

a.k. payne (she/they)

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412-584-1805

REPRESENTATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Representation: United Talent Agency—Ryan Lucas, akpayneteam@unitedtalent.com

Member: The Dramatists Guild, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Yoga Alliance 200 HR RYT

EDUCATION

Yale School of Drama (c/o 2023, extended 1 year due to COVID-19) MFA in Playwriting

Playwriting Teachers: Tarell Alvin McCraney, Sarah Ruhl, Jackie Sibblies Drury,

Christina Anderson, Robert O'Hara, Aya Ogawa, Kirk Lynn and Amy Herzog

Yale College (c/o 2019) B.A. English & African-American Studies (Playwriting Concentration)

Advisors: Deborah Margolin, Donald Margulies, Daphne A. Brooks, Tavia Nyong'o

SELECTED PLAYS – FULL LENGTH

FURLOUGH'S PARADISE

World Premiere Production—Alliance Theatre's Hertz Stage

Upc. Jan 2024

Production—Carlotta Festival of New Plays (Yale School of Drama) [Dir. Leyla Levi]

Upc. May 2023

AMANI

World Premiere Production—National Black Theatre & Rattlestick Playwrights Theater

[Dir. Josiah Davis] Feb-March 2023

Workshop—Groundworks Lab: Manhattan Theater Club [Dir. Cristina Angeles]

2022

Workshop & Reading—Roundabout Theater Company [Dir. Cristina Angeles]

2021

Workshop—Spring Workshop w Robert O'Hara (Yale School of Drama)

2020

LOVE I AWETHU FURTHER

Reading—Do More: New Plays—Bedlam Theater [Dir. Jacob Basri]

2022

Production—Langston Hughes Festival (Yale School of Drama) [Dir: Jacob Basri]

2021

DWELLERS

Workshop—Dwellers Play Collective (founder of new theatre ensemble)

2021

Workshop—Spring Workshop w Christina Anderson (Yale School of Drama)

2021

WHERE PATHWAYS MEET

Zoom Production—Yale Summer Cabaret [Dir: Christopher D. Betts]

2020

*Workshop Presentation—New Play Lab (Yale School of Drama) [Dir: James Fleming]

2020

BURNBABYBURN: AN AMERICAN DREAM

Production—Yale Summer Cabaret [Dir. Jacob Basri]	2022
Staged Reading—Great Plains Theater Conference [Dir. Beaufield Berry-Fisher]	2021
Staged Reading—City Theatre Momentum Festival [Dir. Reginald L. Douglas]	2019
Staged Reading—EAG & QST Thomas Barbour Awards [Dir. Joniece Abbott-Pratt]	2019
Staged Reading—Yale Playwrights Festival [Dir. Tiffany Fomby]	2019

AIN'T NO DEAD THING

Production (Rendered Radioplay Re: COVID 19)—Yale Cabaret and FOLKS	2020
Workshop—Fall Workshop w Sarah Ruhl (Yale School of Drama)	2019
Staged Reading—Congo Square Theatre Company [Dir. Ann Joseph Douglas]	2019

SELECTED PLAYS – SHORT

“blooms”

* Production—Ensemble Studio Theatre (New York, NY; Dir. Chika Ike)	2022
Virtual Production—Theater Masters TAKE TEN [Dir. Dennis A. Allen II]	2021

“Shayla the Great and the Magic Paintbrush” (A Play for Young Audiences)	2020
ZOOM Production—Hangar Theatre Company: Kidstuff Series [Dir. Lydia Fort]	

TEACHING & ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Playwriting Guest Lecturer, **Southern Connecticut State University**; New Haven, CT—
November, 2022

*Playwright in Residence, **Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School**; New Haven, CT;
2020-2022

Playwriting Teaching Artist, **New Voices in Theater Program**; New Haven, CT—Spring 2021

Playwriting Teaching Artist; **Hangar Theater Company**; Ithaca, NY—Summer, 2020

Playwriting Teaching Artist, **MEZA Makers Yale Summer Cabaret**; New Haven, CT
—Summer, 2020

Playwriting Co-Teacher/Guest Lecturer w Anne Erbe; Course Title: Impossible Theater—The Art and
Politics of the Imagination, **Yale School of Drama**; New Haven, CT—Fall, 2020

