

## **Brandi Wilkins Catanese**

Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies  
Department of African American Studies  
University of California at Berkeley  
November 1, 2008

### **Employment**

**University of California at Berkeley**, Berkeley, CA, 2003-present  
Departments of African American Studies and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies.

**American Conservatory Theater**, San Francisco, CA, 2001  
Adjunct Faculty, MFA Program.

**Stanford University**, Palo Alto, CA, 1999-2002  
Graduate Student Instructor

### **Education**

**Stanford University**  
Ph.D., Drama and Humanities, 2004.

**University of California at Berkeley**  
B.A., Dramatic Art and African-American Studies, 1995. Highest Honors.

### **Publications**

#### Books

IN PROGRESS:

*Racial Transgressions: Colorblindness, Multiculturalism, and Black Performance*. Under contract with University of Michigan Press, pp. 246.

#### Articles

“‘And the rest is La History’: Autobiographical Strategies in *The Colored Museum*”, *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, 14.1 (2002), pp. 15-28.

“‘How Do I Rent a Negro?’: Racialized Subjectivity and Digital Performance Art”, *Theatre Journal*, 57.4 (2005), p. 699-714.

“‘When did you discover you are African?’ MoAD and the Universal, Diasporic Subject”, *Performance Research*, 12.3 (2007), pp. 103-114.

“Teaching *A Day of Absence* “at [your] own risk”, *Theatre Topics*, March 2009.

#### Book Chapters

“‘We must keep on writing’: The Plays of Aishah Rahman”, in *Contemporary African American Women Playwrights: A Casebook*, Philip Kolin, ed. (Routledge, 2007), pp. 115-131.

“The Politics of Representation in African American Theater and Drama”, in *Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture*, Todd Boyd, ed. (Praeger/Greenwood Publishing Group, 2008).

### Reviews

“*Polk County*, Zora Neale Hurston”

*The Black Scholar*, 35.1 (2005), pp. 47-8.

“Lisa Anderson, *Black Feminism in Contemporary Drama*,” *Modern Drama* (forthcoming)

“Jared Sexton, *Amalgamation Schemes*,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* (forthcoming)

### Conferences and Invited Talks

#### Conferences:

“Response to Tyler Stovall’s ‘Black Community, Black Spectacle: Performance and Race in Transatlantic Perspective’”

American Society for Theatre Research, 2008 (seminar)

“America in *Black. White.*”

American Society for Theatre Research, 2007 (seminar)

“How Quare is *Noah’s Arc*?” (co-author)

Black Performance Theory Conference, 2007

“Race is just a social construct, right?”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2007

“Trickle-down Philanthropy: Reassessing Wilson, Brustein, and Cultural Power”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2007

“Locating *Absence* on the Contemporary Stage”

American Society for Theatre Research, 2006 (seminar)

“Constructing Postnational Communities: MoAD and the Universal, Diasporic Subject”

American Studies Association, 2006

“Carnal Art or Capitulation?: The Rehabilitation of L’il Kim”

Association for Theater in Higher Education, July 2006

“Freedom Summer 2?: The Politics and Performance of Contrition”

Performance Studies International (Psi #12), June 2006

“August Wilson and Diasporic Agency”

Diasporic Imagination Working Group, American Society for Theater Research, 2005

“How Do I Rent a Negro?: Racial Subjectivity and Digital Performance Art”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2004

“Embodied Knowledge and the Performance of African American (Theater) History”

American Society for Theatre Research, 2003 (seminar)

“The End of Race or the End of Blackness?: August Wilson, Robert Brustein, and Colorblind Casting”

Plenary session, American Society for Theatre Research, 2002

“Searching for Saartjie: *Venus*, Suzan-Lori Parks, and Permutations of the Gaze”

National Women’s Studies Association Conference, 2002

“Embrace, Reject, or Destroy?: Self-Fashioning from the Margins”

Comparative Drama Conference, 2002

“Activating Space: Politics and Transgression in *Heroes and Saints*”

American Society for Theatre Research, 2001 (seminar)

“And the rest is La History”: Autobiographical Strategies in *The Colored Museum*

National Association of African American Studies Conference, 2001

Invited Talks:

“The Circulation of Blackness: Racially Transgressive Casting Practices”

San Francisco State University, November 2007

“Performing Saartjie Baartman ‘with love’”

New College of California, SympEPIum, June 2007

“Remembering Saartjie Baartman with love”

San Francisco International Arts Festival, Weekend Lecture Series, May 2007

“ ‘A Long Time Coming But It is Here’: Performance, Politics, and the Senate’s Apology for Lynching”

Stanford University Alumni Lecture Series, May 2006

“*Are We There Yet?: Race, Redemption, and Black.White.*”

