

KATHY A. PERKINS

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

M.F.A. University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) Theatre - Lighting Design
B.F.A. Howard University (Washington, D.C.) Drama

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

1989 to Present **Professor of Theatre** - Department of Theatre
University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
1989-2009 Chair of Lighting Design Program
2009 - Present Chair of M.A. in Theatre History & Practice Program

Spring 2005 **Sterling Brown Visiting Professor of Theatre**
Williams College Williamstown, Mass.

Spring 1997 **Visiting Professor** - Ethnic Studies Program
University of Oregon (Eugene)

Summer 1995 **Visiting Lecturer** - United States Information Service (USIS)
South Africa (Durban, Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg)

Summer 1991 **Visiting Professor** - Course: Black Women Playwrights
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Ill.

Summer 1990 **Visiting Professor** - Women's Studies Program
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

1987 - 89 **Affiliated Scholar** - Center for the Study of Women
The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

1986 - 89 **Curatorial Assistant (History)** - The California Afro-American Museum
Los Angeles, Calif. (Curator - Lonnie Bunch, III)

1985 - 87 **Resident Lighting Designer** - Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC)

1979 - 85 **Lighting Instructor** - Theatre Department, Smith College
Northampton, Mass.

1981 - 82 **Visiting Scholar** - Theatre Arts Dept., Columbia University
New York City (Ford Foundation Fellow)

- 1981 **Guest Lecturer** - The National Arts Consortium, New York City
- 1978-1979 **Lighting Designer/Technical Director** - Sounds in Motion Dance Company
Artistic Director: Dianne McIntyre New York City

PROFESSIONAL LIGHTING CREDITS

(See lighting history)

PUBLICATIONS

Anthologies

Selected Plays by Alice Childress

(Northwestern University Press) Forthcoming

African Women Playwrights: An Anthology

(University of Illinois Press) 2008

Black South African Women: An Anthology of Plays

(London: Routledge & University of Cape Town Press) 1998

Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women

Co-edited with Judith Stephens.

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 1998

***Contemporary Plays by Women of Color*, Co-edited**

with Roberta Uno. (London: Routledge Press) 1996

Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays before 1950.

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 1989

Articles/Biographies/Essays

(Representative Listings)

African American Drama: 1910-1945 in **Oxford Handbook of American Drama**

(New York: Oxford University Press) Forthcoming

Theatre: 1865-1940 in **Encyclopedia of African American History.**

(New York: Facts on File, Inc.) Forthcoming

Spotlight on Shirley Prendergast - Black Masks

Jan/Feb. 2006 Vol. 17, No. 4

Theatre entry in **Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**, 2nd ed., Darlene Clark Hine, ed. (New York: Oxford University Press) 2005

Esther Rolle in **Notable American Women, Vol. 5**

Editor: Susan Ware. (Harvard University Press) 2004

Theatre entry in **The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History**.

Eds., Wilma Mankiller, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith and Gloria Steinem (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company) 1998

"Felix Cochren: Innovative Designer for the American Theatre"

Black Masks, August/September, 1996. Vol. 12, No. 1

Shirley Graham Du Bois in **Oxford Companion to Women's**

Writing in the United States. Eds., Cathy N. Davidson &

Linda Wagner-Martin (New York: Oxford University Press) 1995

Anne Cooke (Reid) in **Notable Black American Women**, Vol. II,

Ed., Jessie Carney Smith (Detroit: Gale Research, Inc.) 1995

Their Place in History: African Americans Behind the

Scenes in American Theatre

Theatre Design and Technology Journal (TD&T) Summer, 1995

Volume 31, Number 3

Mary P. Burrill, Laretta Butler, May Miller, Anne Cooke Reid,

May Miller, Louise Evans, Mildred Blount, Shirley Prendergast,

Vinnette Carroll, Judy Dearing, and Black Women and the American Theatre.

In **Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**, ed. Darlene Clark Hine

(Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing, Inc.) 1993

May Miller, Eulalie Spence, and Gertrude McBrown,

Notable Black American Women, ed., Jessie Carney Smith (Detroit:

Gale Research, Inc.) 1992

The Genius of Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller **Black American**

Literature Forum (BALF) spring, 1990, Vol. 24, No. 1.

Shirley Graham in **Dictionary of Literary Biography: Afro-American Writers between 1940 & 1955**. Trudier Harris, editor. (Detroit: Gale Research, Inc.) 1988

Race Colony Examined with Lonnie Bunch, III. **The Afro-Am. Vol. 25** No. 1, 1985 (First Quarter Issue) Published by the California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles.

