



CAROLINE HOLMES

Director - Dramaturg - Performer

920-903-2709
carolineholmes2000@gmail.com
caroline-holmes.com

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

Carnegie Mellon University May 2024
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Dramaturgy
Double Minor, French and Francophone Studies & English Literature and Culture
University Honors; College Honors; Dean's List Honoree (4 years); 4.0 QPA
School of Drama Institutional Scholarship Recipient

Awards & Recognition

B Iden Payne Award for Best Direction of a Digital Short
"You Can Find Friends Anywhere" Summer Stock Austin August 2020
Winner of Short Story Writing Competition
"Une Amie Pendant Ta Vie" L'Institut Catholique de Paris May 2023

Dramaturgy Experience

Dramaturg & Music Director, *Penelope* by Enda Walsh

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama Dec 2022 - May 2024

- Selected and proposed play via recorded video proposal to School of Drama Season Selection Committee as Senior Thesis production.
- Developed artistic concept with director and team of designers.
- Produced a robust dramaturgy website, ceholmes4.wixsite.com/penelope, featuring:
 - Glossary organized by Visual/Audio terms, uncommon phrases, and term definitions
 - Plot Bead diagram in the style of Robert Scanlan
 - Context regarding the source material for the play, *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*
 - Biography of the playwright, Enda Walsh, featuring interviews where he discusses the text
 - Context surrounding the correlation between the text and the 2008 Economic Crisis



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- Facilitated one week of text work with actors discussing meaning of lines and connections between the play to the source text of *The Odyssey*.
- Implemented care-centered rehearsal practices including a daily check-in of access needs, time for actors to warm-up, and boundaries check-in for fight and intimacy choreography.
- Developed a collegial relationship with director, designers, and cast to be able to actively voice thoughts, considerations, and suggestions in the rehearsal room and design process.
- Created a four part vocal arrangement of the song “It’s Gonna Be Me” by NSYNC utilizing Finale music notation software.
- Taught and directed the vocal performance of “It’s Gonna Be Me” to our production’s cast.
- Composed a program note providing necessary context for the audience and demonstrating the relevancy of the play to our current society.
- Created an interactive lobby experience out of entirely recycled and repurposed materials where audiences were invited to vote for their favorite character using a paper rose a la “The Bachelorette”, in keeping with our aesthetic take on the text.

Dramaturg, *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama

Jan 2022 - Oct 2022

- Collaborated with director to develop the show's artistic vision as a queer retelling of a classic text and understand our production’s relationship to and depiction of gender.
- Partook in inclusive casting processes to fulfill the production’s goal of portraying a queer narrative.
- Built dramaturgy website, ceholmes4.wixsite.com/asyoulikeit, featuring:
 - an annotated script with hyperlinks connected to annotations housed on the website
 - a guide to reading and understanding a First Folio text
 - a glossary and pronunciation guide with recordings of my voice correctly pronouncing words with old English spellings
 - a queer theory page with an essay detailing the relationship between queerness and Shakespearean text
 - a guide to Shakespeare including the usage of prose vs. verse, iambic pentameter, an essay on pastoral conventions, and an essay explaining the role of the Hymen the God of Marriage



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- Engaged in text work in the rehearsal room with actors and director.
- Built an interactive, immersive lobby display utilizing predominantly recycled and repurposed materials and mirroring the aesthetic qualities of the scenic design.
 - Audiences were invited to respond to a prompt about “a moment of profound love or a transformational sense of self” by writing on a colorful leaf to hang on the “Tree of Love”, which blossomed into color over the run of the show
- Documented audience engagement with lobby display by photographing anonymously written leaves, and photographing students enjoying the floor pillows which created a community lounge space surrounding the Tree of Love.
- Hosted a “Post-Show Shindig”, which was an informal mixer of the audience, cast, and creative team after the opening night performance to facilitate an expanded audience experience.
 - Established community guidelines with the audience and safety procedures with the actors for the Post-Show Shindig to ensure actor care and safety

New Play Dramaturg, *Textbook* by Jamie Olah

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama

Oct 2023 - Apr 2024

- Created written agreements with the playwright regarding the goals of our working relationship.
- Met to read new drafts and discuss areas for revision and next steps moving forward.
- Following cold readings of new drafts with a group of playwrights and dramaturgs, facilitated discussion of reactions to the play and took notes for the playwright to consider in future.
- Dramaturged a week-long rehearsal process leading up to a reading of the play for a live audience at the CMU School of Drama: provided context on the form of satire; facilitated notes conversations
- Performed stage directions in live reading of the play.
- Assisted with producing responsibilities for live reading of the play.

