

AMANI STARNES
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/THEATRE DEPARTMENT
JUNE 1, 2026

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Theater and Performance Studies, Stanford University 2024
Feminist & Gender Studies Minor
Dissertation: “Enacting Difference: Black Feminist Adaptation
on Stage, 2013-present” (advisor: Jennifer DeVere Brody)

B.A. in Theater Studies, Yale University 2005

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Theatre, Pomona College 2024-present

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Mellon Centering Race Consortium’s Teaching Race Fellowship,
Stanford, Brown, and Yale Universities 2023

HONORS AND AWARDS

Carl Weber Prize for Integration of Creative Practice and Scholarly Research,
Stanford University 2024

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles

“Embodying Extraness: Leslie Jones’s Black Feminist Comedic Strategy”, *Theatre Topics*,
Volume 4, Number 2, July 2024, pp. 119-126.*

Reviews

“Cracking up: Black feminist comedy in the twentieth & twenty-first century United States”,
Text and Performance Quarterly, Volume 45, 2025-Issue 2.*

UNPUBLISHED WORK

Books

“Ambitious Acts: Contemporary Black Feminist Performance Adaptation” Submitted to
University of Michigan Press in May 2026.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- “The Maya Rudolphification of Kamala Harris: A Performative Cruzo,” Performance Studies International (Psi #30), Fortaleza, Brazil December 2025
- “Staging Change: Black Performance and Theatrical Evolution,” The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, CA June 2024
- “Richard Long’s ‘Georgia Granite Circle’ Performs,” Angles on Art Series, Cantor Museum, Stanford University April 2017
- “Understanding through Provocation: How Web Entertainment is Tackling the Historical Discussion of Slavery,” Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA April 2015

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- Panel Curator & Keynote Speaker for “Alvin Ailey’s LA: Intersections of Modern Dance and Athletics,” Los Angeles Athletic Club, Los Angeles September 2019
- “Emancipating the Image of Black Women,” Illuminate Speak Series, h Club, Los Angeles, CA June 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & SELECT PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

- Dramaturg, Ojai Playwrights Conference Summer, 2026
- Reading Committee, Ojai Playwrights Conference 2025- 2026
- Invited Guest, MIT/ASTR Comedy and Embodiment Symposium September 2023
- Freelance Creative Consultant 2017-present
- Performer, LA and NYC 2005-present
Create, act, sing, and dance in television, film, theater, and studio sessions
- Dramaturg, Young Jean Lee’s *Untitled Feminist Show* 2018
- Dramaturg, *Four: New Dances* Dance concert, Stanford, CA 2018
- Showrunner & Performer, *The United Colors of Amani* Web Series, LA 2013-2016
- Company Member, The Actors’ Gang Theater Company, LA 2006-2016
- Company Member, Affiliate, Towne Street African American Theater, LA 2013-present
- Associate Producer, Writer AOL Online Series *That’s Racist with Mike Epps*, LA 2014

Associate Producer, AMC's *Mad Men* Series Finale Promo Series, LA 2014
Producer & Performer, *Sassy Batman* Web Series, LA 2014

COLLEGE SERVICE

Member, Pomona College Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship Search Committee 2026
Member, Pomona College Fellowships Interview Committee 2025-2026
Faculty Production Liaison, Pomona College Theatre Department 2025-present
Member, Play Selection Committee, Pomona College Theatre Department 2024-present
New Faculty Cohort Member, Pomona College Institute for Inclusive Excellence 2024-2025

THESES SUPERVISED

Jordan Becknell's *The Purimspiel*, playwrighting track 2026
Aelin Nyx's *Orion: A Ballet*, self-producing track 2025
Karine Lipe's *Stuck in My Head*, playwrighting track 2025

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Theatre Research (ASTR), Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA), Performance Studies International (PSi), SAG-AFTRA

COURSES TAUGHT SINCE LAST REVIEW

Dramaturgy (fall 2024, fall 2025)
Introduction to Performance Studies (spring 2025, spring 2026)
World Theatre History I (fall 2024, fall 2025)
World Theatre History II (spring 2025, spring 2026)

