

# GARRETT SAGER

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## SELECTED THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

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### PRODUCING

***Enigma***, Floyd Dell/devised by company, dir. Irisdelia Garcia,  
stage managed by Afrikah Smith, live performances via ZOOM,  
November 2020 (upcoming)

***Queer & Now: Digital Drag***, Zoom cabarets featuring videos and live  
digital performances created the ensemble  
Including *Miss Topia*, *Back 2 School Justice X Fenty* (Rihanna  
tribute), *Prom*, and astrological sign-themed evenings  
April 2020–ongoing

***Queer & Now: Sync or Swim***, devised by company  
Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield, MA,  
January 2020  
West Chelsea Arts, New York, NY, April 2019  
UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA, December 2018

***MRS. SMITH***, UMass Curtain Theater, Amherst, MA, February 2019

***Queer & Now: A Lip Sync Spectacular***, devised by company  
UMass Fine Arts Center 204, Amherst, MA, March 2018  
UMass French Hall, Amherst, MA, December 2017

***Gruesome Playground Injuries*** by Rajiv Joseph, UMass Fine Arts Center,  
Amherst, MA, November 2016

### DIRECTING

***Queer & Now: Sync or Swim***, devised by company  
Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Greenfield, MA,  
January 2020  
NYPOP/West Chelsea Arts, New York, NY, April 2019  
UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA, December 2018

***A Number*** by Caryl Churchill (experimental reading), UMass Fine Arts  
Center, Amherst, MA, February 2018

***Queer & Now: A Lip Sync Spectacular***, devised by company  
UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA, March 2018

UMass French Hall, Amherst, MA, December 2017

***The Difference*** by Tatiana Rodriguez, Five College WORD! Festival,  
Amherst, MA, April 2017

***Gruesome Playground Injuries*** by Rajiv Joseph, UMass Fine Arts Center,  
Amherst, MA, November 2016

***Eight*** by Ella Hickson, OBERON / American Repertory Theater,  
Cambridge, MA, June 2015 (New England premiere)

**ASSISTANT  
DIRECTING**      ***Hedda*** by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Finn Lefevre and Christina Pellegrini,  
dir. Christina Pellegrini, UMass Rand Theater, Amherst, MA,  
February 2017

**DRAMATURGY**      ***Celebrity Ritual: Britney & Janet***, devised by Garrett Sager, Jordan  
Reed and co., Brooklyn, NY, 2020 (in progress)

***i don't know where we're going but i promise we're lost***, by MJ  
Halberstadt, dir. Jack Serio, Boston Playwrights' Theatre,  
August 2015

**PRODUCTION  
ASSISTANCE**      ***Flamboyant***, created and performed by Jordan Reed, UMass Fine Arts  
Center, Amherst, MA, April 2019

***Chronicle X: A Revival*** by Nia O. Witherspoon, dir. Mei Ann Teo,  
JACK, Brooklyn, NY, January 2019

## WORK HISTORY

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### **Queer & Now** Amherst, MA

Producer and Director, September 2017 – present

- Organize, lead devising process for, and execute five mountings of drag physical theater performances with collaborative team to 500+ audience members on University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, at local venues in western Massachusetts, and on tour to NYC
- Serve as key point of contact for all communications with producing venues
- Grant write for production costs, including costumes, props, lighting equipment, and publicity materials
- Spearhead crowdfunding campaign for Queer & Now tour to NYC

- Write copy and develop materials for print and online marketing and promotional outlets, including Facebook, Instagram, Eventbrite, and event website [wearequeerandnow.com](http://wearequeerandnow.com)

**Fisher Center at Bard** Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Digital Marketing Assistant, September 2019 – present

Marketing Intern: Bard SummerScape, May – August 2019

- Manage all of the Fisher Center's social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Vimeo, YouTube, and Spotify
- Implement and optimize digital campaigns across relevant platforms, including Google Ads, Facebook, and Instagram
- Draft, edit, and publish social media posts daily
- Edit and prepare video and audio materials for UPSTREAMING, the Fisher Center's Virtual Stage
- Assist Marketing Manager with website updates and email communications, including copy-editing
- Manage the Passloff Pass – the Fisher Center's \$5 student ticket initiative for Bard College undergraduates designed to grow student attendance
- Design brand-specific wayfinding and informational signage for Fisher Center programming
- Design posters and programs for academic programming in Theater & Performance and Dance programs at Bard College
- Provide general support to marketing department at educational performing arts center producing innovative, world-class performing arts in New York's Hudson Valley

