

CHRISTOPHER SWIFT  
Associate Professor of Theatre  
NYCCT, City University of New York  
Editorial Board, *Early Drama, Art and Music/  
Medieval Institute Publications*  
cswift@citytech.cuny.edu • 917 549 4343

## Curriculum vitae

### EDUCATION

---

Ph.D., Theatre and Performance Studies, The Graduate Center, City University of New York  
Certificate Programs: Medieval Studies and Renaissance Studies  
Dissertation title: *Theatres of Absence: Seville, 1248-1575* (Pamela Sheingorn, advisor)

M.F.A., Acting, Carnegie Mellon University/Moscow Arts Theatre  
Thesis: Adaptation and performance of Alexander Ostrovsky's *Diary of a Scoundrel*  
at Teatra Tabakova, Moscow, Russia

B.F.A., Theatre, Brooklyn College, CUNY.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Theatre and material culture in medieval Iberia; devotional practices; avant-garde performance; puppetry;  
phenomenology of space; theatre architecture.

### PUBLICATION and PRODUCTION

---

#### *Books*

*Ritual, Spectacle, and Theatre in Late Medieval Seville: Performing Empire*. Yorkshire: ARC Humanities  
Press/Amsterdam University Press, 2023.

A full-length study of performance and intercultural exchange and conflict in late medieval  
Andalusia. Nominated for the *Future Perfect New Voices Award*.

#### *Articles*

"The City Performs: An Architectural History of NYC Theater." *ArcGIS Story Map*. <https://arcgis.com/storymaps/view/1KHqCP>  
(November 25, 2021).

"Sites of Performance and Circulation." In *A Cultural History of Tragedy in the Middle Ages*, ed. Rebecca  
Bushnell, 27-48. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.

"Mapping Urban Performance Culture: A Common Ground for Architecture and Theater" (with Ting  
Chin). *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Virtual Place-Based Learning*, eds. Lansiquot and MacDonald, pp. 83-98.  
New York: Palgrave, 2019.

"Medieval Studies: Iberian Theater and Performance." *Oxford Bibliographies*, ed. Paul E. Szarmach. Oxford  
University Press (2012; revised and updated 2015 and 2017).  
<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396584/obo-9780195396584-0008.xml>

"Robot Saints." *Preternature: Critical and Historical Studies on the Preternatural* 4, no. 1 (March 2015): 52-77.

"Technology and Wonder in Thirteenth-Century Iberia and Beyond." In *Performing Objects and Theatrical Things*,  
edited by Marlis Schweitzer and Joanne Zerdy, 21-35. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

"A Penitent Prepares: Affect, Contrition, and Tears." In *Crying in the Middle Ages: Tears of History*, edited by  
Elina Gertsman, 79-101. London: Routledge, 2011.

“‘The Spanish Match’: Ceremony, Diplomacy, and the Reading Public” (with Rachel Burk). *Ritual and Ceremony: Late-Medieval Europe to Early America*, Primary Sourcebooks for the College Classroom. Washington, D.C.: Folger Shakespeare Library, 2011.

“The Sacred Performative: *Holy Wednesday* and Colonial Ritual/Theatre.” *The Journal of Religion and Theatre* 5, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 144-53.

### **Podcasts**

“Robot Saints: What can medieval automata teach us about the age of AI?” *Atlas Obscura Podcast* (Oct. 17, 2023). <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/podcast-robot-saints>

“City Tech Stories, Episode 4: Open Educational Resources.” Interview with Elvis Bakaitis (Dec. 2, 2019). <https://soundcloud.com/citytechlibrary/citytech-stories-podcast-episode-4-interview-with-christopher-swift>

### **Directing**

“Scapino” (adapted and directed). Voorhees Theater, New York City College of Technology, CUNY. (December, 2014). [Photographs](#)

“Alfonso X’s *Cantigas de Santa Maria*” (director and editor). Early Music Michigan and Western Michigan University Collegium Musicum, St. Luke Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo, Mich., 15 May 2010. [Video](#)

### **Book Reviews**

“Play Time: Gender, Anti-Semitism, and Temporality in Medieval Biblical Drama,” by Daisy Black. *Theatre Journal* 76 (2024) (forthcoming).

“Playing God”, by Henry Bial. *TDR: The Drama Review* 61, No. 2 (2017): 182-84.

“Radical Theatricality: Jongleuresque Performance on the Early Spanish Stage”, by Bruce Burningham. *Theatre Journal* 60, no. 4 (Dec. 2009): 663-64.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

---

### **Invited talks**

“Medieval Theater Practices.” Post-performance talk for *The Amateurs*, The Vineyard Theatre, New York, NY, 17 March 2018.

“Theatre, Christianity, and Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*.” Shakespeare Theatre of Washington, D.C., 29 September 2013.

“What it Means to be a Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow.” The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York City, 12 September 2012.

### **Conferences**

Presented Paper: “New Directions for Research on Puppetry in al-Andalus,” *Early European Puppetry Studies Conference*, Yale University, October 12-15, 2023.