Keynote speaker, Black Performance Studies Symposium, October 2006

“Why Rent a Negro when Black People Love Us?: The Ethics of Digital Satire”

Mellon Identities Workshop, Stanford University, November 2005

“Transgression or Transcendence: Racial Casting Practices and the Performance of Race”

Guest Lecture, Georgetown University Drama Department, November 2005

“How Do I Rent a Negro?: Racial Subjectivity and Digital Performance Art”

Guest Lecture, English 95: Multicultural Literary Perspectives, UC Berkeley, Spring 2005

Respondent to *Othello*

Woman’s Will, The Phoenix Theater, San Francisco, 2003

“Keeping it Real: Authenticity and Appropriation in Hip-Hop”

Keynote Address, “Cornerstones of Hip-Hop,” Berkeley Repertory Theater, 2003

“New York and Los Angeles on Fire: The Theater of Anna Deavere Smith”

Theatre on Fire: Politics and Pyrotechnics in Performance, Stanford University, 2002

**Teaching Experience**

**UC Berkeley**

- Theater 25AC: The Drama of American Cultures
- Theater 119: Performance Theory: Postmodern Blackness
- Theater 126/Af-Am 159: Postmodern Blackness: The Theater of Suzan-Lori Parks
- Theater C131A/Af-Am C151A: Early African American Drama
- Theater C131B/Af-Am C151B: Contemporary African American Drama
- Theater C183A/Af-Am C143A: The Politics of Racial Satire
- Theater C183B/Af-Am C143B: Research to Performance Laboratory
- Theater C183C/Af-Am C143C: Black Theater Workshop
- Theater 202/AAS 240: Theorizing Black Performance
- African American Studies 5A: Black Life and Culture in the United States
- Numerous independent studies (on subjects including black performance, feminist theater and performance art, social protest theater) and supervision of undergraduate honors and graduate Masters theses

## **Stanford University**

Department of Drama:

- Performance and America. Graduate Assistant, 1999.
- Performance and Politics. Graduate Assistant, 2001, 2002
- Performance and the Actor. Graduate Assistant, 2000.
- Introduction to Acting. Self-designed, 2000, 2001.

Introduction to the Humanities Program: Modernism Unit. Graduate Assistant, 2000.

## **American Conservatory Theater, MFA Program**

*Cultural Research*. Discussion-based course designed to help first-year MFA students think about the cultural ramifications of performance: questions of research, political implications, institutional implications, artistic implications, etc. (2001)

## **Selected Production Experience**

Director, Week 48, *365 Days/365 Plays*, UC Berkeley, 2007

Director, *I Ain't Yo Uncle: A New Jack Revisionist Uncle Tom's Cabin*, UC Berkeley Black Theater Workshop, 2004

Producing Member, The Actor's Collective, San Francisco, CA, 1996-2002

Director, *Face Divided*, 1998

Actor, *Betrayal* 1999

Director, *The Illusion*, 2000

Director, *Abundance*, Stanford University, 1999

Director, *There Goes the Bride*, Chanticleers Theater, 1996

Actor, *The Heidi Chronicles*, Contra Costa Civic Theater, 1996

## **Academic and Community Service**

UC Berkeley

Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

Undergraduate Committee, 2003-2008

Production Committee, 2006-present

Graduate Admissions, 2007, 2009

Graduate Placement Officer, 2007-2008

Equity Officer, 2008-2009

Department of African American Studies

Curriculum Committee, 2004-2006

Black Graduation Committee, 2003-2004, 2004-2007, 2009 (Chair)

Graduate Admissions Committee 2003-present

Equity Officer, 2008-2009

Off-site reviewer, President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, 2009

Advisory Board Member, BILD Interactive Theater Program, 2008-2009

Eisner Award Committee, 2008-2010

Reviewer, Undergraduate Prize for Library Research, 2008

Reviewer, Graduate Research Grants, Center for Race and Gender, Spring 2007

Fellow, Mellon Library Research Program, 2006-2007

Fellow, American Cultures Center, 2003-2004

American Society for Theatre Research

Member, ASTR Executive Committee, 2007-2010

ASTR Dissertation Research Fellowships Selection Committee, 2005-2007 (2007 chair)

ASTR Conference Program Committee, 2006

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Assistant Editor, *Theatre Journal*, 2002

Stanford University

Graduate Coordinator, Mellon Research Group on Performance Studies, 2001-2002

Graduate Liaison, Center for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University, 2001-2002

Extramural Activity

Reviewer, Joyce Foundation 2008 Theater Awards

Selection Committee, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, 2008, 2009

**Professional Memberships**

American Studies Association, American Society for Theatre Research, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Performance Studies international