

# KAREN JEAN MARTINSON

532 North Rossmore Avenue #103  
Los Angeles, CA 90004 (323) 376 - 0469  
[email: misskarenjean@gmail.com](mailto:misskarenjean@gmail.com)  
[web: misskarenjean.com](http://web:misskarenjean.com)

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Doctorate of Philosophy in Theatre Arts (History, Literature, and Theory), 2008

Dissertation: *Dolls, Bell Bottoms and Beats: Resisting Inequalities, Producing Identifications*

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Master of Arts Degree in Humanities, 1999

Thesis: *Putting the Jeannie Back into the Bottle: The Use of Prologues and Epilogues by Female Actors on the Restoration Stage*

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin  
Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Political Science, 1994

University of Missouri – Columbia, Columbia, Missouri  
Certificate of General Honors, 1992

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### COURSES DEVELOPED

Performing Blackness (TMA 668R/HNRS 304R) Visiting Professor	Brigham Young University	2004
Theatre at the Intersection of Now (TH 3120) Graduate Instructor	University of Minnesota	2004
Introducing Black Theatre Guest Instructor	Project Common Ground	2001-03

## COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to Theatre (TH1101) Section Instructor	University of Minnesota	2004
Summer Arts Institute: <i>Towards an African American Aesthetic</i> Program Coordinator	Penumbra Theatre Co.	2003
Introduction to Theatre (TH1101) Honors Section Section Instructor	University of Minnesota	2003
Dramatic Literature and Theory (TH4177-8) Teaching Assistant	University of Minnesota	2001-03
Introduction to Theatre (TH1101) Section Instructor	University of Minnesota	1999-2001

## INVITED LECTURES

Not a Text Book: Introducing Critical Theory through El Vez, The Mexican Elvis Critical Theory in Theatre	University of St. Thomas	2006
He With the Shiniest Pants Wins: The Spectacular El Vez Rock and Roll Performance	University of Minnesota	2006
Directing <i>Antígona Furiosa</i> Dramatic Lit. and Theory	University of Minnesota	2005
Introducing Dramaturgy Introduction to Theatre Sections	University of Minnesota	2005
Contemplating <i>Copenhagen</i> Dramaturgical Colloquium	Brigham Young University	2004
Investigating the Anecdotal: Sipping Coffee with El Vez, The Mexican Elvis Space to Think	University of Minnesota	2004
Introducing Dramaturgy Introduction to Theatre Sections	University of Minnesota	2004
Dramaturgy in Theory and Practice Introduction to Theatre	St. Thomas University	2003
The Art of Robbie McCauley: A Q & A Session with the Artist Q & A Moderator	University of Minnesota	2003

## INVITED LECTURES (con't)

Staging Timberlake Wertenbaker's <i>The Love of the Nightingale</i> Feminist Friday	University of St. Thomas	2002
Necessary Acts of Courage: Timberlake Wertenbaker's <i>The Love of the Nightingale</i> History and Theory Graduate Seminar	University of Minnesota	2002
Integrating Discussion, Performance, and Writing Center for Writing Instruction Conference	University of Minnesota	2002
<i>Putting the Jeannie Back Into the Bottle: The Use of Prologues and Epilogues by Female Actors on the Restoration Stage: A Work in Progress.</i> MAPH Works-in-Progress Conference	University of Chicago	1999

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITY:**

### PUBLICATIONS

<i>Dolls, Bell Bottoms, and Beats: Producing Identifications, Resisting Inequalities.</i> Doctoral Dissertation, University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance		2008
"Provocative Dramaturgy: The Creative Collaboration of The Re:Actions Project," <i>LMDA Review</i> 18:1 (Winter)		2008
"Teatro Caliente." Performance Review, <i>Theatre Journal</i> . 57:3 (October)		2005
<i>Putting the Jeannie Back Into the Bottle: The Use of Prologues and Epilogues by Female Actors on the Restoration Stage.</i> Master's Thesis, University of Chicago Master of Arts Program in the Humanities		1999

### PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

"On the 'Campaign Trail' with The Mexican Elvis, Irony is the New Empathy: Constructing Alliances through the Distance Between" Seminar Paper	ASTR, Boston, MA	2008
"Nontraditional Dramaturgies of Engagement" Panel participant	ATHE, Denver, CO	2008
"The Questioning Spirit in Cyberspace: Digital Dramaturgy" Panel participant	ATHE, Denver, CO	2008

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES (con't)