Chair: “Art in the City II,” “Community and Participation,” and “Sustainability and Resilience,” *AMPS Conference: Livable Cities-New York*. Brooklyn, New York. June 14-16, 2023.

Chair: “Performing the Global Middle Ages,” at the 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., Online. May 9, 2022.

Convener: “Alternative Medievalisms: Repetitions of the Medieval in Contemporary Performance,” American Society of Theatre, San Diego, Cal., October 29, 2021.

- Chair: "Sustainability: Design and Theory," "Urban Reuse," and "Art, Literature, and Design," *AMPS Cities in a Changing World*, Brooklyn, NY, June 16-18, 2021.
- Presented paper: "Enduring Absences: The Architectural Semiotics of Toledo's Synagogues." *The Breath of All That Lives: New Research in Medieval Jewish Art* at the 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich. Online. May 11, 2021.
- Roundtable Participant: "Open Pedagogy in the Classroom: Theory and Praxis." *2020 CUE Conference and CUNY OER Showcase. OER to Open Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning Empowered*. Online. October 30, 2020.
- Presented Paper: "phusis ex machina: Schickaneder's Production of *Magic Flute* at the Freihaus-Theater auf der Wieden, 1791." *Critical Exchange. Puppeteers of America. 2019 National Puppetry Festival*. Minneapolis, July 17, 2019.
- Chair and Respondent: "Mapping Brooklyn: Digital Tools to Support Place-Based Learning." 17th Annual CUNY IT Conference, New York, NY, November 30, 2018.
- Presented Paper: "Medieval Bodies Matter: A Transhistorical Approach to Spectacular Violence." American Society for Theatre Research. Atlanta, Georgia, November 2017.
- Presented Paper: "Ritual Violence/Theatrical Terminus." The International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2017.
- Presented Paper: "Transcendental Time, Local Orientation: Future Memory of Salvation in Medieval Religious Performance." American Society for Theatre Research. Minneapolis, Minn., November 2016.
- Chair: "The New World in Performance: Colonial Drama of *Los Virreinos de Nueva España* and *Perú*." Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Austin, 7-10 January 2016.
- Presented Paper: "Celestial Machines of Early Modern Spain." National Puppetry Festival: Critical Exchange. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 10-14 August, 2015.
- Chair: "Broadening the Horizons of Theatre: Geography and Theory." The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2015.
- Presented Paper: "An Eidophusikon for King Richard III." American Society for Theatre Research, Baltimore, November 2014.
- Presented Paper: "Peeling the Cosmic Onion: Performance of Universal Divinity in Small Places." International Federation for Theatre Research, Warwick, U.K., August 1, 2014.
- Presented Paper: "Space Objects: Ritual Encounter with Place." The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2014.
- Presented Paper: "Amerindians on Display: Spain, 1528." The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Orlando, Fl., August 2013.
- Presented Paper: "The Admiral of Sackcloth and Cord: Christopher Columbus Performs the End of Times." The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2013.
- Presented Paper: "The Miraculous Unveiled: Technology and Wonder in Thirteenth Century Iberia," American Society for Theatre Research, Nashville, November 2012.
- Presented Paper: "Robot Saints: A Provisional Theory of Animated Devotional Objects." The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2012.
- Presented Paper: "Puppet, Prop, Sacred Presence: The *Virgen de los Reyes* of the Seville Cathedral," Mid-America Theatre Conference, Chicago, March 2012.
- Roundtable Participant: "Technology to Teach Writing." CUNY Ninth Annual IT Conference, Graduate Center, New York City, December 2010.

- Presented Paper: “New Terms for the Study of Medieval Performance Objects,” for *Revisiting Medieval Performance: Evidence, Theory, Praxis*, American Society for Theatre Research, Seattle, November 2010.
- Presider: “Alfonso X’s *Cantigas de Santa Maria* (Performance and Roundtable Discussion).” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2010.
- Respondent: “Sights, Sounds, and Species: Performance, Performativity, and the *Cantigas de Santa Maria*.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2010.
- Presented Paper: “Articulating Statues in Late Medieval Iberia,” Inter-University Medieval Conference, Columbia University, New York, April 2010.
- Presented Paper: “Colonial Staging of Alfonso X’s *Cantigas de Santa Maria*.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2009.
- Chair: “Performing Conquest, Colonization and Resistance in Medieval Europe.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, December 2008.
- Presented Paper: “Concentric Squares: Cosmos and Community in Sixteenth-Century Puebla Missions.” American Society for Theatre Research, Phoenix, November 2007.
- Chair: “Intersections of Religion, Performance, and Social Agency, Parts I and II.” The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, New Orleans, July 2007.
- Roundtable Participant: “Theories of Religion and Theatre.” The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, New Orleans, July 2007.
- Presented Paper: “Pre-Postcolonial Ambivalence: Torres Naharro’s Anti-Generic *Comedia Tropea*.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2007.
- Presented Paper: “The Sacred Performative: *Holy Wednesday* and Colonial Ritual/Theatre.” The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Chicago, July 2006.
- Presented Paper: “Containment and Cohabitation: Masculine Bodies in Late Medieval Iberian Procession.” The International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 2006.
- Presented Paper: “Early Modern Iberian Penitents and Gender.” *Medieval Masculinities*, Graduate Center, CUNY, New York City, April 2006.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### *Teaching Portfolio*

