Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus

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Education

MFA Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

Current

MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts

MA United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN

2020

MA in Theology with a concentration in Theology and the Arts

MA Thesis: "The(y)ology: Mythopoetics for Queer & Trans Liberation"

BA Beloit College, Beloit, WI

2016

Major in Theatre (Performance) and Classical Civilizations

Minor in Critical Identity Studies

Thesis: "Homos in Heimarmene: Developing a Dramaturgy of Queer Temporality with BITE."

Departmental Honors (Theatre), Summa cum laude

Study The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Spring, 2015

Abroad Honors in Celtic Literature.

Research Interests

Theopoetics; ekphrastic art; medieval visionary and hagiographic writing; medieval theatre; William Morris; Julian of Norwich; drag; theology & film; mythopoetics; ecosexuality; feminist and queer theory/history; liberation theologies.

Theatre Experience: Writing

Circe: Twilight of a Goddess

2021

A site specific adaptation of the story of Circe, the witch from the Odyssey who transforms sailors into pigs. Fully Produced at Point San Pablo Harbor, Richmond, CA

Pelagius: The Martyr

2019

Play with dancer adaptation of Hrotvitha's legend of the martyrdom of Pelagius of Cordova, retold in three different time periods. Public Reading on Zoom, Summer 2020. Workshopped at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Saint Paul, Summer 2019.

Supreme 2019

At a dinner party hosted by Maximilien Robespierre, guests debate turns violent as they accidentally call down the god of the revolution. Public Reading on on Zoom, Summer 2020. Workshopped at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Saint Paul, Spring 2019.

I Sing for Bathsheba 2018/2019

A collection of poem monologues of characters from the Hebrew Bible intended to be performed in drag
To be produced at two venues in 2024: Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA and Ish: Jewish and Israeli Arts and Culture,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Curse of Ham 2017/20

A one act about Chaim, a queer Jewish boy whose life is haunted by the story of Noah's disobedient son, Ham. Public Reading and workshop on Zoom, Summer 2020.

Henosis 2015/16

In a benevolent Purgatory, ancient poet Sappho meets modern gay pornographer J.D. Cadinot as the two reflect on their legacies. Produced at Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI, 2016. Public Reading, Zoom, Summer 2020. Public reading at Bedlam Theatre, Edinburgh, UK, Spring 2015. Workshopped at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Saint Paul, MN, Spring, 2018.

Eve, on Adam 2015

A poem/monologue from the perspective of Eve, about her ambivalence toward Adam and frustration with God.

Performed by Audrey Laviolette as Part of Lepers in Paradise: a Genderbent Revue, Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

Dolce Dulcitius 2014

An experiment in surrealist writing techniques, partly devised with ensemble, adapting Hrtovitha's play Dulcitius.

An Immorality Play and the Interlude of Princess Tamar

2014

A postmodern retelling of the tragedy of Tamar, King David's daughter, using medieval theatre styles.

Fully Produced at Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit, WI. Public reading on Zoom, Summer, 2020. Public reading at as part of course "Gender and Sexual Violence in the Bible," Wheaton College, MA Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, and Fall 2020.

Thrice Great Medea 2012

A three act play about the witch Medea based on Seneca's play and Ovid's poems.

Play earned Horace White Classical Prize for excellence in special work by a classics major, Beloit College, 2013

Divinities of the Sun 2011/2015

A five act play about a musician who fell in and out of love with the mythic poet Orpheus, and the tragedies that befell them both. Public Reading on Zoom, Spring, 2020. Workshopped at Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI, Fall, 2014. Public Readding at School One High School, Spring, 2012.

Received Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Medal for Dramatic Script in 2012.

Theatre Experience: Directing

I Sing for Bathsheba: Drag Monologues from the Hebrew Bible

Current Project/Summer 2024 Production

Ish: Jewish and Israeli Arts and Culture, Cincinnati, Ohio

I Sing for Bathsheba: Drag Monologues from the Hebrew Bible

Current Project/Spring 2024 Production

Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA in collaboration with Serena Elston/Siren Island.

