

## DAVID BISAHA

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Binghamton University Dept. of Theatre, Fine Arts 127, PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022- Associate Professor of Theatre, Binghamton University, State University of New York  
Curator, Theatre Collection, Binghamton University  
Affiliate Faculty, Material and Visual Worlds Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence
- 2015-22 Assistant Professor of Theatre, Binghamton University, State University of New York

### EDUCATION

- 2015 PhD, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, University of Pittsburgh  
2010 MA, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, University of Pittsburgh  
2007 BA, Theater and English, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg VA

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

- 2022 *American Scenic Design and Freelance Professionalism*, Theater in the Americas Series, Southern Illinois University Press

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2021 "Immersive Witches: New York City Under the Spell of *Sleep No More* and *Then She Fell*," *Theatre History Studies* 40 (2021), pp. 172-186.
- 2020 "Defending the Standard Contract: Unmeasured Work, Class, and Design Professionalism in United Scenic Artists Local 829," *Theatre Survey* 61.2, pp. 231-251.
- 2019 "'I Want You to Feel Uncomfortable': Adapting Participation in Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*," *Theatre History Studies* 38 (2019), pp. 133-148.
- 2016 "Robert Edmond Jones' Scenic Renderings as Design Artifact and Professional Tool." *Theatre & Performance Design* 1.3, pp. 220-235.

- 2015 "Audience Participation as Consumption and Citizenship in Contemporary Storytelling Performances of *The Iliad*." *Etudes: An Online Theatre & Performance Studies Journal for Emerging Scholars*, 15pp.
- 2014 "Visualizing Postmemory on Documentary Stages: Postmemorial Dramaturgies in *Annulla: An Autobiography* and *I Am My Own Wife*." *Text and Presentation*, 2013. pp. 184-200.

### Book Chapters

- 2022 "The Dark Ride Immersive and the Danse Macabre," *Theatre and the Macabre*. University of Wales Press, pp. 207-220.
- 2018 "The New Stagecraft," *The Routledge Companion to Scenography*. Abingdon, New York: Routledge, pp. 420-425.

### Book Reviews

- 2022 "*Working Backstage: A Cultural History and Ethnography of Technical Theatre Labor*," by Christin Essin. *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* 36.2, Spring 2022.
- 2019 "*Building Character: The Art and Science of Casting*," by Amy Cook. *Theatre Topics* 29.2, July 2019.
- 2019 "*Off-Sites: Contemporary Performance Beyond the Site-Specific*," By Bertie Ferdman. *Theatre and Performance Design* 4.4, January 2019.
- 2017 "*Working in the Wings: New Perspectives on Theatre History and Labor*." Edited by Elizabeth A. Osborne and Christine Woodworth. *Theatre Annual* 70, 2017.
- 2016 "*Blue Collar Broadway: The Craft and Industry of American Theater*. By Timothy R. White." *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre* (JADT) 28.2, Spring 2016.
- 2015 "Christin Essin. *Stage Designers in Early Twentieth Century America*." *Theatre Journal* 67.3, October 2015.
- 2014 "Michael Y. Bennett. *Words, Space, and the Audience: The Theatrical Tension Between Rationalism and Empiricism*." *Theatre Survey* 55.2, May 2014.
- 2012 "Tobin Nellhaus. *Theatre, Communication, Critical Realism*." *Theatre Journal* 64.2, May 2012.

### Performance Reviews in Academic Journals

- 2018 "*Ghost Light*, by Zach Morris." *Theatre Journal* 70.2, June 2018.
- 2014 "*Measure Back*, by Christopher McElroen and T. Ryder Smith." *Theatre Journal* 66.3, October 2014.

**CURATORIAL WORK**

## Binghamton University Theatre Collection

- 2017 Curated Exhibit, "Researching Historical Theatre Design: Max Reinhardt and Norman Bel Geddes", in *Behind the Curtain: The Art of Theatre Design and Research*, Bartle Library, Binghamton University Libraries, November 7, 2017-May 31, 2018.
- 2015 Papers of costume historian and designer Millia Davenport acquired, held by Theatre Collection, Binghamton Theatre Department. Papers processed in 2016, used for ongoing research.

