



# Finn Lefevre

[www.finnlefevre.com](http://www.finnlefevre.com)

## EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST	MFA in Dramaturgy, summa cum laude MFA Thesis: "Transgressive Acts: Adapting Applied Theatre Techniques for a Transgender Community" Advisor: Dr. Priscilla Page
	Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies
STUDY ABROAD	Edinburgh, Scotland, Teaching Assistant "Alternative Theaters: Navigating the Edinburgh Fringe Festival"
	Grahamstown, South Africa, Participant "Arts and Culture in South Africa"
	St. Petersburg, Russia, Participant Russian Literature, Russian History, Russian Art History, Russian Language
UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE	BS in Theatre Studies, Minor in Russian Studies, summa cum laude BS Thesis: "Gender Roles Reflected and Produced by Cross-Gender Performance" Advisor: Dr. Diane Brewer

## WORK HISTORY

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ONGOING	Freelance Dramaturg and Facilitator <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided script support dramaturgical feedback for playwrights, created research resource materials for productions, written script evaluations for lit managers</li><li>• Facilitated workshops on Boal, Trans theatre, Applied Theatre</li></ul>
2019-present	Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Department of Theater, Amherst MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taught Intro to Theater, Queer Theater (developed course), and Contemporary Playwrights of Color</li><li>• Guest lectured, facilitated workshops</li><li>• Served as dramaturg, intimacy coordinator, and advisor for various department productions</li></ul>
2018	Adjunct Faculty, Westfield State University Department of Ethnic and Gender Studies, Westfield, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designed and taught a section of Introduction to Women and Gender Studies, a gen ed and major requirement. Topics include: postcolonial and transnational feminisms, gender and sexual diversity, gender based violence, women's and trans rights movements.</li><li>• Designed and taught a standalone elective course, Queer Studies and Popular Cultures. This course uses artifacts of pop culture (film, tv, books, dating apps, laws, sports, etc.) to interrogate the perception of queer bodies and identities in various cultures.</li></ul>



- 2017 Adjunct Faculty, Keene State College Department of Theatre&Dance, Keene, NH
- Designed and taught a section of Art of the Imagination, an introduction to theatre for non-majors. Topics include: devised theatre, physical theatre, page-to-stage design process, adaptation, dramaturgy, acting techniques.
- 2015-2017 LGBTQIA+ Graduate Support Group Facilitator, Stonewall Center Amherst, MA
- Organized and facilitated weekly peer-support group meetings for LGBTQIA+ graduate students.
- 2014-2017 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- Taught courses (Play Analysis, Contemporary Playwrights of Color Online and *Queering* Performance), assisted on Faculty courses, facilitated discussions, gave guest lectures, created and maintained course online presence, and worked as a grader.
  - Topics include: queer performance, documentary theatre, storytelling, play analysis, theatre history, playwriting, media analysis.
- 2014-2017 Joker/Facilitator of trans\* applied theatre troupe, Amherst, MA
- Founded and facilitated a troupe of non-professional performers through applied theater techniques in both short and long-term workshops.
  - Management of troupe, spaces, interviews, and grant funding.
  - Techniques used include: Theatre of the Oppressed, Rainbow of Desire, Playback Theatre, Somatic Movement, John O'Neal Story Circles, Ping Chong's Undesirable Elements, Theatre of Witness, storytelling.
  - As the basis for my MFA Thesis, I designed my own set of applied theatre techniques to use in community-based theatre.
- 2012-2014 Co-Founder and Co-President, Gender Warriors, Evansville, IN
- A small non-profit organization for transgender people in the Tri-State area, with primary focus on facilitating various support groups and providing trainings to professionals with transgender clients.
  - Administrative work, including grants and fundraising, member databases, newsletters, space rentals, public event planning, outreach, sat on the board and helped achieve non-profit status
  - Creative work, including developing public presentations, continuing education trainings and advocacy workshops, using applied theatre techniques to facilitate group work.
- 2010-2012 Ticket Office/Front of House Assistant, University of Evansville Theatre, Evansville, IN
- 2011 Literary Intern and Playlabs Blogger, The Playwrights' Center Minneapolis, MN
- 2010 Intern, New Harmony Theatre, New Harmony, IN
- 2010 Theatre Scenic Work Study, University of Evansville, Evansville, IN
- 2009 Youth Programs Intern, Hermitage Museum St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2009 Theatre Teaching Artist, Camp Vega, Fayette, ME



## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2020 "The Name (isn't a) Game: New Explorations in Trans Applied Theatre" in *Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation* for Routledge Press, edited by Philippa Kelley and Amrita Ramanan
- FORTHCOMING "Schrödinger's Dick: The Transgender *Reveal* Trope in *Boy Meets Girl*" in *Beyond Binaries: Trans Identity in Contemporary Culture* for Lexington Press, edited by John Lamothe, Rachel Friedman, and Michael Perez
- "*how to tell time (when you're trans and processing trauma)*" in the *Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays* for Methuan Drama Publishing, edited by Lindsey Mantoan, Leanna Keyes, and Angela Michelle Farr Schiller
- "Lip Sync for Our Lives: Trans Reclamations of Drag in *Queer & Now*" in *The Palgrave Handbook of Queer and Trans Feminisms in Contemporary Performance* for Palgrave MacMillan, edited by Sandra D'Urso, Tiina Rosenberg, and Anna Renée Winget
- IN PROGRESS "The Trans Canon" (currently untitled chapter) in *The Next Act: Approaches to the Theatrical Canon in the US* for Routledge, edited by Angela Farr Schiller, Lindsey Mantoan, and Matthew Moore
- OTHER PROJECTS Part of editing and curation team for the *Dramaturging the Phoenix* series for Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas
- Researcher for *Our Gay History in 50 States*, a text book edited by Zaylore Stout

## TEACHING

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- TEACHING PHILOSOPHY For me, teaching is about two things: providing questions and the tools with which to examine those questions, and providing a space in which students can try, fail, and grow. Using Freirean problem-posing pedagogy, I focus on the issues and questions my students have about their world, and develop tools to help them find their own solutions. I strive to create learning spaces for my students that are equitable, accessible, multidisciplinary, and socially conscious.
- WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY EGST 102: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies
- This course is designed to introduce students to issues in feminism through a postcolonial and transnational lens. Students will get an overview of concepts of gender identity, social construction of gender, the relationship between gender and politics and power, and more. Using an applied critical pedagogy approach, students will examine current social issues from various perspectives, analyzing structures of power and oppression, and creating their own next steps.



EGST 235: Queer Studies and Popular Cultures

- Part media studies and part queer studies, this class examines the construction of queer images in popular culture. By analyzing the artifacts of pop culture (various media, ceremonies, politics, law, and more) students will discover the tools by which queer identities are shaped and presented to the world. Using these same tools, students will work to create new media and disrupt the production/representation/consumption of media to shift the dominant discourse on queerness.

KEENE STATE  
COLLEGE

IATAD 100: Art of the Imagination

- I designed this course as an overview of theatre techniques, careers, and histories. Using a combination of applied projects, exercises, group work, and experiential learning, students have the opportunity to try their hand at acting, design, directing, and more. Crafted for non-majors, I focus on skills and experiences that open the imagination and can be applied to other disciplines.

UNIVERSITY OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

Theater 100: Theatrical Frontiers

- I taught multiple sections of this large gen-ed participation-based course. I built the course to examine the edges of theater—what we are working towards, new technology, new techniques, ethical debates, etc.
- I led lessons and exercises on design, playwriting, directing, devising, applied theater, race and gender in performance, dramaturgy, and more.

Theater 333: Queer Performance

- For this upper-level dramaturgy course that also meets the Junior Year Writing requirements, I designed exercises and assignments around a repertory of contemporary queer plays and performances. Assignments included academic research papers, queer aesthetics performances, and dramaturgy protocols.