New Play Dramaturg, *Limbo* by Nick Grosso

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama

Sept 2021 - Dec 2021

- Established working relationship to understand the playwright’s goals and intentions for our time working together to ensure expectations were established and able to be met.



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- Met twice weekly to discuss strategies for approaching the next draft of the script.
- Read new drafts and wrote raw notes.
- Revised raw notes into constructive feedback and questions of inquiry to verbally deliver to the playwright.
- Engaged in collaborative thinking with the playwright regarding methods of implementing feedback and revisions into the next draft.

Assistant Dramaturg, *Woyzeck* by Georg Büchner

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama

Mar 2021 - Sept 2021

- Took notes on the creative discussions for use by dramaturg, director, and designers throughout design and rehearsal process.
- Provided input and insight on creative decisions during meetings with the director and during design meetings.
- Revised program note written by lead dramaturg, Elle Norman.
- Assisted in construction of lobby display.

Directing Experience

Director & Performer, *Sunlight Sorbet* for Playground Festival of Student Theater

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, Playground Festival

Dec 2023

- Original proposal was selected by student-led Playground Festival Committee.
- Brought together a group of student instrumentalists to perform a concert of original music.
- Wrote lyrics in collaboration with a composer to create an original song.
- Collaborated with fellow composers to revise and finalize song choices and performance sequence.
- Worked with a sound, lighting, and media designer to accommodate the technical requirements for the performance and to establish a visual aesthetic for the performance.
- Created and distributed publicity materials (printed and virtual) to encourage attendance.
- Led a week-long rehearsal process and 45 minute technical rehearsal leading into the performance.
- Incorporated elements of audience interaction with dance, a yoga instructive session, harmonized singing from the audience, and a tap battle between a tap dancer and the drummer.



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Director/Writer/Cinematographer/Editor, *Found Connections* by Caroline Holmes

Carnegie Mellon Film Studies Project

Sept 2023 - Dec 2023

- Wrote original script utilizing Celtx film script formatting software.
- Cast production utilizing actors from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.
- Created a detailed shot list and organized shooting schedule.
- Framed and captured shots using a DSLR Canon camera.
- Directed actors on desired tone and execution of the text.
- Edited footage into a completed short film using Adobe Premiere Pro video editing software.

Director, *RENT* by Jonathan Larson

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama

Feb 2022 - Apr 2022

- Developed artistic vision to propose the show to the student organization, detailing the artistic vision, ideas for technical execution, and strategies for approaching difficult content.
- Received and responded to feedback from the student organization on the initial proposal and throughout the production process.
- Engaged in text work with the dramaturgy team to address bias within the text and provide the cast and creative team with necessary context regarding the AIDS epidemic.
- Facilitated conversations with the entire cast regarding our approach to heavy content to make space for team members to voice concerns and considerations for what adjustments would make everyone feel the most safe and respected in the process.
- Collaborated with designers to build technical design elements and establish a vision for the aesthetics of our production.
- Led ensemble and trust building exercises to encourage a supportive and uplifting dynamic amongst the cast.
- Blocked scenes and collaborated on choreography.
- Worked one on one with actors on script work, character analysis and development.



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- Connected our production with a local Pittsburgh organization, Sisters PGH, a Black and Trans-led nonprofit and utilized our program and pre-show announcement to encourage audience members to donate, volunteer, or otherwise support this organization dedicated to serving the Trans community of Southwestern Pennsylvania.
- Received feedback regarding the successes and struggles of our production process from members of the theater organization in a public forum setting following closing.
- Collaborated with playwright and dramaturg to develop artistic vision for the production.
- Facilitated auditions and casting process.
- Engaged in text work with actors, dramaturg, and director.
- Led process of establishing physical boundaries and directed intimacy choreography.
- Blocked and rehearsed the script in a week long rehearsal process consisting of four two-hour long rehearsals.

Director, *Proximity* by Aysha Zackria

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, Playground Festival

Dec 2021

- Collaborated with playwright and dramaturg to develop artistic vision for the production.
- Facilitated auditions and casting process.
- Engaged in text work with actors, dramaturg, and director.
- Led process of establishing physical boundaries and directed intimacy choreography.
- Blocked and rehearsed the script in a week long rehearsal process consisting of four two-hour long rehearsals.