Presenter, Presentation Title: Oral Histories, Playwriting & Dr. Saidiya’s Hartman’s “Critical Fabulation”,
Edna Manley College: Rex Nettleford Conference; Kingston, Jamaica—Fall, 2019

Playwriting Teaching Artist; **Alumni Theater Company**; Pittsburgh, PA—Summer, 2019

Playwriting Teaching Artist; **Yale Playwriting Workshop Series @ Dwight Hall**;
New Haven, CT,—2018

Playwriting Teaching Artist; **O’Neill Playwriting Program at Yale**; New Haven, CT, 2016-2017

ADDITIONAL THEATER WORK EXPERIENCE

Box Office Representative, **Yale Repertory Theater**; New Haven, CT— 2016-Present
Front of House Staff, **International Festival of Arts and Ideas**; New Haven, CT—Summer 2021

HONORS/AWARDS/COMMISSIONS

Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (Finalist: <i>AMANI</i>)	2023
Alliance/Kendeda National Playwriting Competition (Winner: <i>Furlough's Paradise</i>)	2023
O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (Semifinalist: <i>Love I Awethu Further</i>)	2023
Bay Area Playwrights Festival (Finalist: <i>Dwellers</i>)	2023
Recipient: Atlantic Theater Company's Judith Champion Launch Commission	2023
Recipient: Kemp Powers Commission Fund for Black Playwrights	2022
New Harmony Project (<i>Love I Awethu Further</i>)	2022
David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award (First Place: <i>Love I Awethu...</i>)	2022
Rosa Parks Playwriting Award (Second Place: <i>Love I Awethu...</i>)	2022
L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award (Finalist; <i>AMANI</i>)	2022
O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (Semifinalist: <i>DWELLERS</i>)	2022
August Wilson House Visiting Playwright Fellowship (Finalist)	2021
Playwrights Realm Scratchpad Series (Finalist: <i>AMANI</i>)	2021
Jane Chambers Student Award (Winner: <i>Love I Awethu...</i>)	2021
Seven Devils Playwrights Conference (Finalist: <i>AMANI</i>)	2021
THEATER MASTERS Take Ten Finalist ("blooms")	2021
Leah Ryan's Fund for Emerging Women Writers (Finalist: <i>AMANI</i>)	2021
Ucross+ The Blank Theatre—Future of Playwriting Prize (Finalist)	2021
Great Plains Theater Conference—PlayLab Series (<i>BURNBABYBURN...</i>)	2020
Playwrights Realm Scratchpad Series (Semifinalist: <i>BURNBABYBURN...</i>)	2019
Louis Sudler Prize in the Performing and Creative Arts	2019
Marina Keegan Award for Excellence in Playwriting	2019
Thomas Barbour Playwriting Award (Finalist: <i>BURNBABYBURN...</i>)	2019

RELEVANT ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

*"Toward a Theater of Liberation" by Lucy Gellman, New Haven Arts Paper (On 2020 Live Reading/ Zoom Production of *Where Pathways Meet @ Yale Summer Cabaret*): <https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/towards-a-theater-of-liberation>

*"In a Marathon of One-Act Plays, Boundaries Are Pushed and Pulled" by Elizabeth Vincentelli, The New York Times (Mention of 2022 EST Production of "blooms"); <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/27/theater/one-act-plays-ensemble-studio-theater.html>

*"In 'The Magical Freaking Bird' Co-Op Students Make Dreams Come True" by Lucy Gellman, New Haven Arts Paper (On 2022 Playwright in Residence; Co Op High School): <https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/in-the-magical-freaking-bird-co-op-students-make-dreams-come-true>

“blooms” published in *Theater Masters’ Take Ten: Volume 7*, Concord Theatricals—<https://www.concordtheatricals.com/s/94051/theater-masters-take-ten-volume-7>

RELEVANT SKILLS

Some proficiency in Spanish

Typing: over 70 WPM

Creativity, empathy, open-mindedness, organization, dependability, attention to detail & customer service

REFERENCES

Tarell Alvin McCraney, Sarah Ruhl, & Anne Erbe