Circe: Twilight of a Goddess

Summer, 2021

Performed on three floating stages at Point San Pablo Harbor, Richmond, CA in Collaboration with Serena Elston/Siren Island

2020 is Breaking us All – Written by Eric Gonzalez

Summer, 2020

Lightning Rod, outside Pillsbury House and Theatre, Minneapolis, MN

A Bacchanalia Spring 2020/Canceled

Collaboration with Guthrie Theatre and SITI Company, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Saint Paul, MN. *This devised ritual in conversation with the Guthrie's production of Euripides' Bacchae was canceled due to covid lockdowns.*

Henosis Spring, 2016

Beloit Independent Theatre Experience, Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

Lepers in Paradise: A Genderbent Revue

Fall, 2015

Beloit Independent Theatre Experience with Spiritual Life Program, Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

This show was conceived, directed, and emceed by Max Brumberg-Kraus and each act devised collaboratively by the ensemble.

An Immorality Play and the Interlude of Princess Tamar

Fall, 2014

Beloit Independent Theatre Experience with Spiritual Life Program, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

Precarious Bodies Spring, 2014

Beloit Independent Theatre Experience with Spiritual Life Program at the Coughee House, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

This was conceived and directed by Max Brumberg-Kraus and devised the ensemble. Sponsored by Spiritual Life to facilitate campus conversations around mental health, relationship/sex culture, and embodiment.

Scenes from The Crown of Absalom – Written By Pedro Calderon de la Barca

Spring 2013

Directing 1 Class Final Presentations, Kresge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

The Bacchae – Written by Euripides

Winter, 2012

School One High School, Providence, RI

R.U.R./Rossum's Universal Robots – Written by Karl Capek

Spring, 2011

School One High School, Providence, RI

With House of Larva Drag Co-Operative (Artistic Director 2014-Current)

Performer, Director, Audio Design

INSECTADROME (One Act) February, 2020.

Part of Controlled Burn 2020, produced by 20% Theatre Company, Phoenix Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.

A Debunking of Louis Pasteur (One Act) February, 2020

MN Jewish Comedy Festival, Sabes JCC, Minneapolis, MN.

Also performed with MNFringe Festival with Patrick's Cabaret, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN August, 2017

Viral Liaisons (Full show with guest artists) August, 2019.

Art Heads Emporium, Rochester, MN.

Bitchf****t General (One Act) February, 2019.

Part of Controlled Burn 2019, produced by 20% Theatre Company, Phoenix Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.

Benwa's Magical Elixir (One Act) August, 2018

Opener for "Only I," at Pangaea World Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.

BooHoo (One Act) June, 2018

Patrick's FUNeral, Patrick's Cabaret at LUSH, Minneapolis, MN

Lowlands (Full Show) **April**, 2018

Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

Dispatch from O-Face 9 (One Act) February, 2018

Part of Revolutionary Jetpacks: Reclaiming the Future(s), produced by Patrick's Cabaret, Strike Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.

Also performed in Milwaukee, WI at the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition June, 2019.

DE(I)FILED (One Act) September, 2017

Part of Taboo Tongues, produced by Patrick's Cabaret, Open Eye Theatre, Minneapolis, MN.

SLUT SHAMAN (Full show with guest artists) May, 2016

Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

L'Amour de Toilettes (Full show with guest artists) March, 2016

Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

Strawberries and Crème (One Act) Fall, 2015

Beloit Independent Theatre Experience with Spiritual Life Program, Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

Also performed at Reimagining Embodiment, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN March, 2018

Carnal Instinct: Dinner for One (Full show with guest artists) October, 2015

Bunge Theatre, Beloit College, Beloit, WI.

Publications: Poetry

Visions of Divine's Love: a Drag Theopoetic **Forthcoming**

A collection of poems blending Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine love with Divine the drag queen in Pink Flamingos (1973). In collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Awes-Freeman as illustrator, AC Books, San Diego, CA.

"Fag Hammadi" 2016

American Academy of Poets, online.

"March 22, The Conjunction" 2012

Write Across Rhode Island Anthology, The Poetry Loft Rhode Island.

Publications: Scholarship

The(y)ology: Mythopoetics for Queer/Trans Liberation

2023

A work of constructive theology on liberatory mythmaking for artists, activists, and spiritual leaders. punctum press, Goleta, CA.

