

## *Season M. Ellison*

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### **Education**

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Ph.D. in Theatre, Bowling Green State University, Ohio  
Degree to be conferred, December 2009

Dissertation: "Towards the Horsewoman: The Performance of  
Femininity in the American Training and Riding Arenas."

Dissertation Advisor: Lesa Lockford, PhD.

Associated Awards: Dissertation Fellowship, 2008-2009

M.A. in Theatre Arts, Texas State University — San Marcos, Texas; 2005

Thesis: Direction of *The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman.

Concentrations: Theatre Directing, Theatre History and Criticism.

Thesis Advisors: Michael Costello, MFA; John Fleming, PhD.

B.A. in Theatre Arts, Henderson State University, Arkansas; 2003

Concentration: Theatre Directing

Minor: Communication Studies

### **Teaching and Research Interests**

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Teaching: Directing, Acting, Performance Studies, Qualitative Inquiry (Ethnography, Auto-Ethnography, Solo Performance, Personal Narrative), Script Analysis and Dramatic Literature, Theatre and Performance Theory, Theatre and Performance History, Dramaturgy, Women and Representation, Queer Studies, and Stage Management.

Research: Theatre Directing, Qualitative Inquiry (Ethnography, Auto-Ethnography, Solo Performance, Personal Narrative), Theatre and Performance Practice and Theory, Gender and Performance, Performance in Daily Life, Queer Studies, American

Culture Studies (specifically Western Mythology and Cowboy Culture, Performance of Rural Culture), and Animals as Performers.

## Teaching

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### Positions Held:

- 2009-2010 James N. Wise Endowed Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre  
The College of Wooster; Wooster, Ohio  
Courses Taught: The Physical Text, The Written Text, Feminism and Theatre (upcoming, Spring 2010), Directing I (upcoming, Spring 2010). See descriptions below.
- 2005-2008 Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, Ohio  
Duties: Instructor of record for sections of Directing I, Script Analysis, Exploring Cultural Diversity through Performance, Performance Studies I, and University Success. See descriptions below.
- 2004-2005 Graduate Assistant, Aid to Head of Design  
Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas  
Duties: Assisted with course preparation; Monitored cad-lab; Powerpoint presentations; Word processing, Photocopying; General office duties.
- 2003-2004 Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas  
Duties: Introduction to Fine Arts (*Fall 2003 – Spring 2004; 4 Sections*)  
Handled all grading and attendance records for approximately 150 students; Lectured when Instructor was unable to attend class; Assisted with Powerpoint presentation during lectures.
- 2002-2003 Resident Director  
Arkadelphia Little Theatre; Arkadelphia, Arkansas
- 1998-2000 Instructor of Acting and Musical Theatre  
Lips, Fingers, and Toes Studio of Music and Dance; Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 1995-2000 Instructor of Beginning Voice (singing) and Piano  
Lips, Fingers, and Toes Studio of Music and Dance; Hot Springs, Arkansas

## Courses Taught:

### The College of Wooster

#### THTD 103, The Physical Text

*Fall 2009 – Spring 2010; 2 Sections; 10-20 Students per section*

Co-taught with Professor of Dance, Kim Tritt. Introduction to stage movement. In my section, I emphasized concepts of locating and shifting one's center as per Michael Chekhov's psychological centering.

#### THTD 101, The Written Text

*Fall 2009; 1 section; 15 Students*

Methods of reading, studying, and analyzing scripts for production on the stage. Concentration on the script as a vehicle for performance as understood by the actor, director, designer, and technician. Emphasis on Aristotelian analysis with an introduction to other analytical lenses, such as Marxism and Feminism.

#### THTD 245, Feminism in Theatre (upcoming)

*Spring 2010; 1 Section; 20 Students (cap)*

Explore theories of feminism and gender issues in relation to dramatic literature from a wide range of time periods and perspectives. Because much feminist theatre occurs through solo performance, students also explore bodily ways of knowing.

#### THTD 303, Topics in the Physical Text: Directing I (upcoming)

*Spring 2010, 1 Section; 12 Students (cap)*

Beginning theory and techniques of play direction. Includes: textual analysis, conceptualization, picturization, and blocking techniques. Special emphasis will be placed on collaborative techniques. Each student directs a number of short projects.

### Bowling Green State University

#### THFM 202, Performance Studies I

*Fall 2005 – Spring 2008; 11 Sections; 20 Students per section*

Introduction to performance studies. Emphasis on textual and cultural analysis and interpretation (Public Address, Poetry, Oral History) as well as vocal and physical techniques of performance.

