

Tara Noelle Demmy

EDUCATION

Aug 2018 – Present
University of Maryland – College Park, MD
PhD Student, Theatre and Performance Studies

Areas of Focus: Comedy Studies, Feminist Studies, The Pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq

Aug 2016 – May 2018
Villanova University – Villanova, PA
M.A. Theatre 4.0 overall GPA
Comprehensive Exams, passed with distinction

Awarded travel grant for comic forms residency at Celebration Barn (South Paris, MA).

Courses: Dramaturgy and Theatre History, Vision and Form (Dramatic Criticism and Theory), Script Analysis, Teaching of Theatre, Directing, Directing Styles, Shakespeare on Stage, African American Women Playwrights, Acting Styles, Principles of Acting.

Thesis: *The Funny Ladies of Chekhov (FLOC): Unleashing the Comedic Potential of Chekhov's Female Characters*
Research Advisor, Dr. Valerie Joyce

Aug 2006 – May 2010
Denison University – Granville, OH
B.A. Theatre *Magna Cum Laude* 3.79 overall GPA
Women's Studies (Minor), Certificate of Organizational Studies

Awards: David Rounds Award: Most Promising Theatre Major (2010), Denison Distinguished Leadership Award (2010), Vail Scholarship for Achievement in the Arts (2008).

Leadership: Denison Independent Theatre Association, President (2009-2010)
Women's Performance Group, Founder and Artistic Director (2007-2010).

Thesis: *American Bouffon: Historical Deconstruction and Experimental Performance*
Research Advisor, Dr. Mark Evans Bryan

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Oct 2013 – June 2014
Helikos International School of Theatre Creation – Florence, Italy
Under the direction of master movement teacher Giovanni Fusetti, Helikos is a conservatory of physical theatre based in the pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq.

Courses: Voice, Movement Analysis and Technique, Improvisation, Acrobatics, Theatre Creation and Writing, Mask-Making, Emotional Awareness Process, Martial Arts.

Territories: Neutral Mask, Dynamic study of Nature (elements, materials, animals), Mimodynamics (colors, paintings), Characters, 20 Movements of Jacques Lecoq, Treteau, Larval Masks, Expressive Half and Full masks, Commedia dell'arte, Mask Design and Construction, Grotesque Characters, Satiric Drama and Bouffons, Red-Nose Clown, Comic Characters.

Aug 2016
Pedagogic Training in Red Nose Clown – Boulder Circus Center, Boulder, CO
Week-long intensive training in red-nose clown pedagogy under the direction of master Lecoq teacher Giovanni Fusetti. Workshop included curriculum structuring, teaching tutorials, and discussion about classroom strategies.

Aug 2009 – **Philly Improv Theater** – Philadelphia, PA (Comedic Improvisation, Levels 1-4)
Feb 2014 **Upright Citizens Brigade** – New York, NY (Comedic Improvisation, Levels 1-3)
Second City – Chicago, IL (Sketch Comedy/Improv Intensive, Level 1)

Trained with the following instructors, known for originating influential comedy techniques:
Jill Bernard (HUGE Improv Theater, Minneapolis), Armando Diaz (Magnet Theater, New York City), Mark Sutton (The Annoyance Theatre, Chicago).

Aug 2008 – **Gaiety School of Acting, National Theatre School of Ireland** – Dublin, Ireland
Dec 2008 Undergraduate semester abroad. Immersed in an intensive performance program at Ireland's premier training facility for actors.

Courses: Irish Theatre History, Voice, Movement, and Devising.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 **Theatre Philadelphia Panel Discussion** – Philadelphia, PA
Panel: "Improv is the Future of Theater"
Invited to select panel of Philadelphia actors, directors, and comedy instructors to discuss the relationship between improvised and scripted theatre.
- 2018, 2017 **Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium** – Villanova University
2018 Panel: "A Year in Review: Educational Dramaturgy at Villanova University"
2017 Paper: "We Need a Girl: Homogenous Companies Seek New Voices" (case study addressing female creative leadership in Philadelphia comedic theatre companies).
- 2017 **Gender and Women's Studies Student Research Conference** – Villanova University
Performance/Panelist: "Body Doors: Exploration of Female Sexuality and Desire through the Grotesque Clown."
- 2010 **American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)** – Seattle, WA
Paper: "American Bouffon: Historical Deconstruction and Experimental Performance."
Presented in the "Bodies at Play" working group.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Aug 2017 – **Education Dramaturg, Villanova Theatre** – Villanova, PA
May 2018 Create educational study guides, create curriculum, and teach workshops and classes to contextualize Villanova Theatre season shows for subscribers and students.
- Workshops:
Improvisation and Collaborative Play (*Godspell*)
Acting beyond text: Say everything without saying a word (*Intimate Apparel*)
Theatrical Storytelling (*Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*)
Shakespeare's Clowns (*Much Ado about Nothing*)
Dramaturgical Presentations, including discussions specifically relating to the material of the Villanova course to the specific production.
Dramaturgy Presentation for ESL courses at the American Language Center (Huntingdon Valley, PA)
- Feb 2011 – **Teaching Artist, Arden Drama School, Arden Theatre Company** – Philadelphia, PA
July 2018 Teach theatre, storytelling, and comedy to grades K-12. Encourage active imaginations and collaboration through the development of theatrical skills.
- Classes/Camps:
Fundamentals of Acting (6th-8th)
Comedy Club (K-2nd)
Storytelling (K-2nd)