Additional Poetry Projects

Anamnesis, a collection of 15 poems

2017

Looking for Publisher

The Schism, a long form poem in nine sections

Current

The Book of Saints, poems and illustrations

Current

Community Arts Workshops

Gender Autobiography: A Movement Workshop | Gender retreat, Unity Unitarian Church, Saint Paul, MN, March 2023/March 2022 **Genderbending Starts at the Skin: Memory, Somatics, Drag, Onine Edition** | Zoom, Winter 2020.

We are Poetry: Performing the Texts of Gender and Verse | Transgender Acting camp for Adults, Uprising Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN, 2019.

Genderbending Starts at the Skin: Memory, Somatics, Drag | Open and Affirming Gathering, United Church of Christ, Milwaukee, WI. 2019.

Genderbending Starts at the Skin: Drag and Somatic Performance Workshop | Wheaton College, Norton, MA, 2018.

Drashing the Body: Unlocking the Bible through Movement and Theatre as Healing Practice | in person movement and somatic workshop around bible, trauma, and body cocreated with Sarah Berge M.Div., United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 2018

Exploring Gender and Sexuality through Movement | part of United Days at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 2018

Sermons

"O Sacred Demon of Ungovernableness: A Nonbinary Sermon"	2023
For Trans/Nonbinary service, Lyndale UCC	2022
"Beloved Through Time: Spiritual Friendship, Queer Historiography, and the Kingdom of God"	2022
for the Festival of St. Aelred of Rievaulx at St. John the Evangelist in Saint Paul	
"Will You Join the Dance? Lessons from the Danse Macabre"	2018
All Saint's Day Sermon at New Spirit UCC	
"Out of the Ass's Mouth: A Pride D'Var Torah for Parshat Balak"	2018
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities Chapel	
"Driven from Your Sight: Aw(e)ful Encounters with God"	2017
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities Chapel	

Presentations/Papers/Panels

Unmuted: Entering the Inbetween, Arts Practicum, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN. "The Emasculating Erotics of God's Law: From Reish Lakish to the Prophet Seduced" 2019 Gender & Sexuality, Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference, University of Saint Thomas, St. Paul, Mn "Visions of Divine Love: a Drag Theopoetic" 2019 Theopoetics Conference, ARC (Arts, Religion, Culture), Oakland, CA. "Theology of Prince" Panel 2018 Prince from Minneapolis Conference, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN,. "Receiving Seneca's Medea: Destruction and Transformation" with Dr. Lisl Walsh 2015 Sanger Symposium, Beloit College, Beloit, WI. **Guest Lectures in Higher Ed.** "Outrageous Art: On Visions of Divine Love, John Waters, and the Screen" Spring 2023 AMS 310: Intro to American Studies at University of Texas, Austin, TX. "Feminist Adaptations of Biblical Characters" Fall 2022 REL: Women in the Bible, University of Cincinnati, OH. Fall 2022 "Sex/Gender Liberation: Radical Feminism and its Cultural Legacy" AMS 356: Main Currents of American Culture Since 1865 at University of Texas, Austin, TX. "Theopoetics: Making (toward, about, with, through, in) God" **Fall 2022** AT1002 Art, Religion, and Contemporary Culture, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

"Applied Pantheologies: A Queer Perspective" Fall 2022/ Fall 2021

REL 401: Senior Seminar at Wheaton College, Norton, MA

"Iconoclasm, Representation, and the Transition from Medieval to Early Modern Dramaturgy" Spring 2022/Spring 2021 AT1001: History of Arts and Theology, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Spring 2022/Spring 2021

Fall 2020

Spring 2020/Fall 2019

Spring 2020/Fall 2019

Spring 2020

Spring, 2021

"Hrevisiting Hrotsvitha: Performing Medieval Theatre Today"

AT1001: History of Arts and Theology, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

"Judaism, Pantheism, and Green Theopoetics"

REL 258 Religion and Nature, Northland College, Ashland, WI

"Myth, Power, and the Formation of Reality"

AT5002: Images and Ideologies, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

"Theatre Anthropology and the Six Key Qualities"

FL1001: Introduction to Personal and Spiritual Formation, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

"Receiving Religious Mythologies in Star Wars"

REL369: Is Star Wars a Religion?, University of Miami, Miami, FL.

"Scripture On Stage: Bibliodrama and Playwrighting Workshop"

AT1002: Art. Religion, and Contemporary Culture, United Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, 2021.

