

Michelle Blight

Curriculum Vitae

Education

2016 – 2020	B.F.A	Bachelor of Fine Arts Acting (Honours) University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario. <i>Graduated with Distinction</i>
2012 – 2016	Secondary	Arts Huron Regional Arts Program Huron Heights Secondary School, Newmarket, Ontario Drama Major with a Minor in Vocal Studies <i>Graduated with High Distinction</i>

Scholarships, Bursaries, Grants and Awards

ACADEMIC BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2020	University of Windsor School of Dramatic Art Award of Excellence
2019	University of Windsor Student Alliance Artistic Scholarship
2018	University of Windsor Student Alliance Artistic Scholarship
2016	University of Windsor President's Entrance Scholarship (95% Average Minimum)
2016	Huron Heights Secondary School Jason Liverseed Award
2016	Huron Heights Secondary School English Scholarship

ARTISTIC GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024	OAC Recommender Grant – <i>PEEP SHOW</i> (Under recommendation of Modern Times Stage Co.)
2022	AFC Artistic Reactivation Program Grant
2022	OAC Theatre Projects Grant – <i>Camp Menses</i>
2022	OAC Career Catalyst New Generation Artists Award Grant
2022	OAC Recommender Grant – <i>Lysistrata</i> (Under recommendation of Theatre Passe Muraille)

Additional Training and Accomplishments

2024	<i>Theatre Entrepreneurs' Network and Training (TENT)</i> – Toronto Fringe
2024	<i>Spring Clown Workshop with John Beale</i> – Sweet Action Theatre
2023	<i>Creatryx 3.0</i> – Nightwood Theatre
2022	<i>Acting as Play</i> – Gabriel Levey
2021	<i>Emerging Artists Roundtable</i> – Theatre Gargantua
2020	<i>Shaw Festival Monologue Jam</i> FINALIST – Tim Carroll and Kimberley Rampersad
2020	<i>Intimacy for Actors</i> – Siobhan Richardson
2020	<i>Text Masterclass: Rhetoric and Shakespeare</i> – Sarah Kitz
2019	<i>Stratford Festival Summer Intensive</i> – Paul De Jong and Cathy MacKinnon

Workshops

June 2024	<i>the politics of sitting next to [...]</i> and <i>The Women Who Sold Their Skin</i> – First Born Theatre Reader. Plays developed during a two-day workshop period concluding with a public presentation. <i>the politics of sitting next to the birthday girl</i> , written by Sydney Scott and directed by Mercedes Isaza Clunie, explores the many social dynamics, games, and birthday wishes between a group of tweens at a local Cineplex. <i>The Women Who Sold Their Skin</i> , written by Alex Fiallos and directed by isi bhakhomen, peers into an evening of pre-drinking between three 'friends.' This play exposes and deconstructs our ideas of femininity, the female body, and one's most intimate relationships.
May 2023	<i>Camp Menses</i> at Railpath Arts Centre – In Collaboration with Elena (Elm) Reyes Co-creator and performer. <i>Camp Menses</i> tells the story of two campers who get their periods at an overnight summer camp. It confronts the experiences of menstruation, puberty, growth, transition, and change. This workshop performance followed a month of dramaturgical development and a two-week rehearsal process. Supported by the OAC with a 2022 Theatre Creation Grant.

- March 2023** *Statistics* by Shreya Jha – Shifting Ground Collective
Director. *Statistics* is the recipient of the 2020 Adams Prize for Musical Theatre and ran during the 2022 Toronto Fringe Festival. This development period involved working closely with the cast and production team, providing script and performance feedback, and hosting a three-show workshop run at the end of the month. This process was supported through the Canada Arts Council.
- March 2023** *This Feels Like The End* by Bonnie Duff
Read for “Emmi.” First developed through Vancouver’s Playwright Theatre Centre’s BLOCK A program, *This Feels Like The End* is described as a “mid-apocalyptic” play that explores the planet on the brink of environmental catastrophe. This workshop was supported through the OAC’s recommender grant program with the intent of further developing and completing script.
- January 2023** *Nightswimming Pure Research Program* at Tarragon Theatre – Christopher-Elizabeth Boyd
Exploration of theatre technology and design as an interactive element. Research included a three day residency at Tarragon Theatre in which professional Clowns were invited to develop a public performance, using lighting and sound design as the focal point of exploration.
- November 2022** *Lysistrata* at Railpath Arts Centre – Arrowwood Theatre Company
Writer and performer in *Lysistrata*, a play that focuses on nightlife culture during the internet age and the ways in which these institutions exploit marginalized bodies for entertainment. This workshop showcased the script and solicited audience feedback.
- September 2021** *Camp Menses* at Flow Fest 2.0 – Diva Day International
Commissioned to create an original Clown show surrounding the themes of menstruation and puberty with Diva Day International, a non-profit that seeks to educate and empower young menstruators around the world. Received dramaturgical and script mentorship from Ali Joy Richardson, Kimberley Rampersad, and Alice Nelson.