Assistant Producer, Summer Stock Austin 2021 Season

Summer Stock Austin, Impact Arts

June 2021 - Aug 2021

- Produced, marketed, and fundraised *Bring It On: The Musical*, and an original short movie musical, *Scout*
- Designed and built two distinct interactive lobby experiences
- Created original merchandise which aligned with the theme of *Bring It On* for fundraising



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Director, *Onwards and Upwards* by Charlie Romano and Will Wegner

Staged Performance of a New Musical, Chicago

Dec 2020

- Collaborated with composer, lyricist, and dramaturg to work on revisions of the script in preparation for the workshop.
- Created a detailed rehearsal schedule for our week-long workshop.
- Led rehearsals, blocked scenes, and choreographed moments of dance within the musical.
- Maintained COVID safety procedures through testing, symptom monitoring, and isolating as a cast and creative team in a shared living space.
- Performed as a character in the musical.
- Debuted the musical to the public through a live stream of the staged performance.

Director & Writer, *Where We Drift* by Caroline Holmes and Alyssa Rivera

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, Playground Festival

Dec 2020

- Co-wrote an original film script which adhered to COVID restrictions, allowing the film to be done without maskless actors in close proximity.
- Created a detailed shot list which actors could then utilize to film themselves remotely.
- Edited footage together using Adobe Premiere Pro film editing software.
- Collaborated with a graphics designer to add animated graphics to particular scenes.

Director & Writer, *You Can Find Friends Anywhere* by Caroline Holmes, Benajah Baskin, Anderson Zoll, and Jesus Pompa III

Summer Stock Austin, Impact Arts

June 2020 - Aug 2020

- Co-Wrote and original film script in a never-before done context; adhering to COVID restrictions and allowing the film to be shot remotely without actors in close proximity.
- Created a detailed shot list which actors utilized to film themselves from home.
- Directed the editing process by reviewing cuts and providing notes for improvement.
- Premiered the film as a part of Cyber Stock Austin, a series of original short films which were created instead of live performances as a result of the onset of the pandemic.



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Choreographer, *Carousel* by Rogers & Hammerstein

University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, College of Visual and Performing Arts **Jan 2020 - Mar 2020**

- Was hired to choreograph the musical in a way that was able to adapt to the capacities of the cast.
- Created and taught choreography for large ensemble numbers which featured ballroom dance.
- Choreographed a balletic solo in the style of Agnes de Mille featuring musical theater dance with a strong classical ballet influence.
- Provided notes and adjustments during runs of the choreographic numbers.

Assistant Director & Assistant Choreographer, *Mary Poppins* by Julian Fellowes

Leander High School

Nov 2019 - Jan 2020

- Was hired to block and choreograph scenes set to music.
- Instructed students on executing quick costume changes.
- Stepped in for choreographer for the final 3 weeks of rehearsal, providing notes and cleaning choreography in her absence in the weeks leading up to performance.



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Performing Experience

Regional

She Loves Me
Prohibition

Ensemble
Lucille

Austin Playhouse
Texas Comedies

Local

Sunlight Sorbet
Pillow Fortress
Clue
Box-O-Rox
Matthew Zwiebel's Composer Cabaret
Everything In Its Time Cabaret
The Rocky Horror Show

Lead Singer
Chelsea
Mrs. Peacock
Singer, "The Weight"
Singer
Singer
Janet

CMU Playground Festival
CMU Playground Festival
Scotch'n'Soda Theatre
CMU Playground Festival
Carnegie Mellon School of Music
Carnegie Mellon School of Music
Scotch'n'Soda Theatre

Training

Voice

5 years

Michelle Haché

Acting

4 years

Andrew Smith, Ron Parker

Dance

Classical Ballet

13 years

Jim Caton, Nathalie Bochenek, Jeanette Makaroff

Ballet en pointe

3 years

Jeanette Makaroff

Ballroom

6 months

Chuck Spencer

Vocal Range

D3 - G6

Special Skills

Violin, French Speaker, Ballroom Dance, Jazz, Modern, Stage Combat, Improvisation, Devising, Children's Drama Instructor, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe After Effects, Google Suite, Canva (Graphic Design), Interactive Lobby Display Experiences, Audience Engagement Events, Avid Baker, Valid Driver's License



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Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon School of Drama Pre-College Program

Carnegie Mellon School of Drama

June 2023 - Aug 2023

- Supervised main desk to field questions, concerns, or needs from pre-college students.
- Served as a mentor for high school students pursuing a college career in theater.
- Was a substitute teacher for Dramaturgy courses.
- Was a guest speaker in playwriting courses.
- Led and spoke at Dramaturgy program interest events.
- Learned and utilized Box Office ticketing system to sell tickets to season subscribers.
- Provided set-up support for evening workshops and video archival support for performance events.
- Performed for students at end-of-program cabaret performance.