THFM 341, Directing I

*Fall 2007; 1 Section; 18 Students*

Beginning theory and techniques of play direction. Includes: textual analysis, conceptualization, picturization, and blocking techniques. Each student directs a 10-minute play.

THFM 191, Playscript Analysis

*Spring 2007; 1 Section; 24 Students*

Methods of reading, studying, and analyzing scripts for production on the stage. Concentration on the script as a vehicle for performance as understood by the actor, director, designer, and technician.

THFM 215, Exploring Cultural Diversity through Performance

*Fall 2006; 1 Section; 20 Students*

Through performance and discussion of selected public and private texts written by American minority writers, this course explores what it means to be a part of a culturally diverse society and how one learns about the "Other" through bodily knowing and performance.

UNIV 100, University Success

*Fall 2006; 1 Section; 20 Students*

Introduction to higher education. Development of skills in oral and written communication, time and stress management, interpersonal relations, personal wellness, library research, and studying/test-taking. Furthers awareness of social issues such as AIDS, alcohol and substance abuse, acquaintance rape, and race relations.

Sample syllabi available upon request.

Guest Lecturing:

Theatre Seminar: Women, Race and Gender in American Theatre.

*19 February 2009; 4 Students; Henderson State University, Arkansas*

*Course Instructor: William Henshaw, MFA.*

Introduction to Performance Studies as a method to explore race and gender studies. Introduction to ethnographic and qualitative inquiry, and performance as a way of knowing.

Acting I

*6 February 2009; 10 Students; Henderson State University, Arkansas*

*Course Instructor: Claudia Beach, PhD.*

Workshop exploration of objectives, goals, and tactics for undergraduate beginning actors. Majors and Non-Majors.

## Humanities: Theatre Arts

28 January 2009; 45 Students; Henderson State University, Arkansas

Course Instructor: Douglas Gilpin, MFA.

Led an Introduction to Acting Workshop for 45 students in the general education humanities course.

## Scholarship & Artistry

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### Publications:

"Performance is ... Freedom." *International Review of Qualitative Research*. Ed. Norman K. Denzin. Publication Forthcoming, October 2010.

Book review of *Autobiography and Performance* by Dierdre Heddon. *Theatre Journal*. 61:2 (2009): 344-346.

"The Laramie Project's Application of the Suggestive Image." *Theatre Southwest: The Journal of the Southwest Theatre and Film Association*. E-1 (2006). <<http://ux1.eiu.edu/~cjmitchell/Theatre%20Southwest%20Issue%20E-1%20%282006%29.html>>.

Book review of *The Cinematic Theater* by Babak Ebrahimiian. *Theatre Journal*. 58:4 (2006): 711-712.

Book review of *Women, Modernism, & Performance* by Penny Farfan. *Women's Studies*. 35:8 (2006): 779-782.

### Academic & Conference Presentations:

**"Risking Innovation in Directing Pedagogy: Exploring New Exercises in the Undergraduate Directing Classroom."** Panel Chair and Presenter. Roundtable discussion exploring a variety of innovative approaches to teaching directing for undergraduate theatre students. Directing Focus Group, Association of Theatre in Higher Education Conference. New York, New York. August 2009.

**"Performance is... Metaphor as Methodological Tool."** Panelist. Panel explores a variety of new metaphors for performance. Qualitative Inquiry Conference, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. May 2009.

**"LaBute or LaBrute: Negotiating Misogyny and Social Critique in Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig*."** Juried paper presented as part of the "Difficult Dialogues: Opening Up Essential Conversations through the Production of Challenging Texts" Panel. Directing Focus Group, Association of Theatre in Higher Education Conference. Denver, Colorado. August 2008.

**“Performance Animals, Performing Animals, or Animal Performers? Audiencing the World Famous Lipizzaner Stallions.”** Paper presented as part of Battleground States Conference at Bowling Green State University. Bowling Green, Ohio. February 2008.

**“Neil LaBute’s *Fat Pig*: a Roundtable Discussion of Body Image and Fat Phobia.”** Presented as part of the Women’s Studies Program’s Brown Bag Luncheon at Bowling Green State University. Bowling Green, Ohio. February 2008.

**“Appropriating Myth: Exoticism, the American West, and the New Woman in Puccini’s *La Fanciulla del West*.”** Paper presented for the California Culture Area. Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association’s meeting. Albuquerque, New Mexico. February 2008.

