburn Prison and Carceral Modernity: A Performance History,” *Modernism/modernity*, print plus blog post, ed. Debra Rae Cohen, Vol. 3, Cycle 1 <https://modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/auburn-prison>

2017 “Rehearsing Transformation in an American Prison,” (with Bruce Levitt), *The Theatre Times*, Oct 2017 <https://thetheatretimes.com/rehearsing-transformation-american-prison/>

2016 “Where the Walls Contain Everything but the Sky: The Birth and Growth of the Phoenix Players Theatre Group” (with Bruce Levitt), *Rejoinder: An Online Journal Published by the Institute for Research on Women*, Rutgers University, Issue 1, Winter 2016 <http://irw.rutgers.edu/rejoinder-webjournal/marking-time/250-where-the-walls-contain-everything-but-the-sky>

In-progress

“Towards an Abolitionist Theory of Applied Theatre,” book chapter in *Applied Theatre and Racial Justice: Radical Imaginings for Just Communities*, under contract at Routledge

“A Play is a Vehicle to Incite: An Interview with Playwright Erika Dickerson-Despenza,” book chapter in *Into Abolition: A Guidebook for Liberatory Theatre-Making Practices*, under contract at Routledge

*Performance After Policing: Art and Abolition in Carceral America,* book project under submission

# conference participation

2022 Decarcerating the University session, ASTR, New Orleans (accepted)

2022 “’...branded with a number on my name’: Carcerality in American Popular Music,” SETC Theatre Symposium, Decatur GA

2021 Disidentifying Borders: Coalitional Futurity and Migration session, ASTR, San Diego

2021 Race and Performance After Repetition roundtable, ASA conference, online

2021 “The Politics of Reformance and the Non-Theatre of Abolition,” SETC Theatre Symposium, online

2020 Race and Performance After Repetition session, ASA conference, Baltimore, MD (cancelled)

2020 Disidentifying Borders: Coalitional Futurity and Migration session, ASTR pre-conference, online

2020 “Rituals of Whiteness in Rick Cluchey’s *The Cage*” SETC Theatre Symposium, Decatur GA (cancelled)

2019 “Bearing Witness to a ‘Real’: Performing Prison, (Re)Writing Self,” ASTR, Arlington, VA

2019    "Fugitive Casting and the Performance of Civility," SETC Theatre Symposium, Decatur, GA

2018 “Cagecraft,” New Research on Minoritarian Performance Proposal/Grant Writing Workshop, ASTR, San Diego, CA (cancelled)

2018 Post-screening roundtable discussion of the documentary film *Human Again*, Performing the World, NYC

2017 José Esteban Muñoz Targeted Research Working Group, “The Transtemporalities of Minoritarian Performance II: Extra/Ordinary Bodies Across Time,” ASTR, Atlanta, GA

2017 “Deathly Technics,” Escape from the Archive: Encountering History through Performance and Theatre, Cornell

2017 “Gender Imprisonment and Intersubjective Drama in Naomi Wallace’s *And I and Silence*,” Philosophies of Incarceration and the Incarceration of Philosophy, Villanova University, PA

2016 “Resurrecting the Human Doing: The Performance of Carceral Subjectivity in *The House that Herman Built*,” ASTR, Minneapolis, MN

2016 Co-curated symposium “From Cell to Cell: The Prison in Television and Performance,” Cornell

2016 Co-organized roundtable “Prison Work: Creating Theatre with Incarcerated Artists,” ATHE, Chicago, IL

2015 “Prisons, Professors, Zoos, Homegrown Bicycles, Stories, and Verbs: An Embodied Performance Ethnography,” Midwest MLA, Columbus, OH

2015 “New Play Festivals: The Pedagogy of Play Development and Collaboration,” ATHE, Montreal, QC

2015 “A Prison Mural Performs: The Inspiration of *Apokaluptein:16389067*,” MATC, Kansas City, MO

2014 “*Where the Walls Contain Everything but the Sky*: The Birth and Growth of a Prison Theatre Group,” Marking Time: Prison Arts & Activism Conference, Rutgers University, NJ