Theater 130: Contemporary Playwrights of Color

- I taught online and multiple in-person sections of this course that meets both gen-ed and theater major requirements.
- Lessons included connections between artistic movements such as the Black Arts Movement and corresponding social contexts, play analysis, writing from identity, cultural hybridity and appropriation.

Theater 120: Text Analysis

- As instructor, I took the existing departmental model and integrated my areas of focus. I taught EL Fuchs' *Visit to a Small Planet*, *Guerrilla Design*, *Image Tracking*, and other analytical techniques and led discussions and applied projects to develop analysis skills for production.

Humanities and Fine Arts 191: *Queering* Performance

- In designing this First Year Seminar I created critical and creative exercises to encourage analysis of queer performance, decode images and text, consider the possibility of *queering* performance. In this course I have combined media and technology with writing and group projects to create an experiential learning process.



English 397: Alternative Theaters: Navigating the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (TA)

- I helped organize and facilitate travel, accommodations, festival experience, and group discussions.

Theater 105: Drama and the Media (TA)

- I taught classes on Storytelling, Image Theatre, and Documentary Theatre, and led discussions.

UNIVERSITY OF  
EVANSVILLE

Theatre 461: Theatre History II (TA)

- I taught weekly case studies and led the discussion section.

## SELECTED THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

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PRODUCTION  
DRAMATURGY

*The Mystery of Irma Vep* by Charles Ludlam, St. Louis Rep dir. Nelson Eusebio

*Wild Thing* adaptation by Harley Erdman, University of Massachusetts

*Hir* by Taylor Mac, Jobsite Theater dir. David Jenkins

*Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen, University of Massachusetts, adapted in collaboration with dir. Christina Pellegrini

*Marie Antoinette* by David Adjmi, University of Massachusetts dir. Christina Pellegrini

*Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sarah Ruhl, University of Massachusetts dir. Glenn Proud

*The Cripple of Inishmaan* by Martin McDonagh, University of Evansville dir. R. Scott Lank

*The Farnsworth Invention* by Aaron Sorkin, University of Evansville dir. R. Scott Lank

NEW PLAY  
DEVELOPMENT

Devised Adaptation of *The Maids* by Jean Genet, dir. Jen Onopa, Northampton, MA

*Queer&Now: Sync or Swim*, devised piece, Amherst & Greenfield, MA, New York, NY

*Queer&Now: A Lip Sync Spectacular*, devised piece, Amherst, MA

*Pride and Prejudice* adapted by Christopher Baker, Baltimore Center Stage

*What Actually Happened Was* by Stephanie Swirsky, University of Massachusetts

*The Rape of the Sabine Women by Grace B. Mathias* by Michael Yates Crowley

Short term workshops or script development work with: The Playwrights' Center, 20% Theatre Company, Jacqueline Goldfinger, MJ Kaufman, Audrey Gab, Chris Baker, Dave Harris, Harley Erdman, Adam Pasen



- PRODUCING      University of Massachusetts New Play Lab 2016
- As producer I submitted a call for plays, read over 250 submissions (playwrights chosen: Kim Euell and Stephanie Swirsky), organized class visits, rehearsals, and events.
- University of Massachusetts New Play Lab 2015
- As a co-producer, I read submission finalists (playwrights chosen: Michael Yates Crowley and MJ Kaufman), additional administrative tasks.
- DIRECTING      *White History* by Dave Harris, University of Massachusetts
- Fissures (lost and found)* by Steve Epp, Cory Hinkle, Dominic Orlando, Dominique Serrand, Deborah Stein and Victoria Stewart, University of Massachusetts
- Dinner with Friends* by Donald Margulies, University of Evansville
- The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl, University of Evansville
- ADVISING      University of Massachusetts New Play Lab 2020