**Phallacies, Inc.** Amherst, MA

Applied Theater Intern, August 2018 – May 2019

- Support educational men's health theater non-profit through attendance at recruitment fairs, creation of publicity materials for recruitment, and assistance in organization of facilitator training workshops
- Attend weekly dialogues surrounding participants' experiences with hegemonic masculinity
- Provide theatrical producing and directing expertise to program director
- Perform at local community organizations and middle & high schools

**MRS. SMITH at UMass** Amherst, MA

Production Manager, May 2018 – February 2019

- Serve as main liaison between guest artist MRS. SMITH and UMass Theater faculty
- Oversee technical rehearsals; collaborate with sound and lighting crew to accommodate MRS. SMITH's needs and requests
- Develop print and Facebook digital marketing materials; sell out event

**UMass Fine Arts Center** Amherst, MA

Marketing Assistant, June 2018 – May 2019

- Assist with preparation of marketing materials for Center Series and Asian Arts and Culture programming in Fine Arts Center 2018-19 season
- Write press releases for performing artists based on extensive research of artist and management company websites
- Draft and publish social media posts for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Post Fine Arts Center events to local digital calendar listings

**Nia O. Witherspoon** Brooklyn, NY

Production Intern, November 2018 – February 2019

- Support artistic work of playwright and theater-maker Nia O. Witherspoon through organizing materials for artist grant submissions, serving as liaison between Nia and collaborators/theater companies on current freelance projects, and crafting marketing materials for upcoming productions
- Provide teaching assistance support on UMass Amherst campus through organizing class presentation sessions, making course flyers, and communicating with course guest artists
- Assist production of *CHRONICLE X: A Revival* at JACK Brooklyn (January 2019) through running errands to gather essential sound and lighting equipment, developing program inserts for audience members, and preparing stage for nightly showings

**SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

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***Queer & Now: Digital Drag*** (performing as Melissabeth), videos and live performances via Zoom cabarets, eight performances from April 2020–present

***Queer & Now: Sync or Swim*** (role: Demeter/Ensemble), devised by company, dir. Garrett Sager, touring, 2018–20

***Pussy Sludge*** (Rachel) by Gracie Gardner, dir. Rachel Hall, UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA, May 2019

***Tape*** (Man), by Jose Rivera, dir. Afrikah Smith, UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA, April 2019

***The Lily's Revenge*** (The Rose) by Taylor Mac, dir. Jennifer Onopa, UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst, MA. April 2018 (university premiere)

***Queer & Now: A Lip Sync Spectacular*** (Judy Garland/Mother of the Bride), devised by company, dir. Garrett Sager. UMass Fine Arts Center/French Hall, Amherst, MA, 2017 – 2018

***Ta'zieh: Between Two Rivers*** (Hurr/Abedin) by Ifa Bayeza, dir. Nikoo Mamdoohi, touring:  
Boston University and UMass Campus Center, Amherst, MA, April – September 2017

***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Oberon/Theseus) by William Shakespeare, with devising by  
company, dir. Corinne Miller, UMass Rand Studio, Amherst, MA, March 2016

***Donny Johns*** (Ensemble) adapted by Harley Erdman, dir. Gina Kaufmann, UMass Curtain  
Theater, Amherst, MA, November 2015

***An Inspector Calls*** (Gerald), by J.B. Priestley, dir. Catherine Spino, Boston Center for the Arts,  
July 2014

***The Dream of the Burning Boy*** (Dane) by David West Read, dir. Jack Serio, Calderwood  
Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, April 2014 (New England premiere)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- [Rising Researcher](#), UMass Amherst (2019)
- Dean's List Honors for 8 consecutive semesters, UMass Amherst (2015–2019)
- UMass Department of Theater, Franklin Prentice Rand Scholarship for Achievement in Directing and Dramaturgy (2019)
- College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Franklin Prentice Rand Scholarship (2018)
- UMass Department of Theater, Franklin Prentice Rand Scholarship for Achievement in Directing and Dramaturgy (2017)
- College of Humanities and Fine Arts Achievement Award, UMass (2017)
- College of Humanities and Fine Arts, UMass, Franklin Prentice Rand Scholarship (2017)
- Feature in The Boston Globe Arts & Culture section for *EIGHT* (2015)