#### **New York City College of Technology, CUNY, Brooklyn, NY 2011-Present**

##### *Associate Professor*

- THE 2280: History of Theatre: Stages and Technology
- THE 2280ID: History of Theatre Interdisciplinary Course with Architecture Tech
- THE 2380: Play Analysis: Texts and Contexts, Writing Intensive
- THE 2380: Play Analysis: Gender and Sexuality
- LIB/ARCH 2205: Learning Places: Understanding the City
- PERF 1120: Drama Workshop
- ENT 3320: Director of Theatre Production (*Scapino*, Fall 2014)
- COM 1330: Public Speaking
- COM 1320: Voice and Diction

#### **Marymount Manhattan College, New York, NY, Fall 2010-Present**

##### *Assistant Adjunct Professor*

THTR 230: Theatre History I: Antiquity to the Restoration

THTR 231: Theatre History II: Eighteenth Century to the Present

**Hostos Community College, CUNY, Bronx, NY, Fall 2009-Summer 2011**

*Writing Fellow*

Devised syllabi, class plans, and writing exercises, and taught Writing Intensive sections of Digital Design, Electronic Music, Women's Studies, Latin American History; lead professional development workshops

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, and AWARDS**

---

Recipient: PSC-CUNY Research Award (Traditional A - \$3,500) (2021)

Recipient: OER Fellowship, Ursula C. Schwerin Library, NYCCT, CUNY (\$1,300) (2019)

Fellow: "A Cultural History of Digital Technology" National Endowment for the Humanities, NYCCT, CUNY (2017-18)

Fellow: Faculty Fellowship Publication Program. Office of the Dean for Recruitment and Diversity, City University of New York (Spring, 2015)

Fellow: "A Living Laboratory: Redesigning General Education for a 21st-Century College of Technology." Title V Grant Initiative, NYCCT, CUNY (2014-2015)

Recipient: PSC-CUNY Research Award (Traditional A - \$3,500) (2015)

Fellow: "Making Connections: Engaging the Humanities at a College of Technology." National Endowment for the Humanities, NYCCT, CUNY (2014-2015)

Recipient: Professional Development Advisory Council Travel Awards. NYCCT, CUNY (December 2012, May 2013, August 2013, November 2013, May 2014, July 2014, November 2014, May 2015)

Recipient: William Stewart Travel Awards For National and International Conferences (\$500) (2012)

Recipient: Sue Rosenberg Zalk Travel and Research Award (\$500), Graduate Center, CUNY (2010)

Recipient: Alexandra Johnston Award, Best New Conference Paper in Early Drama Studies by a Graduate Student (runner-up) (2010)

Fellow: "Ritual and Ceremony from Late-Medieval Europe to Early America," A National Endowment for the Humanities Institute. Washington, D.C. Folger Shakespeare Library (2010)

Fellow: Writing Across the Curriculum Program (\$62,000), The Graduate Center, CUNY (2009-2011)

Recipient: Sponsored Dissertation Fellowship (\$20,000), Graduate Center, CUNY (2009-2010)

Recipient: Grace Frank Dissertation Grant (\$500), Medieval Academy of America (2009)

Recipient: Cohn-Lortel Travel Award (\$700), Program in Theatre, Graduate Center, CUNY (2009)

Faculty Mentor: "Advisement and Mentorship at an Urban University." Title V Grant Initiative. BMCC, CUNY (2007-2009)

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

---

Editorial Board, *Early Drama and Music*, Medieval Institute Publications (2019-present).

Faculty Mentor: "Blended Shadow Puppets," An Emerging Scholars Project. New York City College of Technology, CUNY, Spring 2024.

Faculty Mentor: "Mapping the History of Theatre in Brooklyn, NY," An Emerging Scholars Project. New York City College of Technology, CUNY, Fall 2023.

Faculty Mentor: “The City Performs: An Architectural History of New York City Theaters,” A two-semester Emerging Scholars Project, Fall 2018 and Spring 2019.

Awards Committee (Chair, 2015): *Grants for Researchers with Heavy Teaching Loads*, American Society for Theatre Research, 2012-2015.

Workshop Participant: *Renew Your Pedagogy: Reframe an Existing Course as Interdisciplinary*. New York City College of Technology, CUNY, 17 May 2015.

Faculty Mentor: “An Eidophusikon for Richard III,” A two-semester Emerging Scholars Project. New York City College of Technology, CUNY, 2013.

Editorial Assistant: *Ecumenica: a journal of theatre and performance*, 2011-2012.

Workshop Participant: Writing Across the Curriculum. City University of New York, 2007 and 2009.

---

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Society for Theatre Research, International Federation for Theatre Research, Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society, The Medieval Academy of America

---

### **LANGUAGES**

English and Spanish