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 2020      Intimacy Direction training, Heartland Intimacy
- 2019      Intimacy Direction intensive, Theatrical Intimacy Education
- 2018      Reiki I Training and Certification, Sanctuary Healing Arts
- Reiki training with Haleya Priest and Thom Levy
- 2017      Double Edge Theatre Intensive
- Physical, improvisational, and devised theatre workshop with company of trained performers and artists.
- Class with Anna Deavere Smith
- Training in the stakes of performing others' stories, connecting with communities, interview process.
- 2016      Diversity Lecture Series: Creating an Inclusive Syllabus, University of Massachusetts
- Hosted by the center for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development, this training covered syllabus design, inclusive policies, language and rhetoric, and accessibilities concerns.
- QLab Intensive Workshop, Smith College
- Training in QLab for sound design and projection design by its creators, figure53.
- Classroom Activities Workshop, University of Massachusetts
- Hosted by the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, this training focused on engaging students through different learning strategies.
- Helping New Students Transition to Campus Workshop, University of Massachusetts
- Hosted by the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, this training was geared towards assessing and fulfilling new student needs.





Instructional Design for Online Teaching, University of Massachusetts  
• This was a comprehensive 6-week online course taught by Instructional Design.

Syllabus and Course Planning Workshop, University of Massachusetts  
• Hosted by the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, this training workshoped syllabi for instructors designing new courses.

Advanced Joker Training, Theatre of the Oppressed New York  
• Led by Jokers Katy Rubin and John LeoNimm, this course provided individual development as a joker, facilitator, and Theatre of the Oppressed practitioner.

2015 Joker Training, Theatre of the Oppressed New York  
• Led by Jokers Katy Rubin and Sulu LeoNimm, this course honed the skills of developing jokers and Theatre of the Oppressed facilitators.

## SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
Advisor for UMass New Play Lab (2019-2020)  
• Advised graduate student producers and dramaturgs in creating a call for plays, reading submissions, and planning/implementing workshops.

Season Selection Committee, University of Massachusetts Department of Theater (2015-16; 2016-17)  
• As a committee member I have helped craft the call for submissions based on department and student needs, read dozens of proposals, and curated a selection that meets educational goals, budgetary restrictions, and artistic desires in a cohesive season.

Stonewall Center Advisory Board, University of Massachusetts  
• As a member of the advisory board, I review the Center's yearly plan, their steps to meeting the goals set forth by the department review, and advise on future planning and expansion efforts.

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE  
Cult Film Society Co-President (2011-2012)  
PRIDE President, University of Evansville (2010-2011)  
PRIDE Secretary, University of Evansville (2009-2010)  
Lighting Design Hiring Committee, University of Evansville Department of Theatre (2010)

OTHER  
Western Massachusetts Transgender Awareness Month Planning Committee (2014)  
• Helped plan over 20 events, including film screenings, guest speakers and artists, and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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2019 University of Massachusetts Small Project Grant

2018-19 NSF grant consultant for study on LGBTQIA+ STEM students



2016-17	University of Massachusetts Arts Council Grant University of Massachusetts Dissertation Research Fellowship
2014-15	University of Massachusetts Arts Council Grant University of Massachusetts Graduate School Diversity Fellowship
2013-14	Do Something Award (small project grant)
2012	KCACTF Region 3 New Play Dramaturgy Award

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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2011-present	Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, Co-VP of Freelance 2020-2022
2016-present	Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed, INC
2016-present	Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals
2018-present	Pride Youth Theater Alliance

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS

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USITT, Louisville, KY 2019	“Training in Identifying Microaggressions and Adopting Inclusive Language for our Industry”
Pride Youth Theatre Alliance Conference, Cambridge, MA 2018	“Trans Naming Workshop”
Transformative Feminisms: Interventions and Innervations, Amherst, MA 2017	“Untitled Trans Naming Project”
Trans Futurity Symposium, Amherst, MA 2016	“Using Theater to Dismantle Internalized Oppressions: an Introduction to Cops in the Head”
Trans Ohio, Columbus, OH 2014	“A Trans* Brand of Social Justice: Past, Present, and Future” co-authored with Eliot Colin and Ian Harris Schroeder  “TransQueers Unite” co-facilitated with Eliot Colin and Ian Harris Schroeder  “Trans History in the U.S.” co-authored with Eliot Colin and Ian Harris Schroeder