# Teaching experience

EMORY

DSC\_OX 101Q: Adaptation and Storytelling

MLP\_OX 101: Milestone Project

THEA\_OX 101: Introduction to Theatre

THEA\_OX 200RE: Theatre Practicum

THEA\_OX 200RE: Theatre for Social Justice in Times of Social Distance

THEA 210W: Reading for Performance

THEA\_OX 216: History of Theatre and Drama II

THEA\_OX 381: Prison Media and Performance

THEA\_OX 389R: Stage Presence: Performance Techniques for Everyday Life

THEA 397R: Directed Studies in Theater

INTER\_OX 492RE: Disciplinary Internship

CORNELL

PMA: 1141: Performing Dreams and Telling Stories

PMA 1127: The Prison Plays: Crime, Punishment, and Western Dramatic Literature

PMA 1120: “You’ve Got Time”: An Introduction to Prison and its Representation

PMA 3609: Making Theatre: Rehearsal and Performance

# Invited presentations and workshops

2023 Poster presentation, Humanities at Work Fair, Emory

2021 Keynote panel discussion on Zoom, “Staging Incarceration: Artmaking In & About U.S Prisons,” with Lisa Biggs, Emily Sahakian, Megan Sweeney, Kathleen Wessel, a2ru: Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities

2021 Facilitating Arts Programs in Carceral Settings Zoom panel with Lori Pitts, Jeanie Thompson, Ezequiel Gonzalez, and Freddy Gutierrez, Justice Arts Coalition

2020 Research conversation with Karen Hamer on Zoom, Shakespeare in Prisons Network Conference, University of Notre Dame

2020 Guest Zoom lecture on *Death of a Salesman*, Chinese student coalition, Emory and NYU

2020 Guest Zoom lecture on prison theatre, Georgia State Perimeter College

2019 Guest lecture on devised theatre in Intro to Anthropology seminar, Oxford-Emory

2019 Guest lecture on playwriting in Spanish class, Oxford-Emory

2019 [Online micro-lecture “Imprisonment and the Theater,” Academic Minute](https://academicminute.org/2019/12/nick-fesette-emory-university-imprisonment-and-the-theater/)

2018 Panel discussion on the academic job search sponsored by the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning, Cornell

2018 “The Haunted Cell: A Performance History of Auburn Prison,” Oxford-Emory

2017 Post-screening roundtable discussion of the documentary film *Human Again*, Cornell

2017 Post-reading talkback of the performance, *Parallel Time* by Bashar Murkus, trans. Rebekah Maggor, Cornell

2015 Acting workshop “Collisions in Space: Theatre Adaptation and the Mashup,” Hamilton

# directing

*As You Like It* by William Shakespeare, Oxford-Emory, 2021

*The Isolation Performance Project*, 12 original socially distanced shorts, Oxford-Emory 2021

*Fragments and Connections*, devised digital theatre performance, Emory, 2020

*Medea* by Rachel Cusk (after Euripides), Oxford-Emory, 2020

*Men On Boats* by Jaclyn Backhaus, Oxford-Emory, 2019

*Ada and the Engine* by Lauren Gunderson, Oxford-Emory, 2019

*The Arsonists* by Max Frisch, Oxford-Emory, 2018

*The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek* by Naomi Wallace, Cornell, 2017

*On the Verge; or, The Geography of Yearning* by Eric Overmyer, assistant director, Cornell, 2015

*Friedrich Schiller’s Bad Girls Club* by Nick Fesette and Erin Stoneking, Cornell, 2015

*The Ten-Minute Play Festival*, annual series of short plays, Cornell, 2013-2017

*The Hunger Artist* by Franz Kafka, Horse Trade Theater Group, NYC, 2009

*Miss Julie* by August Strindberg, co-director, Horse Trade Theater Group, NYC, 2008

*Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare, Hamilton, 2008

# acting (selected)

*The Iliad* (reading), Theater Emory, 2019

*Indecent* by Paula Vogel (reading), dir. Meghan Brodie, Cornell, 2016

*Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller (reading), dir. Beth Milles, Kitchen Theatre Company, Ithaca, NY, 2015

*The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, dir. Bruce Levitt, Cornell, 2015