## RESIDENCIES AND GRANTS

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- Queer & Now Residency at The Foundry, West Stockbridge, MA for development of *Queer & Now: Sex Ed* (2020; postponed due to COVID-19)
- UMass Arts Council Special Projects Grant for *Queer & Now: Sync or Swim* (2018)
- Commonwealth Honors College Research Grant for *Queer & Now* thesis (2018-19)
- UMass Arts Council Mini-Grant for *Queer & Now* remount (2018)
- UMass Arts Council Special Projects Grant for *Queer & Now: A Lip Sync Spectacular* (2017)
- UMass Arts Council Mini-Grant for *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (2016)

- Commonwealth Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship for Arts & Culture in South Africa (2016)

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Massachusetts Undergraduate Research Conference.** Amherst, MA. "Creating New Possibilities of Gender, Identity, and Community in *Queer & Now: Sync or Swim*." April 2019.

## GUEST SPEAKING

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**Theater 331: Queer Theater.** Course instructed by Professor Finn Lefevre at UMass Amherst. "Ethics of Building a Queer Theater Company." October 2019.

**Theater 620: Theaters of Dissent.** Course instructed by Dr. Megan Lewis at UMass Amherst. "From Compton's Cafeteria to #TransIsBeautiful: Queer and Trans Activism Throughout U.S. History" (session 1) and "Radical Drag & Dissent: Lip-Syncing and the Creation of *Queer & Now*" (session 2). March 2019.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**Machine de Cirque** Workshop, Amherst, MA, 2018

- Physical and improvisational theater session with touring company of cirque performers

**Double Edge Theatre** Summer Intensive, Ashfield, MA, 2017

- 10-day physical and devised theater workshop with resident company of collaborators

**Pilobolus** Workshop, Amherst, MA, 2016

- Movement workshop with renowned modern dance company

**Kim Stauffer** Workshop, Amherst, MA, 2016

- Contact improvisation workshop with ensemble in immersive physical theater production

**Berklee College of Music** Musical Theater Intensive, Boston, MA, 2014

- Studies in singing, dancing, acting, and composition for musical theater, culminating in a final performance at the Berklee Performance Center

## UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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### **International Language Institute (ILI) Northampton, MA**

Grant Database and Web Builder, September 2018 – May 2019

- Collaborate with ILI director on responding to needs of free English tutoring program for immigrants to Northampton, MA area
- Create ILI grant history database for free English tutoring program
- Develop web pages for ILI students with a curriculum on learning to drive in English, paying attention to linguistic and cultural norms associated with driving in the U.S.

### **University of Massachusetts Amherst Theater Season Selection Committee**

Undergraduate Representative, December 2016 – May 2017

- Collaborate with faculty and graduate students to shape Department of Theater mainstage season
- Read submissions from graduate students in directing and dramaturgy, faculty, and undergraduates
- Provide feedback to committee on undergraduate needs, demands, and requests

## EDUCATION

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### **University of Massachusetts Amherst**

B.A. Theater, magna cum laude, 2019

Commonwealth Honors College, scholar with greatest distinction

Departmental Honors in Theater

Minors in Linguistics & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

B.A. Honors Thesis, Advisors: Dr. Harley Erdman and Dr. Megan Lewis:

- Theatrical Direction and Production: *Queer & Now: Sync or Swim*. UMass Amherst Arts Bridge, Amherst, MA (2018) and UMass NYPOP/West Chelsea Arts, New York, NY (2019)
- Companion Piece: "Our Borders Are Shifting, Our Bodies Are Transforming": Creating New Possibilities of Gender, Performance, and Identity in *Queer & Now: Sync or Swim*

## REFERENCES

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Harley Erdman

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