



AYVAUNN PENN

Curriculum Vitae



- Award-Winning Playwright & Director
- Composer & Trained Songwriter
- Theatre Professor & Course Developer
- 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 25th 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 art and education
- Audience of over 30,000
- 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

Freelance Writer & Editor

- Managing and collaborating with writers to ensure maintenance of publication 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
- Publications Served
 - *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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas Christian University	Theatre Appreciation	Adjunct Faculty
Austin College	Communications/Inquiry	Teaching Assistant
Louisiana Tech University	Theatre Appreciation	Teaching Assistant
Louisiana Tech University	Fund. of Dramatic Writing	Teaching Assistant
KD Conservatory College...	Introduction to Playwriting	Workshop Developer
Booker T. High School of the Performing & Visual Arts	Beginner & Advanced Playwriting	Guest Instructor

PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

National Management Assoc.	Chapter Level	1 st 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 the 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

1st 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** Office Suite; **Final Draft**; Formal training in SEO, html, blogging, WordPress, and 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