Come Together Kentucky Conference, Louisville, KY 2012	“Transgender Sexual Health” co-authored with Eliot Colin
	“Being a Trans* Ambassador and/or Beacon of Queer” co-authored with Eliot Colin
	“TransQueers: At the Intersection of Identity” co-authored with Eliot Colin

## GUEST SPEAKING & WORKSHOPS

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2019	<i>Queer &amp; Now</i> sex ed workshop, dramaturg/co facilitator
2019	<i>The Maids</i> devising workshop, dramaturg/co facilitator
	<i>Wild Thing</i> post-show panel on feminism, facilitator, University of Massachusetts
	<i>Wild Thing</i> post-show panel on trans performance, facilitator, University of Massachusetts
	<i>Wild Thing</i> pre-show workshop with area high schoolers
2018	Non-binary identities in <i>Wild Thing</i> , cast and crew workshop
	“Living the Hyphenate Life” LMDA online chat, panelist
	Developing a Drag Identity or Alter Ego, University of Massachusetts
	LGBTQ+ 101 and Disrupting Microaggressions, a workshop for University of Massachusetts Department of Theater
	“Trans Naming Rituals”, a 2-week applied theatre workshop, Trans Student Union, University of South Florida
	“Theatre of the Oppressed in the Classroom: Activism for Academics”, Department of Women, Gender, Sexuality at University of South Florida
	<i>Hir</i> Post-show discussion, respondent, Jobsite Theater
	Boal for Beginners Workshop, University of Massachusetts
2017	Trans embodiment in performance, an acting workshop, University of Massachusetts
	“Monstrous/Queer: A Physical Theatre Workshop”, University of Massachusetts
	“Toward a Feminist Devising Process”, <i>Hedda</i> Post-Show Presentation, University of Massachusetts
	“Trapped: Societal Expectations of Women Across the Century”, <i>Hedda</i> Post-Show Presentation, University of Massachusetts
	<i>Life Defying Acts</i> Post-Show Discussion, University of Massachusetts
	Stonewall Center Speakers Bureau Panel, University of Massachusetts (2 Panels)



- 2016
- “Feminist Pedagogies in Difficult National Moments” Panel, University of Massachusetts
  - “Image Tracking in Ibsen’s *Hedda Gabler*” University of Massachusetts
  - “Guerrilla Design for Text Analysis” University of Massachusetts
  - “Toward an Ensemble: Boal in Practice” University of Massachusetts
  - Stonewall Center Speakers Bureau Panel, University of Massachusetts (5 Panels)
  - Stonewall Center LGBTQIA+ Athletes Sensitivity, University of Massachusetts
  - Resident Assistants’ LGBTQIA+ Sensitivity Training, University of Massachusetts
- 2015
- Stonewall Center LGBTQIA+ Athletes Sensitivity, University of Massachusetts
  - Stonewall Center Speakers Bureau Panel, University of Massachusetts
  - “Bad Mama: Motherhood, Femininity, and Leadership” *Marie Antoinette* post-show presentation
  - “Britney in ’07: Celebrity Culture and the Destruction of Idols” *Marie Antoinette* post-show presentation
  - “Going Viral: Propaganda Art and Tabloids” *Marie Antoinette* post-show presentation
  - “Revolutionary Fashion: How the Clothes Make the Movement” *Marie Antoinette* post-show presentation
  - “Versailles is Burning: Staging Aesthetic Inspirations” *Marie Antoinette* post-show presentation
  - “Dead Like Who?: Changing Perspectives on the Afterlife” *Dead Man’s Cell Phone* post-show presentation
  - “Technically a Ghost: Remnants of the Deceased in Technology and the Internet” *Dead Man’s Cell Phone* post-show presentation
  - “Demechanizing Education: an Introduction to Boal” University of Massachusetts
- 2014
- Transgender Health Providers Panel facilitator, Northampton, MA
  - Stonewall Center Speakers Bureau Panel, University of Massachusetts
  - “Transgender 101” PFLAG of Evansville, IN
  - “Transgender Social and Mental Health” Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville, IN
  - “Transgender Medical Transitioning” AIDS Resource Group of Evansville, IN