"As I'm Flowing I'm Growing Strong and Carrying On / What About the Stories and Storytellers Inside You?: Will Power's Flow and the Radicalization of Identification."	Seminar Paper	ASTR, Phoenix, AZ	2007
"Re:Actions: Multidisciplinary Explorations in New Orleans."	Dramaturgy Focus Group Team Leader	ATHE, New Orleans, LA	2006-07
"He with the Shiniest Pants Winds: The Corrective Spectacle of El Vez, The Mexican Elvis."	Seminar Paper	Kansas State Univ. Cultural Studies Conference	2007
"Come Together: Constructing Collaborative Partnerships between Directors and Dramaturgs."	Panel creator, moderator, and participant	ATHE, Chicago, IL	2006
"Active Engagement and Aesthetics in the Lobby: Researching, Designing, and Creating Installation Dramaturgy."	Panel moderator	ATHE, Chicago, IL	2006
"Redressing the King: The Corrective Spectacle of El Vez, The Mexican Elvis."	Seminar paper	ASTR, Toronto, ON	2005
"Dramaturgies for Social Change."	Panel participant	ATHE, San Francisco, CA	2005
"Hip Hop Theatre: Towards an Aesthetic for Social Change."	Panel participant	ATHE, San Francisco, CA	2005
"The American Girl Finishing School: An Education in Discerning Taste."	Seminar paper	ASTR, Las Vegas, NV	2004
"Arresting the Conventional: The Designer as Dramaturg and Performer in the Heart of the Prague Quadrennial and Back Home Again."	Panel creator and moderator	ATHE, Toronto, ON	2004
"Global Investigations through the Specificity of the Local: Teatro Caliente."	Panel participant	ATHE, Toronto, ON	2004
"Feminist Dramaturgy and Collaboration."	Panel participant	ATHE, Toronto, ON	2004
"The Dramaturgy of Critical Theory."	Panel participant	ATHE, New York, NY	2003
"Let Us Girls Be Friends: Marked Racial Bodies and the Myth of Multiculturalism in <i>Circle of Friends, An American Girls Musical</i> ."	Seminar paper	ASTR, Philadelphia, PA	2002

## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES (con't)

"Naughty Dramaturgy." Panel participant	ATHE, San Diego, CA	2002
"Putting the Jeannie Back Into the Bottle." Seminar paper: Comparative Drama	Columbus, OH	2001

## DIRECTING

<i>Room 17C</i> by Rosalyn Drexler Theatre of NOTE	Los Angeles, CA	2008
<i>Budd</i> by Richard Caliban (staged NOTEwood reading) Theatre of NOTE	Los Angeles, CA	2008
<i>Stadium Devildare: The Battle for G-dzilla X</i> (a new reality program for the American arena) by Ruth Margraff Theatre of NOTE	Los Angeles, CA	2008
<i>Budd</i> by Richard Caliban (staged PSC reading) Theatre of NOTE	Los Angeles, CA	2007
<i>2 Husbands</i> by Ken Urban (staged NOTEwood reading) Theatre of NOTE	Los Angeles, CA	2007
<i>Big Love</i> by Charles Mee DeLaSalle High School	Minneapolis, MN	2006
<i>Antígona Furiosa</i> by Griselda Gambaro DeLaSalle High School	Minneapolis, MN	2005
<i>inside this curious room</i> by Karen Jean Martinson and Joanne Jongsma Crisis Point Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2004
<i>If Heartbreaks were Hams</i> adapted by Karen Jean Martinson and Joanne Jongsma Illusion Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2003
<i>Breaking Bread</i> Project One with Alfredo Jaar	Minneapolis, MN	2003
<i>The Futurist Project</i> Univ. of Minnesota Xperimental Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2000

## DRAMATURGY

<i>Stadium Devildare: The Battle for G-dzilla X (a new reality program for the American arena)</i> by Ruth Margraff			
Theatre of NOTE	Los Angeles, CA		2007
<i>Venus</i> by Suzan-Lori Parks			
DeLaSalle High School	Minneapolis, MN		2004
<i>Arcadia</i> by Tom Stoppard			
Knox College Mainstage	Galesburg, IL		2003
<i>Twilight: Los Angeles 1992</i> by Anna Deavere Smith			
DeLaSalle High School	Minneapolis, MN		2003
<i>The Skriker</i> by Caryl Churchill			
University of Minnesota Arena Stage	Minneapolis, MN		2002
<i>The Love of the Nightingale</i> by Timberlake Wertenbaker			
College of St. Catherine Frey Theatre	Minneapolis, MN		2002
<i>The Skriker Workshop</i> by Caryl Churchill			
Univ. of Minnesota Xpermental Theatre	Minneapolis, MN		2002
<i>Twice Told Tales: Untitled Identities</i> by Kamesha Jackson and Karen Jean Martinson			
Penumbra Theatre Company and MOAPPP	St. Paul, MN		2002
<i>The Vagina Monologues</i> by Eve Ensler			
MPIRG V-Day Event	Minneapolis, MN		2002
<i>When We Dead Awaken</i> by Henrik Ibsen			
Univ. of Minnesota Xpermental Theatre	Minneapolis, MN		2001
<i>Sin Titulo/Untitled</i>			
Cemanahuac Institute	Cuernavaca, Mexico		2001
<i>Black Eagles</i> by Leslie Lee			
Penumbra Theatre Company and MOAPPP	St. Paul, MN		2001
<i>Future Tense</i> by Kris Lencowski			
Crisis Point Theatre	Minneapolis, MN		2001
<i>Fires in the Mirror</i> by Anna Deavere Smith			
University of Minnesota Arena Stage	Minneapolis, MN		2000
<i>Twelve Bloody Marys</i> created by the ensemble			
Minnesota Fringe Festival	Minneapolis, MN		2000