Improv Comedy (3rd-5th)
Sketch Comedy (9th-12th)
Comedy Camp: Sketch, Improv, Clown (1st-5th)

June 2014 –
July 2018

Instructor, Philly Improv Theater – Philadelphia, PA

Teach long-form improvisation at the Philly Improv Theater training center. Curriculum focuses on listening, character development, relationship, group play, and object work (mime).

8-week classes:

Improv 101: Intro to Improvised Scenework

Improv 201: Intermediate Improv and Scenework Techniques

Workshops:

Grotesque Characters

Clowns in Real Life

Saturday Practice Groups for 101-401

June 2016 –
July 2018

Teacher, St. Peter's School – Philadelphia, PA

Teach a variety of courses at summer camp for grades PreK-5th. Specializing in connecting theatre/movement/creative play to other academic subjects, such as science and history.

Camps:

Comedy (Improv, Sketch, Clown, Stand-up)

Solving the Case (Problem Solving, Theatre, History)

Enchanted Forest (Storytelling, Myths, Character Creation, Theatre)

Dr. Furorem's Lab (Science, Movement)

The Artist's Life (Exploring careers in the arts)

Superheroes (Character development, Story Structure)

Nov 2015 –
June 2016

Travelling Science Show Presenter, The Franklin Institute – Philadelphia, PA

Toured science shows to schools in the region to grades PreK-8th. Helped to craft and develop new shows and curriculum for different age groups and learning styles.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

May 2016–
Present

Company Member, Tribe of Fools – Philadelphia, PA

Administrative duties include designing show programs, developing marketing plan, negotiating space rental contracts, drafting artist and designer contracts, creating institutional documents like company membership guidelines, and organizing the annual fundraiser.

Aug 2016 –
May 2018

Graduate Assistant, Gender and Women's Studies Program, Villanova University

Responsible for promoting program events and poster design, website updates and layout, distributing course lists and descriptions, and organizing and facilitating the annual GWS Student Research Conference.

July 2011 –
Sept 2013

FringeArts (formerly the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe) – Philadelphia, PA

Programming Manager April 2013 – Sept 2013

Negotiated artist contracts, scheduled performances, organized front of house logistics, designed show programs, facilitated local casting, programmed ancillary events, and arranged artist travel and housing for Philadelphia's premier contemporary arts festival.

Marketing Coordinator March 2012 – March 2013

Managed ad sales, website updates, group sales, and community outreach efforts.

Development Assistant Oct 2011– Feb 2012

Supported the development department in gift processing, fundraising strategy, and donor communication. Tracked prospects and managed donor meetings for FringeArts' capital campaign.

Volunteer Coordinator July 2011– Sept 2011

Responsible for the recruitment, training, scheduling, and supervision of two hundred volunteers during the sixteen day festival.

Aug 2010 –
June 2011

Professional Apprentice, Arden Theatre Company – Philadelphia, PA

One of the most distinguished administrative theatre training programs in the country. Worked in every aspect of the Arden's operations including artistic, marketing, education, box office, development, production, stage management, finance, and general management.

Summer 2010

Associate Director, National High School Institute, Theatre Arts Division –

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Organized field trips and daily meetings, taught electives and workshops, scheduled rehearsals, and maintained the overall administrative flow for the nation's oldest and largest university-based summer program. Promoted from Faculty Associate (summer 2009).

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Professional

Tribe of Fools – Philadelphia, PA

A comedic physical theatre company, founded in 2003, producing three shows a year – an ensemble show in Philadelphia Fringe Festival each fall, a solo touring show each spring, as well as an annual burlesque fundraiser every December. Tribe of Fools creates original plays by engaging actors, circus artists, comedians, designers, directors, and writers in a process that embraces play, raw theatricality, and kinetic storytelling. The process is a mix of improvisation, playwriting, commedia dell'arte, and circus arts to create shows that intelligently grapple with relevant social issues while remaining fun, accessible, and entertaining. www.tribeoffools.org

Participate in administrative work and year-round company training in comedy and acrobatics. Direct annual burlesque fundraiser. Company member since 2016.

