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# AYVAUNN PENN

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## Curriculum Vitae



- Award-winning Playwright & Director
- Composer and Trained Songwriter
- Experienced Entertainment Marketer
- Seasoned Publication Writer & Editor

# THEATRE EXPERIENCE

## Playwright • Songwriter • Composer

Signature Theatre\*

■ *The Feather Doesn't Fall Far from the Wing: A Play with Music*

■ Tony Award-winning theatre

Columbia University Schapiro Theatre

■ *Zarephath: A Gospel & Jazz Infused Musical*

Select Songs Performed at: Red Rooster Harlem (as seen on Food Network), Book Culture on Broadway, Famous Famiglia, & Insomnia Cookies

■ *King David: The Original Musicless Musical*

■ *The Taken*

■ "Garri & Merri"

■ "Slain Gall"

Louisiana Tech University Stone Theatre

■ "The Feather Doesn't Fall Far from the Wing"

■ "Slain Gall"

■ "Tears for the Road"

Music Samples & Production Photos

■ ThePennSpeaks.com

## Actor

Columbia Schapiro Theatre

LaTech Stone Theatre

**"Mary French"**

*Doubt: A Parable*

Mother

Mrs. Muller

## Director

Signature Theatre\*

Columbia Schapiro Theatre

Columbia Schapiro Theatre

*The Feather Doesn't Fall Far from the Wing: A Play with Music*

*King David: The Original Musicless Musical*

*Zarephath: A Gospel & Jazz Infused Musical*

## Assistant Director

Goodman Theatre\*

Billie Holiday Theatre

LaTech Stone Theatre

LaTech Stone Theatre

**STOP.RESET.**

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

*Laundry & Bourbon & Lone Star*

*The Last Night of Ballyhoo*

Regina Taylor, Dir.

Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Dir.

Cherrie Sciro, Dir.

Paul Crook, Dir.

## Intern with Tony Award-Winning Director Ruben Santiago-Hudson

Signature Theatre\*

Two River Theater

La Vie Productions, LLC

*Paradise Blue*

*OO-BLA-DEE*

*Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting*

Full Production

Musical Workshop

Private Industry Reading

## Choreographer

LaTech Stone Theatre

Austin College

*Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp*

Student International Organization Fashion Show - 2yrs.

## Sound Design Assistant / Board Operator

LaTech Stone Theatre

*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

\* Tony Award-Winning Theatre

## FILM ACTING EXPERIENCE

“A Familiar Ignorance”	Abused Woman (lead)	All Christian News
“Pray, Believe, & Be Healed”	Sick Patient (lead)	All Christian News
“I Am My Mother, My Father...”	Troubled Daughter	Your Black World Network
“Ask Me”	Sioban (lead)	Your Black World Network
“Back-Hand”	Abused Teen (lead)	Your Black World Network
“The Power of Silence”	Wife (lead)	Your Black World Network
“I’m In This World But Not of It”	Narrator	Your Black World Network
“Going Home”	Friend	Your Black World Network
“The Eyes Have It”	Narrator	Your Black World Network
“I Could Not Survive Outside...”	Narrator	Your Black World Network
“Black Like Me”	Sista (lead)	Your Black World Network

## ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING EXPERIENCE

### Head of Marketing, Louisiana Tech University Theatre Department

- Promoting both academic and professional touring productions
- Monitoring audience acquisition and retention
- Delegating assignments to marketing team members
- Planning the promotions schedule and issuing deadlines
- Editorial planning and content idea development for campaigns
- Editing and issuing press releases
- Arranging media interviews for show directors and cast members
- Independently and collaboratively writing, designing, and publishing content such as programs, posters, and flyers in both print and digital forms for use across media platforms
- Producing promotional videos for particular use in social media
- Spearheading content layout and design

### *Black And Making It*, Founder

- Media platform featuring black excellence in theatre and other performing arts
- Audience of over 1.7 million
- Filming and conducting press interviews for Broadway shows and beyond
- Writing and editing articles
- Editing audio and visual footage for promotional videos and podcasts
- Collaborations with the following New York performing arts marketing firms:
  - **Walker International Communications Group**
  - **Walk Tall Girl Productions**
  - **Boneau/Bryan-Brown**
- Select shows featured and artists interviewed:
  - Berry Gordy, *Motown the Musical* on Broadway
  - The cast of *Jitney* on Broadway
  - Lynn Nottage, *Sweat* on Broadway
  - Ron Simons, Tony Award-Winning Broadway Producer
  - Anna Deavere Smith, *Notes from the Field* at Second Stage