*Set in the Living Room of a Small Town American Play* by Jaclyn Backhaus, dir. John Kurzynowski, Walkerspace, NYC, 2013

*Fat Fat Fatty* by Alex Kveton, dir. John Kurzynowski, Theatre for the New City, NYC, 2012

*The Three Seagulls, or MASHAMASHAMASHA!* by Jaclyn Backhaus, dir. John Kurzynowski, HERE Arts Center, NYC, 2012

*The Lady’s Not For Burning* by Christopher Fry, dir. Bryan Close, Walkerspace, NYC, 2011

*The Changing Room* by David Storey, dir. Terry Schreiber, T. Schreiber Studio, NYC, 2011

*The Shape of Things* by Neil Labute, dir. Brayden Hade, TheaterLAB, NYC, 2011

*Manhattan Transfer* by John Dos Passos, dir. John Cooper, The Shell Theater, NYC, 2010

*The Apple Trilogy* by Austin McCormick, Company XIV, Brooklyn, NY, 2009-2010

*Balm in Gilead* by Lanford Wilson, dir. Gioia Marchese, Company XIV, Brooklyn, NY, 2009

*Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl, dir. Craig Latrell, Hamilton, 2009

*Roberto Zucco* by Bernard-Marie Koltès, dir. Carole Bellini-Sharp, Hamilton, 2008

# Grants, awards, fellowships, and honors

EMORY

2022 Faculty Development Committee Grant ($2,057)

2021 Faculty Development Committee Grant ($1,656)

2021 Mizell Award for Superior Performance in Furthering the Education of Students ($1,000)

2020-21 Mellon Faculty Seminar ($2,000)

2021 Mellon Course Design and Syllabus Workshop ($4,000)

2020 Emory Center for Creativity and Arts grant ($500)

2019 Faculty Development Committee Grant ($282)

2018 Faculty Development Committee Grant ($830)

CORNELL

2017 Performing and Media Arts Graduate Research Grant ($1,000)

2017 Graduate School Research Travel Grant ($2,000)

2017 American Studies Graduate Research Grant ($1,000)

2016 University Lectures Committee Grant ($500) for “From Cell to Cell”

2015-2017 Cornell Council for the Arts, four separate grants for AGIT ($4,000 total)

2014 Marvin Carlson Award for Best Student Essay ($250)

2013 & 2016 Sage Fellowship

HAMILTON

2009 The Carter Family Prize Scholarship

2009 The Calvin Leslie Lewis Prize Scholarship in the Dramatic Arts

2009 The Senior Prize in Theater

2007 The Edwin Barrett Prize

2005-2009 The Bacot, Gunn, Kempf Family Scholarship

# Additional training

Oxford College Online Training, best practices for teaching online, 2021

Scene study, Terry Schreiber, NYC, 2010-2011

Lucid Body Technique, Fay Simpson, NYC, 2009-2010

Moscow Art Theater, National Theater Institute semester abroad, Moscow, RU, 2007

# Community engagement

The Phoenix Players Theatre Group, founded by incarcerated men, Auburn Correctional Facility, NY, 2013-2018

# university service

Lyceum committee for performance and events, Oxford-Emory, 2020-present

Chair position, 2021-present

Job search committee—African American arts and culture, music, Emory 2022

Job search committee—Playwriting fellowship, Emory, 2021

Job search committee—Film and Media TT position, Oxford-Emory, 2021

Psychoanalytic faculty at Emory executive committee, Emory, 2020-present

OxStudies committee, Oxford-Emory, 2020-present

Job search committee—Creative Writing TT position, Oxford-Emory, 2020

Learning to Lead co-facilitator, Oxford-Emory, 2019

Philosophy Playwriting Competition, reading committee, Cornell and Notre Dame, 2016

Performance and Events Committee, grad student representative, Cornell, 2015-2016

Summer Artist Residency, selection committee, Hamilton, 2015

The Association of Graduates in Theatre (AGIT), officer, Cornell, 2013-2018

# professional affiliations

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)

Southeast Theatre Conference (SETC)

American Studies Association (ASA)

# languages

French and Russian (reading), Spanish (beginner)