Additional Teaching Experience

Community Education Course

Queertopia United Oueer Theory texts for Spiritual, Professional and Personal Formation at United Fall, 2020

Teaching Assistant (United)

RT1101 Hebrew Bible I Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Pressler Fall, 2019

Teaching Assistant (Beloit)

CLAS 250 Ancient Tragedy; Instructor: Dr. Constantine Hadavas **Spring**, 2016 CRIS 165 Sex & Power, Instructor: Dr. Courtney Patterson **Spring 2016** ENG 252 Shakespeare & the Actor Instructor: Dr. Matthew Vadnais Fall, 2015

Fellowships

Multifaith Leadership Fellowship, Minnesota Multifaith Network (MnMN) and University of Saint Thomas 2022-2023 Arts Religion Culture Emerging Leader (ARCEL) Fellowship, Arts | Religion | Culture (ARC) 2018-2019 Arts Organizing Institute with Lake Street Arts initiative from Pangea World Theatre 2017-2018

Working with community organizers, residents, and artists on Lake Street in Minneapolis to create projects around immigration, housing, indigeneity, gentrification, and racial justice 2015

Professional Groups and Affiliations

Saint Paul Shmita Hive Run by Shmita Hives (National)	2021 - 2022
Ecological, interfaith, and labor related group related to Jewish "Shmita Year."	2020 G
The Green Sabbath Project Run by Rabbi Jonathan Schorsch at Universität Potsdam, Germany	2020 - Current
International and interfaith ecological spirituality and education group rooted in Jewish tradition	
New Authors Group Run by Dr. Vincent W.J. van Gerven Oei at Punctum Books, California, USA	2021 - Current
Affiliate group for authors being published through Punctum Books	
Arts Religion Culture	2019 - Current
CARJ (Committee Advocating Racial Justice) at United Theological Seminary, Saint Paul, MN	2020 - 2021
Interfaith Youth Core	2012 - 2016

Trainings

Undoing Racism with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB) Minneapolis, MN

Dialogue Moderation and Conflict Resolution, Beloit College, WI and Sustained Dialogue Institute, Washington, DC

Interfaith Leadership Institute, New York, NY

2013

Awards and Grants

The Francis X Pirazzini Award To the graduate demonstrating exceptional theological acumen and ethical sensitivities regarding	
contemporary social and cultural problems, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities	2020
Henry Felix Kapp Memorial Award For the best scholastic record in Old Testament Theology	2020
The Hortense MacLeod, Jerilyn Dinsmoor and Patsy Herbert Award For an Arts and Theology student whose	
thorough engagement, intrepid whimsy, and theological 'out-of-the-boxness' added spice to seminary life and provoked creative	
theological conversation and action at United and beyond, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities	2018
Martha Peterson Prize for Senior student who best exemplifies the liberal arts tradition at Beloit College,	2016
Academy of American Poets Prize for poem "Fag Hammadi	2016
Blackie Celtic Prize for Excellence in Celtic Literature, Celtic Studies Program, University of Edinburgh.	201

Employment History

Self Employed Artist/Writer

2021-Current

Associate Producing Artistic Director

2021 - 2022

Six Points Theatre (formerly Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company), St. Paul, MN works with Six Points Theater Producing Artistic Director on artistic, community engagement, and organizational projects.

Digital Content Specialist/Multi Media and Events Producer

2017-2021

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN

Ran the Seminary's blog <u>The Canvas</u>, social media, online galleries, and official statements. In this role, co-facilitated United' weekly Arts Lunch Program, featuring guest speakers, workshops, and faculty/student presentations on arts/theology topics.

ARCEL Artist Connector 2020-2021

Arts | Religion | Culture

Mentored six emerging artists and provided discussion prompted, facilitated dialogues, and led parts of artists' retreats.

Sustained Dialogue Moderator

2015 - 2016

Intercultural Center, Beloit College, WI.

Facilitator of weekly semester long dialogue group, with a focus on identity, conflict resolution, and antiracism.

Spiritual Life Assistant 2012 - 2016

Spiritual Life Program, Beloit College, WI.

Student worker in charge of community engagement and interfaith work through art, performance, and storytelling.