

**MARCUS GARDLEY**  
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**EDUCATION**

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Yale School of Drama, MFA in Playwriting 2004  
Graduated Honorary Student Marshall (Valedictorian equivalent)

San Francisco State University, BA in English (Creative Writing); Minor in Theater Arts and African American Studies. 2001 Graduated Summa Cum Laude

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor of Writing for Performance, Brown University, Providence, RI (2011 – Present)**

Advanced Playwriting Instructor for Writing for Performance graduate and undergraduate students. Other courses include: Advanced Screenwriting, Adaptation and Libretto/Lyric Workshop. Undergraduate Concentration advisor for a dozen students. Independent Study advisor for six students for the academic year. Director of Fall 2012 musical, KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN and director of 2012 Spring production for Rites and Reason Theater, Afro Am. Curator and artistic director for Spring 2013 Writing is Live, Undergraduate Reading Series.

**Assistant Professor, Umass Amherst, Amherst, MA (2008 – Present)**

Professor of Playwriting and African-American Studies. Courses include: Playwriting, Advanced Playwriting, Black Theater, Contemporary Playwrights of Color, Contemporary Repertory, Musical Theater and theater from the Black Power Movement. Advised over two-dozen students with an intensive independent study course that exposed them to writing and producing a play, one-person show or musical. Created a student-run cabaret theater company that allowed students to collaborate outside of their major, select their own season and produce five plays with a modest budget. Served on two search committees and chaired the departmental season selection committee.

**Adjunct Professor, University of SF, San Francisco, CA (2007)**

Professor of Playwriting in the Theatre Arts and Social Justice Program. Taught a scriptwriting workshop that detailed the craft of playwriting, screenwriting and writing for television. All students completed the course with a full-length script.

**Adjunct Professor, Columbia University, New York, NY (2004– 2007)**

Professor of Playwriting and Poetry in the Undergraduate Creative Writing Program. Taught a creative writing course that covered the basic principles of writing poetry, fiction and drama. Also taught a scriptwriting workshop in which all students wrote a one-act play, a screenplay and one episode for television.

**Playwriting Instructor, Young Playwrights Inc, New York, NY (2006 – 2007)**

Playwriting Teacher for in-school drama program (Arts-in-Education, New York City.) Taught playwriting basics to middle school students that concluded with a reading of all their plays by professional New York actors.

**Playwriting Instructor, Opening Act, New York, NY (2005 – 2007)**

Teaching Artist for after-school drama program. Taught fundamentals of playwriting that resulted in professional production at Public Theater.

**PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS**

**Tricycle Theater; London, England (September 2015, and October 2014)**

Taught a workshop about playwriting structure and TV and film structure with emerging playwrights. Read their work and did a series of exercises around generating material.

**Victory Gardens Theater; Chicago, IL (Ongoing since 2012)**

I instruct a local writer's group every other month in Chicago for local, established writers. They workshop their plays and we analyze marketing and producing strategies. I assign them projects: adaptations, site-specific works and musicals. We attend each other's shows and give feedback.

**Young Playwrights Inc, New York, NY (Summer 2015)**

Taught a workshop for high school and beginning college age students. Talked about plot structures and harnessing the voice within. Mentored a young playwright on her play, attended rehearsals and the final performances.

**Covenant House, New York, NY (April 2014)**

Presented a workshop on adaptation using fairy tales for young teens that are homeless or displaced. Gave them basic tool for writing a play to help them create a performance piece for the stage,

**National Theater Institute, O Neil Center, Waterford, CT (2011-2014)**

Teaching a six-week playwriting independent study to students in the program. Serving as a mentor/ teacher and helping them finish a full-length play by assigning exercises, readings, and taking them to performances in New York.

**Yale University, New Haven CT (September 2010)**

Conducted a workshop called "Believe the Myth: how to write big plays with simple narratives." Nine MFA students were given writing exercises that delved into the world of myth, legends and folklore. The exercises lead to experiments that generated new ideas for epic plays.

**Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco, CA (August 2010)**

Taught a three-week intensive workshop on writing a play in a short amount of time. Students wrote full length plays then reshaped them by looking at dramatic structure and character development.

**Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA (June 2009)**

Conducted a workshop for actors and dramaturges on poetic text in drama as it relates to my play ...*And Jesus moonwalks the Mississippi*.

**Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (November 2008)**

Conducted a workshop for actors and dramaturges on poetic text in drama as it relates to my play ...*And Jesus moonwalks the Mississippi*.

**Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco, CA (November 2007)**

Taught a three-week intensive workshop on writing an play adaptation of a myth. Students competed workshop with a one act play or the first act of their adaptation.

**MCC Theatre (Manhattan Class Company), New York, NY (Spring 2007)**

Teaching Artist for in-school drama program (Arts-in-Education New York City.) Taught principles of non-violence, self-esteem and drug abuse at two public high schools in the Bronx which culminated in a final performance.

**TheatreWorks Playwriting Teacher, E. Palo Alto, CA (Fall 2007)**

Workshop instructor for high school drama emersion program. Taught high school students how to write a play that culminated in several one-act productions at a local theater.

**Columbia U. High School Writing Prog., New York, NY (Summer 2004 & 2005)**

Creative Writing and Writing in Performance (Drama) teacher for high school students. Developed a diverse curriculum, instructor for independent study courses, taught craft of poetry, fiction and playwriting. Implemented theatrical exercises that resulted in a production.

**PUBLISHED WORKS**

*A Wolf in Snakeskin Shoes*, Bloomsbury and Methuen Publishers, London England October 2014

*The House that Will Not Stand*, Bloomsbury and Methuen Publishers, London England October 2014

The Methuen Drama Book of New American Plays: *The Road Weeps, the Well Runs Dry*, August 2012. Sarah Benson, editor.

The Methuen Drama Book of Post-black Plays. *And Jesus moonwalks the Mississippi*. Douglas A. Jones Jr. (Editor), Harry J. Elam Jr. (Editor)

### **PRODUCTIONS**

*A Wolf in Snakeskin Shoes*. World Premiere at The Tricycle Theater; London, England in October 2015. Directed by Indhu Rubasignham

*Desire Quenched by Touch* a short play based on a Tennessee William's short story, *Desire and the Black Masseur*. World Premiere at 59E59 produced by the Acting Company in New York City in September 2015. Directed by Michael Wilson.

*...and Jesus moonwalks the Mississippi*. Produced at Sound Theater Company in Seattle, WA in July 2015. Directed by Tyrone Brown. World Premiere at Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco, CA in March 2010. Directed by Amy Muller

*An Issue of Blood*. World Premiere at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago, IL, March 2015. Directed by Chay Yew.

*The Gospel of Lovingkindness*. Produced at Pillsbury House Theater in Minneapolis, MN in May 2015. Directed by Marion McClinton. World Premiere at Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago, IL in March 2014. Directed by Chay Yew. Upcoming production at Mosaic Theater in Washington, D.C. in December 2105. Directed by Jennifer Nelson.

*The House that will Not Stand*. Produced at The Tricycle Theater; London, England in October 2014. Directed by Indhu Rubasinhham. World Premiere co-production at Berkeley Rep and Yale Rep, February 2014 and April 2014 respectively. Directed by Patricia McGregor.

*The box: a black satire*. World Premiere at The Foundry Theater in Brooklyn, NY in April, 2014. Directed by Seth Boxley.

*black odyssey*. World Premiere at Denver Theater Center, Denver CO, January 2014. Directed by Chay Yew.

*The Road Weeps, the Well Runs Dry*. Rolling world premiere at Perseverance Theater, Juneau, AK; Pillsbury House Theater, Minneapolis, MN; The Los Angeles Theater Company, Los Angeles, CA; University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Various directors. May 2013-April 2014.

*The Gospel of Tender Mercies*. World Premiere at Brown University

Summer Rep Theater in Providence, Rhode Island in August 2013.  
Directed by Kym Moore.