The Unknown Career of Shirley Graham in **Freedomways Magazine** Volume 25 No. 1, 1985 (First Quarter Issue)

Black Backstage Workers in American Theatre: 1900-1969
Black American Literature Forum (BALF) Winter Issue, 1982

PRESENTATIONS

(Selected Listing)

"Are You Looking for Me: Diversifying Creative Teams?" - panelist
Theatre Communications Group (TCG) Annual Conference
Chicago, Ill. June 18, 2010

"African Women in Contemporary Theatre" - panelist
International Colloquium, National Black Theatre Festival
Winston-Salem, North Carolina August 5, 2009

"African American Women behind the Scenes"
United States Embassy - Kampala, Uganda March 20, 2009

"Transnational Aesthetics and the Impact on the Lighting Design Process" - panelist
Prague Quadrennial (PQ) Scenofest 2007
Prague, Czech Republic June 21, 2007

"Women Playwrights of the Prohibition Era" - panelist
The American Century Theater
Arlington, Va. March 17, 2007

"The History of African American Designers"
Presented at the Black Theatre Network (BTN) Conference
Louisville, Ky. July 29, 2006

"African Women and Theatre for Development"

The Venus Project: A Symposium on African Diaspora Performance and African American Theatre.

Arizona State University, March, 2006

"African American Women Playwrights of the 1920s"

Women Playwrights of Color of the 1920s: A Series of Readings and Talks

University of Massachusetts (Amherst) March 4, 2006

"The Middle Passage: Theatre as a Media to Educate on Slavery"

Presented at the International Abolishment of Slavery Commemoration

Goree, Senegal August 23rd, 2004

"Fatima Dike and the Middle Passage Process"

Panelist on African Women Playwrights

Black Theatre Network Akron, Ohio August, 2004

"Plays on Lynching by American Women"

The Institute for Freedom Studies

Northern Kentucky University Fall, 2003

"The Lack of Technical Training on the African Continent and

how American Universities can Help" International Session panelist

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference

Minneapolis, March 21, 2003

"Theatre for Development in Africa" - Guest Speaker

University of Kentucky - Lexington Spring, 2002

"Making Theatre for Change: Women in Theatre in Uganda and Zimbabwe"

Who Wants to Be a Woman Tomorrow Conference

Braunschweig, Germany July 4-9, 2000

"Women in Exile" - panelist, Zimbabwe International Book Fair

Harare, Zimbabwe August, 1999

"The Aesthetics of Color" - panelist

USITT Conference, March, 1999 Toronto, Canada

Contemporary African American Theatre

Department of Dance, Drama, and Music Makarere University
Kampala, Uganda June, 1998

Searching for Voices: Black South African Women Playwrights
The Women's Political Performance Speaker Series.
Temple University, Philadelphia. March 13, 1998

"Black Women Playwrights of the Harlem Renaissance"
Canonizing African American Literature: Black Anthologies in America Symposium
University of Wisconsin April 4, 1997

*How does Black Theatre Affect Our Perceptions of Black People:
A Debate on the Need for the Canonization of Black Theatre*
Panelist, Washington University, St. Louis, October 31, 1997

"Emerging Voices: Black Women Playwrights in South Africa"
The Black Theatre Network Conference, August 2, 1997
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

"How to Publish"
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Conference
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 18-21, 1997

"The Impact of Lynching on African American Artists"
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference
New York City, August 7, 1996

"The Role of Computers in Theatre Design"
National Conference on African American Theatre (NCAAT)
Baltimore, Md. March 28-30, 1996

"Early Black Women Playwrights"
Hampshire/Amherst/University of Massachusetts, April, 1995

"Lighting Design Theory and Aesthetics" &
"Exploring the Paradigm: Rethinking how Theatre is Taught"
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) National
Conference, Las Vegas, Nev. March, 1995

"African American Stage Designers" &
"Living Lighting Designers" (Designed scene from *MacBeth*)
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) National
Conference, Nashville, Tenn. March, 1994

"From Hester Street to Harlem: Cultural Diversity on
Stage in the 1920s." Panelist
Ninth Annual Classics in Context Festival
Actors Theatre of Louisville (Kentucky) Oct. 15-17, 1993

"Rethinking Design in the Liberal Arts/Theatre Curriculum"
(A Workshop Presentation)

&

"African American Theatre from World War I to 1950: Women
and Feminism." Panelist
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference
Philadelphia, August 4-8, 1993.

"Early African American "Wimmin" in the American Theatre." panelist
The Black Theatre Network 1993 Conference
Winston-Salem, North Carolina. August 1-6, 1993.