**RESEARCH AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS**

- 2022 Participant, Mellon School of Theatre and Performance Research, "The Final Session"
- 2021 Brooks McNamara Publishing Subvention for *American Scenic Design and Freelance Professionalism* (\$600)
- 2021 Honorable Mention, Publication Subvention Award for *American Scenic Design and Freelance Professionalism*, American Theatre and Drama Society
- 2020 Harpur College Subvention Award for *American Scenic Design and Freelance Professionalism* (\$2,675)
- 2019 Faculty Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (IASH), Binghamton University (fall semester)
- 2019 Harpur College Mutual Mentoring Initiative Grant (Primary Investigator), Binghamton University (grant renewed: \$2,000)
- 2018 Harpur College Mutual Mentoring Initiative Grant (Primary Investigator), Binghamton University (\$5,000)
- 2017 Dean's Research Semester, Binghamton University (fall semester)
- 2014 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, 2014-2015
- 2014 American Theatre and Drama Society Graduate Student Travel Award
- 2014 Arts & Sciences PBC and Alumni Travel Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
- 2014 Participant, Mellon School of Theatre and Performance Research, "Locations of Theater"

**INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS**

- 2022 Radio/Podcast Interview: "Crossroads of Rockland History: Millia Davenport." Historical Society of Rockland County. WRCR 1700 AM. June 20.
- 2019 "The Show Must Go On: Disciplining Theatre Professionals," Institute for the Advanced Study of the Humanities, Binghamton University. November 13.
- 2018 "Noises Off and a History of Funny Scenery," Syracuse Stage, Wednesday @1 Lecture, Syracuse, NY. September 19.
- 2016 "Can We Talk About Labor?: Exposing and Hiding Scenic Design Process," University at Buffalo, Department of Theatre and Dance, Buffalo, NY. August 19.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

“Making Small Audiences Possible”

Mid-American Theatre Conference, Minneapolis, March 9-12, 2023.

“Professionalism by Design”

Modern Language Association, San Francisco, January 5-8, 2023.

“*American Scenic Design and Freelance Professionalism*”

Mellon School of Theatre and Performance Research, Cambridge, MA, June 7-17, 2022.

“I Think You’re Projecting: The Roots of the Digital Video Revolution”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Cleveland, March 3-6, 2022.

“Cross-Disciplinary Spatial Theory for Design Students”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Austin/Digital, August 5-8, 2021

“The Modern Painter Onstage Between *Sunday* and *Red*”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Chicago, March 5-8, 2020

“Theatre Labor in the World of Tomorrow: Labor and the 1939 World’s Fair”

American Society for Theatre Research, Washington D.C., November 7-10, 2019

“Levels of Explanation and Theory for Design Studies”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, August 7-11, 2019

“Depression Relief: Conflicts Between the United Scenic Artists and the Federal Theatre Project”

American Society for Theatre Research Forum, Digital, November 17-18, 2018

“Dynamic Fluids: Hydraulics, Pneumatics, and Lighting Systems in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Boston, August 1-5, 2018

“The Porto Theatre: Designing for Cold War Cultural Export”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Milwaukee, March 15-18, 2018

“Boundary Figures, Beautiful Bodies: Stage Witches in NYC Immersive Theatre”

American Society for Theatre Research, Atlanta, November 16-19, 2017

“Productions as Problems and the Pedagogy of Design.”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Houston, March 16-19, 2017

“Color, Affect, and the Performance of Lighting Spectacles”

American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, November 4-7, 2016

“The Design Bind: Exposing and Hiding Labor Variety in Depression-Era Scenic Design Discourse”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Minneapolis, March 17-20, 2016

“Labor Pedagogies Prepare Students to Act Collectively”

American Society for Theatre Research, Portland, OR, November 5-8, 2015

“Well-Costumed Friendships: James Reynolds, Millia Davenport, and Robert Edmond Jones”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Montréal, July 30-Aug 2, 2015

“Inspirational Drawings: Robert Edmond Jones and the Popularization of Scenic Rendering”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Kansas City, MO, March 19-22, 2015

**TEACHING AND ADVISING**

*Teaching areas: theatre history, dramatic literature, performance studies, dramaturgy, performance design history, theatre labor studies, theories of acting and directing, research and writing*

## Graduate Courses (Binghamton University)

Modern US Performance	Fall 2016, Fall 2018
US Performance After 1970	Fall 2022
Theories of Acting and Directing	Alternate Springs, 2016-2022
Proseminar in Graduate Studies*	Recurring, Fall 2020-2022
*co-taught with Andrew Walking	

## Undergraduate Courses (Binghamton University)

Performance and Modern Culture	Recurring, Spring 2016-2023
History of Theatre	Recurring, Fall 2015-2016, 2018-2022
Dramaturgy Topics: Sondheim	Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2021
Dramaturgy and the Musical	Spring 2023
Theatre Architecture, Space, and Design	Spring 2019
21 <sup>st</sup> Century US Plays	Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021
History of Scenic Design and Designers	Spring 2021

