LMDA New and Noteworthy, November 2021

Alyssa Sielo
Jacqueline Goldfinger
Kate Pitt

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Digital Dramaturgy:
December Guest Curator, Alyssa Sielo

Join us on Facebook in December to learn more about digital dramaturgy!

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and quarantine, theatre makers have been creating and distributing theatrical content on virtual platforms. This shift requires artists and audiences alike to adapt to the virtual platform for participating in and viewing performance art. This moment begs the question of what virtual/digital theatre has to offer practices of dramaturgy, especially for dramaturgs working on new plays. What does the virtual medium compel dramaturgs to accomplish in innovative and effective ways? What about the virtual medium offers objectionable challenges in dramaturgy? What does digital performance art-marking teach us about our roles, responsibilities, our theatre industry, and our collective definition of theatre?

During my guest curation on the LMDA social media, I'd like to share my findings about this topic, which is the heart of my developing honors thesis, as well as engage with LMDA members about their digital dramaturgy experiences while developing new work. This is exciting as this historical jump from stage to screen has also made way for innovation and redefinition of what
Alyssa Sileo is a playwright, dramaturg, applied theatre artist, and arts access advocate, based in South Jersey. She will graduate from Drew University with her honors theatre arts degree in May 2022. She’s a student of the transformative justice movement, the tarot, and astrology. Recently she supported new play development on a virtual devised piece in collaboration with the Tectonic Theater Project’s Moment Work™ Institute called Monstress. These days she is working on her thesis that explores the lessons learned from this period of digital dramaturgy and how to create shared spaces and experiences online. She’s also developing her play Spotlight on Fire, soon reaching her ten year anniversary of the first draft.

#ispydramaturgy

Discovering Acts of Dramaturgy in Any Discipline

As dramaturgs, we all know what we do, and we also know that not everyone else does! But when we point out acts of dramaturgy in spaces other than the theatre space, we have the chance to help lift up not only one another, but the discipline of dramaturgy itself. Advocating for anyone committing acts of dramaturgy in a variety of settings can help us to see dramaturgs more often and recognize dramaturgy.

How Can YOU Participate?

Spy unconventional acts of dramaturgy in your own work: This is not to highlight specific events or projects, necessarily, but ways that you might be using your dramaturgical skills/training in a job that isn’t directly theatrical.
IG, post it on FB, or share a tweet and #ispydramaturgy!

Check out posts on our Facebook page, Twitter account, and Instagram (@LMDAmericas).

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#LMDA2022 Update

From Conference Chair Jacqueline Goldfinger

![Conference Proposals](image)

We are so excited to hear all of your activity ideas for the 2022 Conference!

Proposals will be accepted from December 1-March 15. The proposals will be read and selected by a Volunteer Selection Committee then finalized by the Conference Committee.

We are also providing support for those who wish to participate but who haven’t done it before or would like a little extra support. See the below links for details and to submit a proposal.

- In-person Conference details and proposal. (Due March 15!)
- Digital Conference details and proposal. (Due March 15!)
- Conference overview.

Have conference questions? Email conference@lmda.org.

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Dramaturging the Phoenix 2.0

A Renewed Challenge for LMDA Members
hoping our members will take the time to document the moment we’re in right now with a new collection, which will then fuel conversations in our bi-monthly DTP Forums. In addition to the Forums, the Phoenix team is working on other ways to archive and share this collection online, and eventually in print.

If you need more time---that’s fine! Please reach out to the DTP team at phoenix@lmda.org and we can work out an extension deadline! We’d rather hear from you!

**Call:** To amplify the collection of essays inaugurated at the beginning of the pandemic, LMDA seeks further dramaturgical responses – videos, creative works, and social media threads, other essays, among other formats – that boldly inspire, provoke, and explore theatre’s potential to transform through global crisis.

**Eligibility:** Current LMDA members (to renew or join, click [here](https://mailchi.mp/ce351b67dc91/lmda-newsletter-april-2017-2-dramaturgs-discuss-their-work-on-world-premieres-7918071))

**Deadline:** EXTENDED! Since many of our members have shown interest in contributing a dramaturgical reflection but have requested more time to share it mostly due to work overload, we will be accepting your submissions through the end of 2021. Or just reach out to phoenix@lmda.org and tell us when you can write one and what you need!

**Prompt:** Well over 18 months out from the start of the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to have a profound impact on the theatre community. As we tentatively return to the offices, rehearsal rooms, classrooms, and theater spaces, LMDA invites members to reflect on their experiences of challenge and transformation and continue to imagine the “radical dramaturgy” that will lead theatre and performance in the next year, decade, and century. DRAMATURING THE PHOENIX 2.0 strives to put its members incomparable brains and innovative impulses to work for the benefit of our communities and beyond to showcase dramaturgy’s vital capacity to contextualize and articulate the past, present, and future: where we’ve come from, where we are, where we go from here--and what it might mean. Our goal is to get every member of LMDA to contribute a response (in whatever form or medium speaks to them!) whether individually or in collaboration (cuz that’s what we do best!).

And don’t worry about a “finished” piece; this is all about process. Drafts are welcome, and we’re here to give feedback and/or pair you up with a peer editor. LMDA’s greatest strength lies in the relationships among its members. Use this challenge as an opportunity to reach out to a
Email: Save your essay as Name.Title.pdf and email to phoenix@lmda.org

For more information on the prompt, as well as some questions to kick-start your idea-generating, visit this link: LMDA’s website.

NEW Newsletter Feature
Monthly Member Check-In

In the new year, we will be featuring monthly member check-ins in the newsletter. This will allow us to more easily share, and support, each other's work. Watch your email for the monthly members email which will give you the opportunity to submit your check-in.

For example, this month's check-in is from: Kate Pitt!

Kate Pitt (she/her) was the dramaturg for The Beekeeper at Chicago Opera Theater. She says that "Dramaturgy at distance is possible and the mythology around bees is fascinating." You can learn more about this show and the dramaturgy surrounding it HERE.

Region Facebook Groups

Canada
Mountain West (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado)
Greater Midwest (IL, IN, IA, western KY, MI, MN, OH, WI)
Metro Bay Area
Metro Chicago
Metro NYC
Metro Boston
Central Appalachia (WV, VA, eastern KY, northern TN, and western NC)
Florida
Metro Philadelphia
Mexico
Mid-Atlantic (DC/Maryland/DE)
Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York State, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania)
Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington)
Southern California
Plains (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
Southeast (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, eastern North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, southern Tennessee, western NC)

Southwest (Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, California)

Third Coast (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas)

If you want to get more involved with dramaturgs in your region, please email regional@lmda.org

Did you know, if you use Amazon, you can donate to LMDA?

On the Amazon App:
1) Open the Amazing Shopping app on your phone
2) Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
3) Tap 'AmazonSmile" and fo
4) Select 'Get Started' and click through the instructions
5) Add LMDA as your charity

Thanks for your continued support!

Interested in contributing to the next newsletter? Have content ideas?
E-mail communications@lmda.org.

Want to keep up with the conversation about the latest in dramaturgical activity?

- Follow us on Social Media (@LMDAmericas) by clicking on the logos below!

- Subscribe to our listserv