**“A Long Poem of Walking in the Streets of New Orleans.”** Performance script, conceptualized, performed and written as part of the “Re-Actions” Project Panel. LGBT, Movement, and Theatre Theory Focus Groups. Association of Theatre in Higher Education Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. July 2007.

**“Finding Myself in My Horse.”** Performance given as part of the “Response-Ability in Ethnographic Performance” Panel. Performance Studies and Theatre. Central States Communication Association. Minneapolis, Minnesota. March 29 – April 1, 2007.

**“Stratford Shakespeare Festival’s, *As You Like It*: Visuality and Theatricality.”** Paper given as part of the “Style and Substance vs. Flash and Trash: Exploring Theatricality Today” Panel. Directing Focus Group, Association of Theatre in Higher Education Conference. Chicago, Illinois. August 2006.

**“The Laramie Project: A Collaborative Ideal.”** Paper given as part of the “Pioneers in Power Transformation” Panel. Directing Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference. Kansas City, Kansas. March 2005.

**“Stage Management Materials for *Woody Guthrie’s American Song*.”** Installation. American College Theatre Festival Region VI, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2005.

**“Scene Design Materials for *Twelfth Night*.”** Installation. Texas Educational Theatre Association—DesignFest, Houston, Texas, 2005.

**“The Laramie Project’s Use of the Suggestive Image.”** Paper given as part of the Theatre History Debut Panel. Southwest Theatre Association Conference. Plano, Texas. 2004.

## Directing Experience:

*The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare. The College of Wooster; Wooster, Ohio. October 2009.

*Food for Soul* by Judith Zivanovic (original script). New Play Festival. Playwriting Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference; Chicago, Illinois. 2009.

*The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute. Henderson State University; Arkadelphia, Arkansas. February 2009.

*Fat Pig* by Neil LaBute. Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, Ohio. 2008.

*Landscape Postmodern* by Andrea Onstead (original script). New Play Festival. Playwriting Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference; Kansas City, Kansas. 2008.

*Harvey* by Mary Chase. Black Swamp Players; Bowling Green, Ohio. 2007.

*Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Ernest Zulia (adaptation) and David Caldwell (music and lyrics). Black Swamp Players; Bowling Green, Ohio. 2007.

*Little Brother* by Patrick Midgley (original script). New Play Festival. Playwriting Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference; Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2007.

*Who We Are* by Reginald Edmund (original script). New Play Festival. Playwriting Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference; Minneapolis, Minnesota. 2007.

*Action through Inaction, Project 365* by Suzan Lori-Parks. Bowling Green State University; Elsewhere Theatre. Bowling Green, Ohio. 2007.

*The Kicker* by Luke Krueger (original script). New Play Festival. Playwriting Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference, Chicago, Illinois. 2006.

*Turquoise* by Season Ellison et al (original script). Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas. 2005.

*The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project. Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas. 2005.

*Rogues and Renegades* (original scripts). New Play Festival. Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas. 2005.

*Rogues and Renegades* (original scripts). New Play Festival. Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas. 2004.

*Visiting Mr. Green* by Jeff Baron. Arkadelphia Little Theatre; Arkadelphia, Arkansas. 2003.

*Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. Henderson State University; Arkadelphia, Arkansas. 2003.

*Clue: The Musical* by Peter DePetrio, Tom Chiodo, et al. Arkadelphia Little Theatre; Arkadelphia, Arkansas. 2002.

*The Sunshine Boys* by Neil Simon. Arkadelphia Little Theatre; Arkadelphia, Arkansas. 2002.

*Annie Junior* by Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, et al. Lips Fingers and Toes Studio of Music and Dance; Hot Springs, Arkansas. 2000.

#### Selected Additional Production Experience:

Dramaturg. *Freebox* by Kato Buss (original script). New Play Festival. Playwriting Symposium. Mid-America Theatre Conference; Chicago, Illinois. 2009.

Actor. (Rose) *Unity (1918)*, Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, Ohio. 2007.

Producer. "Arts Extravaganza," Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, Ohio. 2006.

Dramaturg. *Anton in Show Business*, Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, Ohio. 2005.

Asst. Director/Stage Manager. *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas. 2004.

Actor. (Knowledge) *Everyman*. Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas. 2004.

Stage Manager. "Fredericksburg Saturday Night." Fredericksburg, Texas. 2003.