## Graduate Advising (Binghamton University, Selected)

*MA Thesis Chair, Theatre*

2022-2023	<u>Ethan Kipp</u> , "Dancing in the Graveyard: American Spiritualism and the Performance of the Popular"
2021-2022	<u>Patrick Cerasaro</u> , "Nobody's Side: Tim Rice and the Hits"
2021-2022	<u>Katie Collins</u> , "Maared", Creative Thesis in Playwriting
2016-2018	<u>Mikyung Moon</u> , "Antagonism in the Tragic Plays of Ibsen and Sartre: Self-Love and the Antagonist"
2017-2018	<u>Angela Kim</u> , "Making Nationalistic Dance: Agrippina Vaganova and Choi Seung-Hee"
2016-2017	<u>Emily Goodell</u> , "Intersectionality Among Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Female Playwrights"

## Independent Studies Supervised (Binghamton University, selected)

Readings in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Theatre History	Theatre Pedagogy
Performing Arts in 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Spiritualism	Beginning Directing
Academic Writing	Writing about Musical Theatre
Readings in Rock Music Theatre History	Theatre and Communication
Dramaturgy	Readings in Modern Tragedy

## Theatre Production Supervision and Critical Projects (Binghamton University, selected)

2022 (Fall)	<i>Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them</i>	(graduate directing)
2021 (Fall)	<i>Proof</i>	(undergrad directing)
2018 (Spring)	<i>A Number</i>	(undergrad directing)
2017 (Spring)	<i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i>	(undergrad dramaturgy)
2016 (Fall)	<i>A Body of Water</i>	(grad directing)

## Undergraduate Courses (Instructor of Record, University of Pittsburgh)

Theatre and Collaboration	Spring 2014
World Theatre History: 1640-1910	Spring 2013
Introduction to Performance	Fall 2010-12, Spring 2011-12, 2014
Introduction to Dramatic Art	Spring 2011

## Teaching Assistant Positions (University of Pittsburgh, 2010-2014)

Directing I, Directing II, World Theatre History 1640-1910, Introduction to Theatre Arts, Integrated Field Trip Abroad in Denmark and Sweden

**PROFESSIONAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

## Editorial &amp; Reviewer Service

2018—	Associate Editor for Reviews, <i>Theatre &amp; Performance Design</i>
2023	NEH Fellowship Reviewer, Music Theatre & Dance
2023	Monograph Review, Routledge
2019	Textbook Edition Peer Review, Routledge/Taylor & Francis
2019	Article Peer Review, <i>Text &amp; Presentation</i>
2019	Article Peer Review, <i>Journal of American Drama and Theatre</i> (2 articles)
2018	Monograph Proposal Peer Review, Focal Press/Routledge
2018	Article Peer Review, <i>Theatre &amp; Performance Design</i>
2016	Monograph Proposal Peer Review, Bloomsbury Publishing
2016	Article Peer Review, <i>Theatre Design &amp; Technology</i>
2015	Textbook Proposal Peer Review, Bloomsbury Publishing

## Professional Association Service

2023—	Membership Secretary, American Theatre and Drama Society
2021-2023	Publication Subvention Award Committee, American Theatre and Drama Society
2020-2022	Nominating Committee, Theatre History Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
2018-2020	Conference Planner, American Theatre and Drama Society, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
2016-2017	Nominating Committee, Theatre History Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
2015-2016	Secretary, Theatre History Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
2014	Graduate Conference Guide Committee Member, American Society for Theatre Research

## Department Service, Binghamton University, Theatre

2022-2023	Member, Faculty Search Com., Costume Designer & Costume Specialist
2022	Member, Faculty Search Committee, Lecturer in Lighting
2021-2022	Member, Faculty Search Committee, Assistant Professor Acting Directing
2020	Member, Faculty Search Committee, VAP Acting Directing
2019-2023	Chair, Production Selection Committee
2019	Member, Staff Search Committee, Accounts and Budget
2016-2017	Interim Director of Graduate Studies
2016-2018	Member, Production Selection Committee
2015-2016	Member, Faculty Search Committee, Assistant Professor Scenic Design
2015—	Curator, Theatre Collection, Binghamton University Theatre Department
2015—	Area Head, History-Theory-Criticism
2015—	Member, Acting/Directing Area Committee
2015—	Member, Graduate Studies Committee

## University Service, Binghamton University

2022—	Faculty Senator, Theatre
2022—	Member, All-University Personnel Committee
2022-2023	Member, Faculty Search Committee, Assistant Professor Music Theory (Music Department)
2018—	Member, Steering Committee, Material and Visual Worlds Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence
2018	Manuscript Reviewer, Alpenglöw, Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal of Research and Creative Activity
2016	Admitted Students Day Faculty Speaker, Harpur College

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Theatre and Drama Society  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education  
American Society for Theatre Research  
Mid-America Theatre Conference  
United States Institute of Theatre Technology