

ANDREA AMBAM

www.andreaambam.com | Brooklyn, NY

EDUCATION

2020 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – ART & PUBLIC POLICY, M.A.

performing narratives with Anna Deavere Smith; ethnodrama with Joe Salvatore; play story analysis: shakespeare, politics, & contemporary drama with Oskar Eustis; advanced playwriting with Judy Tate; creative response: performance matters with Karen Finley

2019 WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – CRIMINOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY, B.A.

scholar of the college

SELECTED THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

R(ESTORATION) I(N) P(ROGRESS) provincetown playhouse, nyc, 2023

Playwright. Full-length play following an estranged mother and son seeking justice for husband/father after a deadly police interaction. Commissioned for a week of development culminating to a public reading by NYU Steinhardt's New Plays for Young Audiences Series. Semi-finalist for Ashland New Plays Festival. Commissioned by NYU Steinhardt for a 2023 production at Provincetown Playhouse.

FRAGILE STATE

Playwright. Full-length afro-surrealist play following a young organizer in the Black Lives Matter movement who faces crisis in the home & on the streets when a visit from her West-African grandmother tips her life upside around. Currently under development with Playwrights Realm Writing Fellowship (2022-2023).

REHEARSING JUSTICE broadway advocacy coalition – the fellowship hall, 2020-2021 + brooklyn arts exchange, 2021-2022

Creator, Writer, Performer. Debut One-Woman Show following a time-traveling Ida B. Wells on 21st-century anti-lynching crusade, developed and digitally presented to the public under a 6-month fellowship with Broadway Advocacy Coalition. Further development and presentation under BAX AIR Residency – Open Studio (Dancewave, November 2021), Work In Progress Presentation at BAX Theatre (February, 2022), Sharing at BAX Theatre (May, 2022).

WORDS OF THE WOMEN – A CENTOLOGUE manhattan school of music/ broadway advocacy coalition arts in action festival, 2022

Writer & Performer. An original performance of 13 Black women (living and past) in one monologue.

ICONS: HARLEM RENAISSANCE IN MOTION classical theatre of harlem/playbill, 2021

Writer commissioned to create original monologues based on figures from the Harlem Renaissance. Published in Playbill.

REWRITING THE DECLARATION free street theatre (chicago) + nyu steinhardt, november 2020

Principal Deviser/Ensemble Member. Devised show catalyzed by the BLM movement. Directed by Quenna Lene Barrett.

IF BLACK GIRLS COULD SPEAK bang bag gun amok III/abrons art center, nyc, 2019

Writer and Performer. A 24-hour performance filibuster to end gun violence. Original performance of “If Black Girls Could Speak”. Curated by George Emilio Sanchez.

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

NOW | LEVEL FORWARD – entertainment company leading in art + impact

Programming Manager & Host of *More To Talk About* Platform – creative, current, & critical conversations with the culture-makers of boundary-pushing theatrical and cinematic work + resources to enrich your artistic experience.

NOW | PLAYBOOK PRODUCTIONS – award-winning production company

Script coordinator/dramaturg for a theatre project in-development with LaTosha Brown, Co-founder of Black Voters Matter.

2020-2022 | BROADWAY ADVOCACY COALITION – tony-award winning arts advocacy organization

Lead facilitator for “reimagining equitable productions” workshop, addressing racial equity within broadway, off-broadway, & national tour companies (*Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Girl From North Country*, *Company*) + co-facilitator/mentor for the Artivism Fellowship.

2022 | SIGNATURE THEATRE – one of New York’s leading Off-Broadway theatres

Dramaturgical Content Coordinator the world premiere *My Broken Language* by Quiara Alegria Hudes & Artistic Fellow providing support to Signature’s artistic team via artistic, production, and casting support for Signature’s 2021-2022 season.

2020-2021 | GIRLS WRITE NOW – arts education non-profit organization

Community coordinator curating, hosting, & producing arts-education workshops, salons and special events. Collaborating with talent such as Tayari Jones, Rebecca Carroll, Mahogany L. Browne (and more) & partners such as Level Forward, Warner Media, Comcast NBCUniversal, and more.

2020 | ANNA DEAVERE SMITH’S “ONE PERSON SHOWS: A WAY TO BEGIN” – new york university

Artist-in-residence + Teaching Assistant for NYU class

PUBLICATIONS

Ambam, Andrea (2020, August 30). [How Breonna Taylor’s death reaffirmed my commitment to justice in abolition](#). gal-dem.

[Listen to a New Play About Angelina Weld Grimké From Classical Theatre of Harlem’s ICONS Series](#) (Playbill, 2021). “The third monologue released is from the perspective of Angelina Weld Grimké, written by Andrea Ambam...”