## PRINT & ONLINE WRITING EXPERIENCE

### **Sr. Editor for *Your Black World***

- Founded by CNN commentator Dr. Boyce Watkins and one of the top 3 black news websites in the USA
- Managing and collaborating with writers to ensure maintenance of the *YBW* brand
- Curating, writing, editing, and publishing content – text, video, and audio – for digital and social channels
- Crafting unique, emotionally-driven, and audience-centric stories
- Writing compelling feature-style headlines
- Utilizing WordPress and implementing SEO practices

### **Freelance Writer & Editor**

- *All Christian News*
- *DFW Child Magazine*
- *Inland Valley News*
- *Naturally Moi*

### **Editor for *Acumen***

- Austin College peer-reviewed scholarly journal

### **Writer & Editor for *The Observer***

- Austin College newspaper covering campus and community news

### **Journalism Intern**

- Conducting interviews and editing content for *AOL Black Voices*' Dr. Boyce Watkins Spotlights

## COLLEGIATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Austin College	Communications/Inquiry	Teaching Assistant
Louisiana Tech University	Theatre Appreciation	Teaching Assistant
	Fund. of Dramatic Writing	Teaching Assistant

## PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

National Management Assoc.	Chapter Level	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – 2 years
National HOSA Competition	Regional Level, Prepared Speaking	1st Place
Austin College	Donors Dinner 2012	Student Speaker
	Annual MLK Breakfast 2010	Student Speaker
New Testament Bible Church	Annual Leadership Conference	Keynote Speaker

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Inner Spirit Inner Artist Workshop Founder & Instructor**

- Teaching devised theatre, dance and song classes using scripture as source material
- Developed through research conducted at Columbia University under mentorship of Tony Award-Winner David H. Hwang

### **Script Evaluator**

- Wordsmyth Theater Company
- Cherry Lane Theatre

### **Playwright-Director in Research at Broadway Dance Center**

- Studying how different forms of dance communicate story and emotion
- Learning performer safety for movement-based shows

## **Arthur W. Stone Theatre House Management**

- Providing the highest quality of customer service in greeting and seating patrons
- Aiding the box office with ticketing

## **Screenwriting Intern**

- Screenwriter Rob Edwards (Disney's *Treasure Planet* and *The Princess & the Frog*)
- Editing documents, performing research, and helping with marketing strategies

## **Author of *Ephemeral Moments***

- A published collection of poetry and short stories

## **Austin College Recruitment**

- Student Development Board Member
- Calling and hosting prospective students, leading campus tours, working admissions events on and off-campus, speaking at the Donors Dinner

## **HONORS**

### **Stage Directors & Choreographers Foundation**

- Observership Class of 2017-2018

### **Columbia University Dean's Fellowship**

- Recipient for MFA Playwriting Class of 2018

### **Alpha Psi Omega Inductee**

- National Theatre Honor Society

### **Louisiana Tech University "Tech Tony Award" Honoree 2015**

- Lula Mae Sciro Award for Theatre Excellence
- Arthur W. Stone Award for Playwriting

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner in Louisiana Tech Research Symposium**

- Presentation on Shakespeare's use of metre to define characters' nature and relationships

### **Featured Playwright**

- "Slain Gall" selected by Tech's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega for 2014 summer production

### **Won Best Play for "The Feather Doesn't Fall Far from the Wing"**

- Louisiana Tech Festival of New Works 2014 sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega

### **Austin College Honors Convocation Scholarship Recipient**

- Received two scholarships: English and Journalism

## **Special Skills**

Dance: Jazz, Kick, Modern, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Novelty, Skilled choreographer and dance instructor

Stage Combat: Swashbuckling Course, Louisiana Tech University

Computer: **Avid**: Pro Tools and Media Composer; **Adobe**: InDesign and Photoshop; **Microsoft**: Word, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint; **Final Draft**: Formal training in Search Engine Optimization; HTML; Blogging and WordPress; Podcasting; Adept at social media communication

## **Education**

Columbia University, Playwriting, MFA (New York, NY)

May 2018

Louisiana Tech University, Speech-Theatre, MA (Ruston, LA)

May 2015

Jubilee Theatre, Method Acting, Certificate (Fort Worth, TX)

December 2012

Austin College, English, BA (Sherman, TX)

May 2012