Teaching and Coaching Experience

- July 2022** Clown Coach for *Foodie & Bobo* at Toronto Fringe – Night Light Collective
Developed and led two workshops with cast and creative team to implement Clown techniques into performance. Worked with actors and Clowns at varying skill levels to create characters and devise script.
- Oct - Nov 2020** Teaching Assistant – DRAM 3220: Acting Works in Progress II – Mitchell Cushman
Overlooked and performed in the third year BFA production of *The Antipodes* by Annie Baker, dir. Mitchell Cushman.
- Sept – Oct 2020** Teaching Assistant – DRAM 3210: Acting Works in Progress I – Lee Wilson
Assisted in filming, editing, and screening of student film works. Worked closely with the professor to aid in scene selection and casting.
- Jan – Feb 2020** Teaching Assistant – DRAM 3230: Acting Works in Progress III – Lee Wilson
Mentored students for film and audition work. Worked closely with the professor to aid in scene selection and casting.
- Oct – Nov 2019** Course Coordinator – DRAM 3220: Acting Works in Progress II – Christopher Manousos
Mentored students in Suzuki Technique. Assistant directed the devised production of *The Bakkhai* by Anne Carson. Reviewed student casting and grading with professor. Designer and technician for lighting and projections.
- Jan – June 2015** Cooperative Education Student Teacher – Arts Huron Regional Arts Program – Beth Ferkranus
Placement in Grade 9 Arts Huron Drama Class. Developed lesson plans and taught lectures for students. Provided feedback on performances and sourced scripts and other creative materials.

Creative Work

PLAYWRITING – READINGS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2023** *Camp Menses* – In Collaboration with Elena (Elm) Reyes – Railpath Arts Centre, Toronto ON

2022 *Lysistrata* – Arrowwood Theatre Company – Railpath Arts Centre, Toronto ON
2022 *Lysistrata* – Arrowwood Theatre Company – Virtual
2021 *Camp Menses* – Diva Day International (Artistic Support from Kimberley Rampersad) – Virtual
2021 *Camp Menses* – Diva Day International (Dramaturgical Support from Ali Joy Richardson) – Virtual
2021 *Lysistrata* – Arrowwood Theatre Company (Dramaturgical Support from Paula Wing) – Virtual

PLAYWRITING – PRODUCTIONS

2018 *Fleas* – In Collaboration with Avery MacDonald and Katy Chapman – University of Windsor
2016 *Float* – Canadian Play Festival – Newmarket Theatre, Newmarket ON
2016 *XXYZ* – SEARS Ontario Drama Festival – Vaughan, ON
2016 *XXYZ* – Arts Huron Regional Arts Program – Newmarket, ON

DIRECTION - THEATRE

2024 *THIS FEELS LIKE THE END* – Theatre Aurinko – Toronto Fringe Next Stage Festival, Toronto ON
2023 *Statistics* – Shifting Ground Collective – The Attic Theatre, Toronto, ON
2022 *Starkid's Firebringer* – The Flare Productions – Railpath Arts Centre, Toronto ON
2020 *The Antipodes (AD)* – dir. Mitchell Cushman – University of Windsor, Windsor ON
2019 *The Bakkhai (AD)* – dir. Christopher Manousos – University of Windsor, Windsor ON
2016 *Float* – Canadian Play Festival – Newmarket, ON

PROJECTION DESIGN - THEATRE

2022 *NURSES: Then and Now* – Arrowwood Theatre Co. and Shakespeare in Action – Toronto, ON
2019 *The Bakkhai* – dir. Christopher Manousos – University of Windsor, Windsor ON
2019 *Medea/Antigone* – dir. Christopher Manousos – University of Windsor, Windsor ON
2018 *Breakfast in Bed* – In Collaboration with Haiden Lyle and Katy Chapman – University of Windsor
2018 *Fleas* – In Collaboration with Avery MacDonald and Katy Chapman – University of Windsor

COSTUMING - THEATRE

2017 *Bedtime Stories (Costume Runner)* – dir. Gordon McCall – University Players, Windsor ON
2016 *The Three Musketeers (Costume Runner)* – dir. Brian Taylor – University Players, Windsor ON
2015 – 2016 *Costume Mistress* – Arts Huron Regional Arts Program – Newmarket, ON
2014 – 2015 *Costume Mistress* – Arts Huron Regional Arts Program – Newmarket, ON

HAIR AND MAKEUP – THEATRE

2018 *A Streetcar Named Desire* – dir. Kelly Daniels – University Players, Windsor ON
2018 *Big Love* – dir. Monica Dottor – University Players, Windsor ON
2017 *Blue Stockings* – dir. Lezlie Wade – University Players, Windsor ON

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ARCHIVAL

2019 *ICARUS* – Arrowwood Theatre Co. – Toronto Fringe Festival, Toronto ON

Creative Marketing

Feb – Dec 2022

Creative Media Developer – Sex[M]ed

Lead scripting and development of short-form video content for Instagram and TikTok. Worked closely with members of the Content Team to ensure quality and accessibility of resources. Maintained knowledge about viral media to integrate the company's values with current trends.

Feb – Oct 2021

Creative Lead and Community and Canvassing Captain – Future Majority

Representative for the Newmarket-Aurora Chapter. Worked closely with the Mental Health campaign and the Canadian Mental Health Association to design a new Mobile Youth Walk-In Clinic, which provides mental and physical care for young people in York Region. Developed specific content for the Newmarket-Aurora social media pages, and served as the Creative Lead for the 2021 VoteTube.ca website campaign.

Feb – Sept 2021

Social Media Content Developer – Tartistry

Created and managed TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Designed and scripted original content in line with relevant social media trends. In less than two weeks, Tartistry received 200k+ unique engagements, 3000+ followers, and \$10,000 in sales directly related to social media advertising.