- 2013
- “Transgender Issues on College Campuses” University of Southern Indiana Continuing Education Series
  - “Transgender 101: an Introductory Guide to Gender Identity” Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville, IN
  - “Transgender 201: Health and History” PGLAG of Evansville. IN
  - “Transgender 101: an Introductory Guide to Gender Identity” University of Evansville
  - “Transgender 101: an Introductory Guide to Gender Identity” PFLAG of Evansville, IN
  - “Transgender Clients: A Guide for Counselors and Social Workers” Deaconess Hospital Continuing Education “Lunch and Learn” Series, Evansville, IN
  - “Transgender Safe Zone Training” University of Southern Indiana
  - “Transgender 101: an Introductory Guide to Gender Identity” Owensboro High School Gay Straight Alliance, Owensboro, KY
  - “Transgender Clients: Sexual Health” AIDS Resource Group of Evansville, IN
- 2012
- “Respecting All Genders” PFLAG of Evansville, IN
  - Panel on Transgender Issues in response to “Becoming Chaz”. Raise Up, Jasper, IN
  - “Transgender Clients: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals” University of Southern Indiana Social Work
- 2011
- Panel on Transgender Issues. SPECTRUM, Southern Indiana University
  - Coming Out Day Panel. University of Evansville (facilitated three times)

## HOSTED/ORGANIZED EVENTS

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- 2017
- Hedda* Stag Party, University of Massachusetts
    - Organized a modern take on a traditional Stag Party (as described in *Hedda Gabler*) including games, food&drink, and activities for the opening night performance of *Hedda*.
- 2015
- Revolutionary Fashion Show, University of Massachusetts
    - Organized a fashion show in which participants modeled clothing significant to various social and political movements, performed for audience members before the opening night of *Marie Antoinette*.
  - Five College Multicultural Theater Conference, Amherst, MA
    - Performed administrative duties to assist in the organizing of a conference of panels, speakers, and performances. Facilitated break out panel discussion.

- 3rd Annual New England Dramaturgy Retreat, Amherst, MA
- Fundraised and organized a weekend conference for dramaturgy students and faculty from Yale, Columbia, Harvard/ART, and the University of Massachusetts.
- 2014
- Western Massachusetts Transgender Awareness Month
- As a member of a 6-person team, I organized and facilitated over 20 events across the Valley, including a medical provider panel, a Transgender Day of Remembrance, several guest speakers and performers, and two film screenings.
- Transgender Pride Week, Evansville, IN
- Organized the first ever Transgender Pride Week as a series of empowering workshops for transgender people as well as trainings for people with transgender clients and family.
- 2013
- Transgender Day of Remembrance, Evansville, IN
- This yearly event consisted of several speakers and performers.
- 2012
- Transgender Day of Remembrance, Evansville, IN
- As the first in Evansville, this even linked Gender Warriors to hundreds of other national and international organizations marking the Day of Remembrance.

## WEB SAMPLES

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UNIVERSITY OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

*Queer & Now* publicity:

wearequeerandnow.com (design and content)

- Compilation of resources, inspirations, and preview of show.

*Marie Antoinette* dramaturgy:

marieatumass.weebly.com (design and content)

- Dramaturgical content for departmental production, including timeline, biographies, scene breakdowns, topical discussion.

*Dead Man's Cell Phone* dramaturgy:

deadmanatumass.weebly.com (content)

- Dramaturgical content for departmental production, including history, information about the playwright, feedback for actors.

THE  
PLAYWRIGHTS'  
CENTER

Playlabs blogging:

playlabs2011-blog.tumblr.com (design and content)

- Reporting and blogging throughout the Playlabs New Play Festival, interviews, photos, reviews.