Actor. (Antonia) *Man of La Mancha*. The Weekend Theatre; Little Rock, Arkansas. 2000.

#### **Activities and Service:**

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##### Professional Service:

**Playwriting Symposium, Conference Co-Chair, 2009-2010.**  
Mid-America Theatre Conference, Playwriting Symposium.

**Directing Graduate Student Representative, 2008-2010**

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Directing Focus Group

**Respondent, American College Theatre Festival, November 2009**

I will guide a formal response and critique of University of Toledo's upcoming production of *Machinal*.

**Graduate Adjudicator, Jane Chambers Student Playwriting Award, 2009.**

Association for Theatre in Higher Education; New York, New York.  
Women in Theatre Focus Group Pre-Conference.

**Playwriting Graduate Liaison and Fringe Festival Coordinator, 2007-2009**

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Playwriting Symposium

**Graduate Adjudicator, Jane Chambers Student Playwriting Award, 2008**

Association for Theatre in Higher Education; Denver, Colorado.  
Women in Theatre Focus Group Pre-Conference.

**Graduate Adjudicator, Jane Chambers Student Playwriting Award, 2007**

Association for Theatre in Higher Education; New Orleans, Louisiana.  
Women in Theatre Focus Group Pre-Conference.

Departmental Service:

**Actor's Lab, 2009-2010**

The College of Wooster, Department of Theatre and Dance, Wooster, Ohio.  
Instituted and coordinated a weekly workshop to help student actors and other College students needing help with performance-type projects.

**GradSTEP Development Leader, 2008-2009**

Bowling Green State University, Department of Theatre and Film, Bowling Green, Ohio. Served as the liaison and coordinator between incoming graduate students, the department, and the graduate college. Served as a session leader during the graduate student orientation week.

**Elsewhere Season Selection Committee, 2006-2008**

Bowling Green State University, Department of Theatre and Film, Bowling Green, Ohio.

**Season Selection Committee, 2006-2007**

Bowling Green State University, Department of Theatre and Film, Bowling Green, Ohio.

**Respondent and Moderator**, Graduate student talkback for a campus production of *Proof*. Bowling Green State University, Department of Theatre and Film, Bowling Green, Ohio. 2007.

**Respondent and Moderator**, Graduate student talkback for a campus production of *The Land of Little Horses*. Bowling Green State University, Department of Theatre and Film, Bowling Green, Ohio. 2006.

**Respondent and Moderator**, Graduate student talkback for a campus production of *Anton in Show Business*. Bowling Green State University, Department of Theatre and Film, Bowling Green, Ohio. 2005.

#### University Activities & Service:

**Academic Honesty Committee:** Bowling Green State University; Bowling Green, OH; Full Committee Member, 2008-2009. Alternate Committee Member, 2007-2008.

**Candlelight Experience:** Texas State University--San Marcos, Texas; 2005.  
Coordinated a candlelight vigil/educational gathering to raise scholarship funds for victims of hate crimes.

**Mitte Scholar:** Texas State University--San Marcos, Texas; 2003-2005.  
University honor society focusing on community service and exemplary academic achievement.

**Theta Alpha Phi:** Henderson State University, Arkansas; 2001-present.  
Theatre honor society.

#### **Professional Affiliations**

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American College Theatre Festival, Region II (ACTF)  
American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)  
American Theatre Dramatic Society (ATDS)  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)  
Central States Communication Association (CSCA)  
Coalition for Western Women (CWW)  
International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI)  
Mid-America Theatre Association (MATC)  
Southwest Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Association (SWTX/PCA/ACA)

#### **Honors and Awards**

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**Pass with Distinction, Comprehensive Examination:** Department of Theatre and Film.  
Bowling Green State University, Ohio; 2008.

**Chancellor's List:** Bowling Green State University, Ohio; 2005 -2007  
**Graduate Scholar:** Texas State University--San Marcos, Texas; 2004-2005.  
**Oscar Brockett's Theatre History Award:** Southwest Theatre Association. Award received for paper, "*The Laramie Project's Application of the Suggestive Image*" presented at the 2004 SWTA conference.  
**Who's Who in American Universities:** 2002, 2005.  
**Texas Education Grant:** Texas State University--San Marcos, Texas; 2003-2004.

## References

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**Claudia Beach, Ph.D.** Associate Professor, Director of Theatre.  
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**Penelope Walrath Cole, Ph.D.** MATC Playwriting Symposium Chair, 2006-2008.  
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