

Sign of Relief: Apprentice Shipment

Introduction

- A. You cannot spell “apprenticeship” without “ship.”
- B. Atlanta’s [Working Title Playwrights](#) is led by the managing artistic director, Amber Bradshaw. In 2019, [Quinn Xavier Hernandez](#) started the Pre-Production and New Play Development Apprenticeship as their inaugural apprentice. As of July 2021, I finalized my New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship. This program has virtually advanced me without leaving the comforts of Michigan.
 - a. The goal is to deepen the engagement the artist has with Working Title Playwrights and train them in all aspects of new development.
- C. In theatre education, knowledge and experience should continue to be virtually shipped around. Apprenticeships should not be anchored. They should be accessible beyond only those who have the means of living in the big cities, such as Atlanta.

Receiving the Order

- A. College Graduation in 2018 - 2020: After graduating from college, I came out with a clean slate in the storytelling world. When I decided not to continue my STEM education, it was difficult to assimilate in the competitive field of musical theatre writing.
 - a. I was raised in a black and brown community. But the theatre community in West Michigan is predominantly white, so it was not the right state for my state of mind.
 - b. I had little experience interacting with theatre professionals.
 - i. Introversion gets at my core as a writer. I’m confident when I am in a space (my own room) to calibrate my comfort levels.
- B. June 23 - July 2020: Atlanta and their diverse community virtually took me in.
 - a. 2017: A theatre grad student from Atlanta advised that I should check out WTP if I am ever in Georgia. 2019: I signed up for WTP’s newsletter as I decided that I should try to venture out. April 2020: I decided to take a chance at the WTP scholarship.
 - b. June 23, 2020: I was invited to the WTP virtual town hall.
 - c. July 2020: WTP produced accessible biweekly readings, that I got to virtually observe and learn from.
- C. August 9, 2020: I was asked to be the second apprentice of Working Title Playwrights.

- a. "Hello there! Although you were not selected for the Scholarship, I'd like to offer you an apprenticeship instead. It appears the world is going to be **virtual** for quite awhile, so the fact that you are out of state shouldn't make too much difference!"

Processing the Order

A. Learning Virtually

- a. Secondary education and College Experience in Physical Setting
- b. Virtual Master Classes and Intensives
 - i. Dramaturgy Intensive: During the pandemic, writers have reached out to me to consult on their science-based stories. My aspiration has been to be a science dramaturg. When I explained my hopes to Bradshaw, she devised the Dramaturgy Intensive with its assignments and materials. Before this, I could only do so much with my minor in theatre. I have a library of resources and knowledge from a dozen students from all walks of life and various dramaturgical experiences. We continue to learn how to devise theatre.
 - ii. Addae Moon's "Generating Story Idea": The very first class under the apprenticeship and its assignment helped foster my second major musical.
 - iii. Barbara Holt's "Psychodramaturgy": This class helped character development.
 - iv. Edwin Wong's "Risk Theatre": This class solidified structure.
 - v. Lucy Smith's "Yoga for Playwrights": This class is fantastic for health.

B. Communication

- a. Comfort level calibration
- b. Safety

C. Access to Participation

- a. The disadvantages of Physical world (travel, rests, restrooms)
- b. Participating in Festivals
 - 1. Others: (The Graham Martin Unexpected Play Festival, Ethel Woolson Lab, The Table Series)

Fulfilling the Order

Conclusion

- A. [A cohesive construction of processing shipment in “apprenticeship.”]
- B. Virtual apprenticeships could be signs of relief for those who would like to know the ins and outs of theatre, without constantly having to exhaust themselves to physically get in and out of theatres.