AWARDS/HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES

2023 Anthem Award for More To Talk About; Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow 2022; PenAmerica Writing As Activism Fellow 2022; Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) Artist-In-Residence 2021-2023; Ashland New Plays Festival Semifinalist 2021; Broadway Advocacy Coalition Artivism Fellow 2020-2021; EmergeNYC Fellow 2020; NYU Outstanding Service Award for Building Bridges 2020; Three-Time Top Speaker in the Nation 2018-2019 (American Forensics Association/National Forensics Association); Dramatic Duet National Champion and Finalist (AFA, NFA); Two-time Poetry Performance National Finalist (AFA, NFA); Two-time Prose Performance National Finalist (AFA, NFA); Three-time Dramatic Multi-Genre Performance National Finalist (AFA, NFA); & Ten-time Public Speaking National Finalist & Six-Time Champion (AFA,NFA)

MENTIONED

[We Were the Last of The Nice Negro Girls by Anna Deavere Smith](#) (The Atlantic, 2021). “Andrea Ambam, an excellent recent graduate of mine...”

[WKU Forensics Team’s Andrea Ambam top ins nation](#) (2019). “Andrea Ambam is the most successful speech competitor in America today -- and the most successful in WKU’s history.”

SELECTED ACADEMIA

2022 | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY- CENTER FOR INSTITUTIONAL & SOCIAL CHANGE

Facilitator for “Theatre of Change” course in collaboration with Broadway Advocacy Coalition

2021 -2022 | NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Guest lecturer for NYU Tisch & Educational Theatre: “Creative Response: Performance Matters” (Karen Finley), “Methods and Criticism II” (Kathy Engel), “Understanding Diversity in Teaching Pluralism Through Theatre” (Dr. Amy Cordelione), and “Ethnodrama” (Joe Salvatore), “Creative Disrupters” (Tisch Represents)

2021 | LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Panelist for “Anna Deavere Smith and the #TheFergusonMoment: notes from the classroom, the theatre and the field” with Ann James, Joe Salvatore and Dr. Durell Cooper

2020 | NEW YORK UNIVERSITY- PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM

Developed and instituted 4+ week virtual curriculum on Ethnodrama, Performance, and Political Education; Class size of 15 formerly incarcerated men culminating to a public offering (New York University); Heavy collaboration with Executive Director of NYU PEP and Dr. Michelle Jones

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PERFORMANCES & ORATIONS

From 2015–2019, as a speech and debate competitor at Western Kentucky University– one of the best speech and debate teams in the country—I traveled across the country giving original orations and interpretation performances on a variety of topics/themes regarding social justice. Video/Text available upon request.

THE PHYSICAL TOLL OF ACTIVISM performance weaving poetry, drama & articles

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), University of Alabama & NFA National Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), Santa Ana, California

PROTEST APPROPRIATION poetry performance

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), University of Alabama & NFA National tournament, Runner Up (2nd), Santa Ana, California

BLUE BELLOW BY DR. ALEXIS PAULINE GUMBS prose performance

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Finalist (Top 6), University of Alabama & NFA National Tournament, Finalist (Top 6), Santa Ana, California

WEAPONIZING OFFENSE original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), University of Alabama & NFA National Tournament, Champion (1st), Santa Ana, California

PRISON ABOLITION original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), University of Alabama & NFA National Tournament, Champion (1st), Santa Ana, California

LSU FOOTBALL, JUDGES, & JUVENILES original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Finalist (Top 6), University of Alabama & NFA National Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), Santa Ana, California

THE INTERROGATION OF SANDRA BLAND BY MOJISOLA ADEBAYO duet performance

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), Colorado College & NFA National Tournament, Champion (1st), University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION IN AMERICA original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), Colorado College & NFA National Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

FROM THE BLACK GIRL ON THE FRONT LINES original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Champion (1st), Colorado College & NFA National Tournament, Champion (1st), University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

NOT YOUR MULE performance weaving poetry, drama & articles

NFA National Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), University of Wisconsin– Oshkosh

TRAVELING WHILE BLACK original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Runner Up(2nd), Colorado College & NFA National Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh

UNDER THE UDALA TREES BY CHINELO OKPARANTA prose performance

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Finalist (Top 6), Colorado College

WHITE LADY FEMINISM original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), Bradley University & NFA National Tournament, Champion (1st), University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

CLINICAL TRIALS SO WHITE original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), Bradley University & NFA National Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

BLACK BULLET poetry performance

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), Bradley University & NFA National Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

POST SLAVERY SILENCE SYNDROME performance weaving poetry, drama & articles

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), Bradley University

TUNDE V. TYRONE duet performance weaving poetry, drama & articles

NFA National Tournament, Runner Up (2nd), Ball State University

DON’T SHAME MY EBT performance weaving poetry, drama & articles

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Semifinalist (Top 12), University of Florida

STRUGGLES OF AN AFRICAN IMMIGRANT original oration

AFA National Individual Events Tournament, Finalist (Top 6), University of Florida & NFA National Tournament, Finalist (Top 6) Ball State University