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| <i>Tribe of Fools Holiday Burlesque</i> (Director, Performer) Sex-positive, Body-positive, LGBTQ Friendly. | Annual Fundraiser | 2017, 2016 (Director/Performer) 2015, 2014 (Performer) |
| <i>Fishtown – A Hipster Noir</i> (Sarah Lowell, Co-creator) A noir style show examining our relationship with technology. | Philadelphia Fringe Festival | 2017 |
| <i>Antihero</i> (Ensemble) A play about our cultural fascination with heroes who do the wrong things for the "right" reasons. | Philadelphia Fringe Festival | 2016 |
| <i>Zombies...with Guns</i> (Female Zombie, Co-creator) A post-apocalyptic play about gun violence featuring zombie clowns. | Philadelphia Fringe Festival | 2015 |
| <i>Fake Off, Season Two</i> | TruTV | 2015 |

(Performer)
Theatre and dance companies compete each week with a new theme. Season finalist.

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| <i>Shut your Wormhole</i> (Performer / Co-creator) A time-travel show for children and adults. | Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA) at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts | 2013 |
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ManiPedi Sketch Comedy – Philadelphia, PA

A feminist sketch comedy troupe of all female-identifying performers. Founded in 2011, ManiPedi is one of Philly’s oldest and longest running sketch comedy troupes. ManiPedi won the 2014 and 2015 WitOut Award for Best Sketch Group in Philadelphia and was featured in the 2012 Ladies are Funny Festival, 2012 Boston Comedy Arts Festival, 2016 Women in Comedy Festival, and the 2017 Bechtel Test Fest. ManiPedi is known for defying traditional sketch conventions by incorporating inventive transitions, spoken word, and movement.

Writer and Performer since 2015.

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| <i>ManiPedi: Episode One</i> (Demmiver) Four super spies use the power of friendship and feminism to go ballistic on the patriarchy. | Sketch Video – Part of Philadelphia Film Society’s Philly Film Showcase | 2017 |
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| <i>Careful Now</i> (Writer/Performer) A post-apocalyptic sketch show challenging the expectation of female politeness. | Sketch Show – Performed independently in Philadelphia and at Villanova University (invited by the Gender and Women’s Studies Program) | 2016 |
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| <i>ManiPedi: The Visual Album</i> (Performer) Sketches inspired by Beyonce’s self-titled visual album. | Sketch Video | 2016 |
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| <i>Karen’s Dream</i> (Town Crier, Joyce) Sketches all within one woman’s dreamscape. | Sketch Show – Performed at Philly Improv Theater (PHIT) | 2015 |
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Select Comedy Shows

Active performer in the improv and sketch community in Philadelphia since 2010. Perform at local comedy theatres including Philly Improv Theatre (www.phitcomedy.com) and Good Good Comedy (www.goodgoodcomedy.com).

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| <i>Dunk Tank – PHIT House Team</i> (Performer) Weekly long-form improv comedy show. | Philly Improv Theater (PHIT) | 2017 – Present |
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| <i>DGDK – Live Rock Comedy</i> (Performer) Three-person ensemble, improvised theatre featuring movement, spoken word, singing to live drums/piano. | Philly Improv Theater (PHIT) | 2016-2017 |
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| <i>You’re Not Special: A Bouffon Play</i> | Good Good Comedy | 2016 |
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about Millennials

(Co-creator, Producer, Performer)
Devised show in the satirical style of bouffon using Chekhov's *The Seagull* as inspiration.

Frog Night, A Monthly Show of Experimental Comedy
(Producer, Co-host)
Show featured new comedic pieces from theatre artists and comedians, with a talkback right after.

Good Good Comedy

2015-2016

Stay Dead! An Improvised Horror Comedy
(Performer)

Philly Improv Theater

2015

Educational

Villanova Theatre – Villanova University, Villanova, PA

A community of artist-scholars dedicated to creating vibrant theatre experiences enriched by the ideas explored in the classroom. www.villanovatheatre.org

Participate in student-run performances, classmate's thesis projects, and department productions.

The Behavior of Light (Caroline)
By Douglas Carter Beane

Villanova Theatre (Staged Reading)

2018

Much Ado About Nothing (Verges)
by William Shakespeare

Villanova Theatre (Mainstage)

2018

Mr. Burns, a post-electric play (Jenny)
by Anne Washburn

Villanova Theatre (Mainstage)

2018

Bedtime Stories (Molly)
by Charles Mee

M.A. Directing Thesis

2017

Patient Relations (Emily)
By Kevin Esmond

M.A. Playwriting Thesis,
Staged Reading

2017

We Must Share Everything
(Ensemble/Co-Creator)
By Lexa Grace and the Ensemble

Devised Studio Show,
Student-run

2017

Marisol (Assistant Stage Manager)
By José Rivera

Villanova Theatre (Mainstage)

2016

Visit www.tarademmy.com for information on current projects and workshops.