*dance the holy ghost: a play on memory.* Second production at Center Stage in Baltimore. Opened to critical success. Directed by Kwame Kweih Armah. Received Broadway option from producer Eliot Martin. World premiere production at Yale Repertory Theatre in March 2006, directed by Liz Diamond. Workshop production at New York Stage and Film at Vassar, Summer 2007; reading at Playwrights Horizon, New York, NY May 2005; reading at The Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA 2005; Reading at Manhattan Theatre Club, NY 2005; Horizon Theater, Atlanta, GA August 2003.

*The road weeps, the well runs dry.* Rolling World Premiere production at LATC in Los Angeles, CA. Critical Success. Shirley Jo Finney, director. October, 2013 Production at Pillsbury House Theater, Minneapolis, MN. Major Critical Success. Sold out Run. Marion McClinton, director. September, 2013. Production at Perseverance Theater, Juneau, Alaska. Directed by Aaron Davidman. Sold out run. May, 2013

*every tongue confess.* Second Production at Horizons Theater in Atlanta, Georgia. Sold out to critical acclaim, extended twice. July, 2013. World Premiere produced at Arena Stage, Washington, DC, January 2011. Sold out to critical acclaim. Directed by Kenny Leon and starring Phylicia Rashad. Workshop production, McCarter Theater New Works Festival, September 2009. Workshop production, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, July 2009

*On the Levee.* Produced by Lincoln Center LCT3. Sold out to critical acclaim. 7 Audelco nominations including outstanding playwright. Directed by Lear De Bessonet. Workshop production at Yale Repertory Theatre in March 2009.

*LOVE is a dream house...* Premiered and commissioned by Shotgun Players, Berkeley CA. Nominated for the National Steinberg New Play Award. Was voted Best Play of 2006 by Oakland Tribune and Bay Guardian.

*...and Jesus moonwalks on the Mississippi.* Workshop Production at Public Theatre, NY in association with Sundance Institute, Nov. 2007; workshop production at Cutting Ball Theatre in San Francisco, Nov. 2007; workshop reading at Sundance Institute in Utah, July 2006. Workshop reading at Dallas Theater Center's Fresh Ink Series May 2005, Workshop reading at The Playwrights Foundation Stanford Writer's Lab, Jan 2005.

*(L)imitations of Life,* Production at Empty Space in Seattle, March 2004.

*like sun fallin in the mouth,* Production at The National Black Theater Festival, August 2003; The African American House at Yale, September 2003; Staged Reading at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, August 2002; Production at Yale School of Drama March 2002.

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

- 2014 Glickman Award for Best New Play
- 2013 Black Theater Alliance Playwriting Award
- 2012 USA James Baldwin Fellow with USA Artists \$50,000 Award Winner
- 2012 Mellon Foundation Playwright Residency Grantee
- 2012 Playwright in Residence Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago
- 2011 PEN/ Laura Pels Award for Mid-career playwright
- 2011 Aetna New Voice Playwright Fellow, Hartford Stage
- 2010 Hellen Merrill Award
- 2009 Named one of 50 writers to watch, Dramatists Magazine
- 2008 New York State Council for the Arts Grantee
- 2008 Kesselring Award Winner
- 2007 Voted “1 of 50 writers to watch” by Dramatist Magazine
- 2007 Recipient of the Gerbode/Hewlett Emerging Playwright Award
- 2007 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Award
- 2007 Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation Grant
- 2007 NEA/TCG Playwriting Participant Residency
- 2006 New Dramatists Member
- 2004 Sole Runner-up Princess Grace Award
- 2004 Graduate Playwriting Competition Finalist, Alliance Theater
- 2004 ASCAP Cole Porter Prize.
- 2003 Eugene O’ Neil Memorial Scholarship
- 2002 Bay Area Playwrights Foundation Fellowship Winner

## **COMMISSIONS**

The Public Theater, Hartford Stage, Denver Theater Center, The McCarter Theater, The Foundry, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theater, South Coast Repertory, Playwrights Horizons, Arena Stage, New York State Council on the Arts, Shotgun Players, Traveling Jewish Theatre, New Sounds Theatre, Harlem Stage, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, National Alliance for Musical Theatre, Stillpoint productions, Handful Players and two from Yale Repertory Theatre.