## DRAMATURGY (con't)

<i>Dutchman</i> by LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka	Univ. of Minnesota Xperimental Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2000
<i>Fair Ladies at a Game of Poem Cards</i> by Chikamatsu Monzaemon (dramaturgical support)	Court Theatre	Chicago, IL	1999
<i>The Little Foxes</i> by Lillian Hellman (dramaturgical intern)	Court Theatre	Chicago, IL	1999

## ASSISTANT DIRECTING/STAGE MANAGEMENT

<i>Angels in America: Perestroika</i> by Tony Kushner	Crisis Point Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2000
<i>The First Day</i> by Rob Shimko	Crisis Point Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	1999

## PLAYWRITING

<i>inside this curious room</i> with Joanne Jongsma	Crisis Point Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2004
<i>If Heartbreaks Were Hams</i> with Joanne Jongsma	Illusion Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2003
<i>Twice Told Tales: Untitled Identities</i> with Kamesha Jackson	Penumbra Theatre Company and MOAPPP	St. Paul, MN	2002
<i>My Mexican Boyfriend Was Deported and Other True Stories</i>	New Works Series	Minneapolis, MN	2001

## COLLABORATIVE CREATION AND PERFORMANCE

<i>If Heartbreaks Were Hams</i> with Joanne Jongsma	Illusion Theatre	Minneapolis, MN	2003
<i>Breaking Bread</i>	Project One with Alfredo Jaar	Minneapolis, MN	2003
<i>My Mexican Boyfriend Was Deported and Other True Stories</i> by Karen Jean Martinson	New Works Series	Minneapolis, MN	2001

## COLLABORATIVE CREATION AND PERFORMANCE (con't)

<i>Sin Titulo/Untitled</i>	Cemanahuac Institute	Cuernavaca, Mexico	2001
<i>My Mouth is Filled with Babies</i> by Chris Danowski	Theater in My Basement	Minneapolis, MN	2001
<i>Freshwater</i> by Virginia Woolf	Tilsner Artist's Salon	Minneapolis, MN	2001

## **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND RECOGNITION**

Travel Grant	University of Minnesota	2007
Rarig Scholarship	"	2004-05
Travel Grant	"	2004
Research Grant	"	2007
Dorothy Magnus Scholarship	"	2003-04
Travel Grant	"	2003
Dorothy Magnus Scholarship	"	2002-03
Horace J. Bond Fellowship in Dramaturgy	Penumbra Theatre Co.	2002
Travel Grant	University of Minnesota	2002
Elsie Kelly Lindquist Scholarship	"	2001-02
CURA Fellowship	Penumbra Theatre Co.	2001
Travel Grant	University of Minnesota	2001

## **SERVICE**

Conference Planner Elect Dramaturgy Focus Group		2008
Member, ATHE Membership & Marketing Committee		2008
ATHE Religion & Theatre Pre-Conference		2008
Reader: <i>Bounty of Lace</i> by Susan Merson		
ATHE Religion & Theatre Playwriting Contest	Dramaturgical Reader	2008
ATHE Religion & Theatre Playwriting Contest	Dramaturgical Reader	2007
The Playwright's Center	Dramaturgical Reader	2004
AIDS Charity Cabaret		2000-03
Co-Founder and Co-Director of an annual event to raise money for local charity		
CRISIS POINT: theatre of danger and opportunity		1999-2003
A volunteer student-run theatre collective serving the University of Minnesota		
Member of the core artistic board, responsible for finances, grant writing, theatre production		

## **SERVICE (CON'T)**

Brigham Young University	Dramaturgical Reader	2002
Center for Writing Instruction Departmental Representative		2001-02
Represented the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance Teaching Assistants		

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member of Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)	2002-Pres.
Member-at-Large, Dramaturgy Focus Group	2004-Pres.
Graduate Student Representative, Dramaturgy Focus Group	2002-04
Member of American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)	2002-Pres.
Member of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)	1999-Pres.