"Strange Fruit: Lynching Plays by African American Women"
Images of Race in the American Theatre Symposium
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, May 1-2, 1993

"Building Archives: Maintaining Our Theatre History"
National Conference on African-American Theatre (NCAT)
Baltimore, Maryland, April 1-3, 1993

"Incorporating Cultural Diversity in the Academic Theatre
Environment": Panelist
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
National Conference, Wichita, Kansas, March 20, 1993

"African American Women Playwrights of the American Theatre"
The University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
January 6, 1993

"African American Female Designers"
The American Theatre of Higher Education Conference (ATHE)
Atlanta, Georgia, August 1-5, 1992

Keynote Speaker - "African Americans Backstage"

&

"Women Behind the Scenes in the American Theatre"
Panelist: The Works of Shirley Graham, Laurette Butler and
Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller.
The National Conference on African American Theatre (NCAT)
Baltimore, Maryland, April 1992

"Preserving the History of the African-American Church
in California: Will We Survive the Big One?"
Symposium on "African American Religion: Research
Problems and Resources for the 1990s." May 26, 1990.
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Sponsored by the Lily Endowment. New York City.

"Black Female Playwrights of the American Theatre
Before 1950." National Conference of the Association
for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. (ASALH)
Dayton, Ohio. October 1989.

"Black Female Playwrights of the Harlem Renaissance
University of California - Los Angeles Center for Afro-
American Studies, April 1988

"Biddy Mason and First A.M.E. Church"
University of California - Los Angeles
Urban Planning Department and the Power of Place, Nov., 1987

"Glenda Dickerson: Profile of a Director"
The American Theatre Association Conference
Minneapolis, Minn. August 1983

"Black Women in Twentieth Century American Theatre"
Smith College, Northampton, Mass. April 1983

"The Non-Performing Black Artist in Twentieth Century
American Theatre." The National Research Council/Ford

Foundation Conference on Postdoctoral Fellowships for Minorities.
National Academy of Sciences. Washington, D.C. Fall, 1981

Design Workshops
(Selective Listing)

Lighting Design Workshop
Makerere University
Kampala, Uganda March, 2009

Lighting Design Workshop
Eastern African Theatre Institute Festival
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia November, 2008

Lighting Design and Stagemanagement workshop
Windybrow Performing Arts Center, Johannesburg, South Africa
Witbank Center for Performing Arts, Witbank, South Africa
March, 2002

Lighting Design and Stagemanagement workshop
Department of Music, Dance and Drama Makerere University
Kampala, Uganda January 2000 and March 2002

Lighting Design Workshop
University of Dar es Salaam Tanzania, 2001

Lighting Design Workshops
National Theatre of Ghana and Ghana National Television
Accra, Ghana August, 1999

Book Reviews

Contemporary African American Female Playwrights: An Annotated Bibliography. (Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 1998) by Dana A. Williams. For **Modern Drama**, Volume XLI, Number 3, fall 1998, pg. 483-484

The Lighting Art: The Aesthetics of Stage Lighting Design
(Second Edition) by Richard H. Palmer. Prentice-Hall. 1996

Crosswinds: An Anthology of Black Dramatists in the Diaspora.
(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993) by William B.

Branch. For **Theatre Research International**, Volume 20, Number 1, Spring 1995, pg. 75-76.

Lighting and the Design Idea by Linda Essig. Harcourt-Brace, 1995

The Lighting Art: The Aesthetics of Stage Lighting Design (First Edition) by Richard H. Palmer. Prentice-Hall. 1993

Center Stage: An Anthology of Twenty-One Contemporary Black-American Plays (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1991) by Eileen Joyce Ostrow. For **Theatre Research International**, Volume 18, Number 1, spring 1993, pg. 76.

Reviewer/Judge

Theatre Communications Group/NEA Fellowship in Lighting Design Competition, 1999 and 2005 (Judge) New York, New York

Judy Dearing Design Competition - Black Theatre Network
New York, New York, 1999

Theatre Communications Group/NEA Fellowship in Lighting Design Competition, 1996 (Judge) New York, New York

Exhibitions

Co-Curator/Scholar - ONSTAGE: A Century of African American Stage Design. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. New York City, Jan. 24-May 20, 1995

Assistant Curator - Visions: The History of the East Bay Afro-American Community, 1852-1977. Oakland Museum, Oakland, California and The California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles. 1989 and 1990

Curator/Exhibit Designer - "The Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Presented for "King Week 1987 Festival"
Sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
Los Angeles, Ca. January 1987