Teaching Assistant/Assistant Director/Dramaturg, Summer Shakespeare Program

Appleton Area School District

June 2022 - Aug 2022

- Taught students in a daily class theatrical exercises, historical and contextual information about Shakespeare's life and work, and dramaturgical context for their performance.
- Led rehearsal, blocked scenes, and helped students with memorization.
- Organized and choreographed Renaissance-style dance performances and carwash fundraisers.

Saturday STEM Course Teacher, Leonard Gelfand Center for Educational Outreach

Carnegie Mellon University

Sept 2021 - Dec 2022

- Prepared curriculum for a 3-hour long Saturday course for elementary aged students.
- Set-up classroom and necessary materials for course execution.
- Instructed a class of 10 students aged 1st - 3rd grades on the foundational concepts of robotics and electrical circuits using media and hands-on materials.
- Led students through a "Bug-Bot" craft where they created robotic creatures which could move using a simple battery powered electrical circuit, implementing the concepts learning in class.



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GO STEM Show Video Editor, Leonard Gelfand Center for Educational Outreach

Carnegie Mellon University

Sept 2020 - Dec 2022

- Worked remotely during the pandemic to provide educational content to elementary and middle school students in the greater Pittsburgh area.
- Edited recordings of zoom panels with experts in STEM to remove breaks in the conversation and add graphics to illustrate concepts discussed and questions posed.
- Created a language of graphics and music to brand the content and make it more engaging for young students.
- Utilized Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects for video editing and to create animated graphics.

Pre-School Teacher, The Learning Tree

The Learning Tree Pre-School, Georgetown, TX

Sept 2019 - May 2020

- Part-time co-teacher of a class of 10 students aged 2 - 3 years old.
- Prepared classroom and learning centers for student arrival and engagement.
- Maintained sanitation procedures for classroom, restroom, and mealtimes.
- Worked with students during their engagement with learning centers to read stories, encourage their curiosities, and answer questions.
- Supervised and played with students during outdoor recess time.
- Facilitated nap-time, working with students to rest and not disturb other students.

After School Caretaker, The Flansburgh Family

Leander, TX

Sept 2019 - May 2020

- Transported two students home from elementary and middle school.
- Accommodating and enforcing dietary restrictions for each child while serving afterschool meals.
- Working closely with parents to meet the needs of two children on the autism spectrum.



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French Experience

Independent Study in French, Carnegie Mellon University

Advised by Sébastien Dubriel

Sept 2023 - Dec 2022

- Proposed and developed a curriculum for high-school aged francophone students to learn English via content about the history of American theater from the late 18th through the early 21st centuries.
- Completion of a minor in French and Francophone Studies.

Study Abroad, L'Institut Catholique de Paris

Institut de Langue et de Culture Françaises, L'Institut Catholique de Paris **Jan 2023 - May 2023**

- Took immersive language classes at the Parisian university, L'Institut Catholique de Paris.
- Lived independently in an apartment in Paris.
- Took an art history course in French studying Impressionism and Post-Impressionism.
- Won a short-story writing competition, for my piece entitled "Une amie pour la vie".
- Earned a Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Françaises (University Diploma in French Studies) at level B1 with the mention "Très Bien" or "Very Good".

Speaking Assistant, Elementary French I Class

Carnegie Mellon University, Professor Ester Hoogstaden

Sept 2022 - Dec 2022

- Met with 10 students per week for 30 minutes per student.
- Followed along with course materials to understand what the students had been learning in class that week and incorporate those topics into our discussions.
- Conversated with students for a minimum of 15 minutes, working them towards a 20+ minute conversation.
- Evaluated and graded students on vocabulary, pronunciation, and comprehension.



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Relevant Coursework

Eco-Drama	2024
Introduction to Film Production	2024
Contemporary Comedies by Underrepresented Groups	2023
Impressionisme et Post-Impressionisme	2023
Intermediate French II: French Game Design	2022
Body Politics: Women and Health in America	2022
Women Politics and Protest	2022
Writing Experimental Theater	2021
Musical Theater History and Repertoire	2021
Witchcraft and Witch-Hunting	2021
Watching HBO's The Watchmen	2021
Writer's Room Workshop with Mary Margaret Kunze	2020
Anti-Racist and Equitable Theater Practices	2020