Research Related Experience

- Spring
2010 **Artistic/Producing Director: *Celebrating African Women Writers Festival***
University of Illinois
- Spring
1999 **Guest Editor for *Black Theatre Network (BTN) Newsletter***
Special edition on *Theatre in Africa*
- Fall
1991 **Advisory Editor - *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia***, ed. Darlene Clark Hine (Brooklyn: Carlson Publishing, Inc., 1993)
- Spring
89 **Film Researcher** - PBS/KCET Channel 28, Hollywood
"Ode to Central Avenue." (Documentary)
Producers: Carolyn King and Arthur Barron.
- Winter
89 **Field Researcher** - "San Pedro Traditions Festival"
City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department
Folk Arts Program. Director: Dr. Willie Collins
- Fall
88 **Researcher** - KCOP/Channel 13, Los Angeles
"Black Angelenos: The True Story" Producer: Barbara Solomon

Service

- University/Resident Theatre Association, Inc. (URTA)
Member - Board of Directors (2007-2010)
- Advisory Board - The History Makers (Chicago) 2003-2006
- Co-Chair - Black Faculty and Academic Professionals Association
University of Illinois 2002-2004
- Editorial Board - **Theater in the Americas Series**
Southern Illinois University Press 2000-2006
- Advisory Board - New World Theatre (Amherst, Mass.) 1999-2002
- Advisory Board - Congo Square Theatre (Chicago) 2001-2008

AWARDS

- 2009 Fulbright Senior Specialist - Makerere University Kampala, Uganda
- 2008 Ford Foundation and the Institute of International Education, Inc
For travel to Ethiopia to conduct technical theatre workshops
- 2006 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design for production of *Dreamgirls*
St. Louis, Mo.
- 2006 The Winona Lee Fletcher Award for Theatre Excellence
Black Theatre Network
- 2005 African Studies Program Course Development Award (UIUC)
- 2005 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design for *Intimate Apparel*
St. Louis, Mo.
- 2003 Los Angeles Ovation Theatre Award Nominee for Best Lighting
for *In Real Life*
- 2003 African Studies Travel Grant - Senegal and Mali (UIUC)
- 2002 Best Lighting Designer - Black Theatre Alliance Award (Chicago)
for *From the Mississippi Delta*
- 2002 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design for *Bubbling Brown Sugar*
St. Louis, Mo.
- 2001 Research Board Award (UIUC)
- 2000 Research Board Award (UIUC)
- 99 - 00 Ford Foundation/Afro-American Studies Program Course Development Grant.
- 98, 99 Woodie Award for Best Lighting Design
& 2000 The St. Louis Black Repertory Company
- 98 Black Theatre Alliance Award (Chicago) for Best Lighting Designer
Goodman Theatre production *Let Me Live*

- 98 - 99 University Scholar (UIUC)
- 98 William and Flora Hewlett Summer International Research Grant (UIUC) (Travel to Uganda, South Africa & Zimbabwe)
- 97 Black Theatre Alliance Award for Best Lighting Designer
Goodman Theatre production of *Seeking the Genesis*
- 96 Research Award for Outstanding Book in Theatre Practice and Pedagogy (*Contemporary Plays by Women of Color*)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
- 96 Herbert D. Greggs Publication Award
United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
- 95 - 96 Arnold O. Beckman Research Award (UIUC)
- 95 International Research Support Grant (UIUC)
- 94 - 95 Center for Advanced Study Fellow (UIUC)
- 94 United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
Edward F. Kook Endowment Fund
- 93 New York Times Company Research Award
- 93 University of Illinois Research Board Award
- 91 *Choice Outstanding Academic Book of 1990*
(*Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays Before 1950*)
- 90 Outstanding Young Alumna Award - Howard University
- 90 The Arnold O. Beckman Research Award - UIUC
- 89 Resolution from the City of Los Angeles City Council, in
Conjunction with Mayor Tom Bradley, for outstanding achievement
in the areas of stage lighting and African-American history.
- 89 Best Lighting Designer - The National Association
for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Theatre
Image Award. Hollywood/Beverly Hills Branch.

- 89 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Research Grant.
- 88 Institute for American Cultures/Center for the Study of Afro-American Studies (IAC/CAAS) Grant. University of California - Los Angeles.
- 87 Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund
- 86 NEH Travel to Collections Grant
- 84 NEH Summer Faculty Grant
- 82/83 Faculty Research Grant, Smith College
- 81/82 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship for Minorities
- 81 & 82 Outstanding Young Woman of America

Professional Organizations

United Scenic Artists Association (USAA) Local 829
1986-present

College of Fellows of the American Theatre (Inducted 2007)
Board Member (2010-2013)

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
(Director at Large 1994-1997 and Co-Vice Commissioner
for Education 1996-1998) Member since 1990

Black Theatre Network (BTN) - Archivist 1993-1998, 2006