



DEZI TIBBS

(they/she)



I am a theatre artist residing in New York City with an expertise in script analysis and new play development. My work centers the tabulation of identity and takes the shape of dramaturgy, playwriting, journalism, performance, and makeup artistry.

Education

MFA Dramaturgy | Columbia University

August 2020 - May 2023

- Thesis Project: Developing a dramaturgical practice inspired by Erving Goffman's performance of self.

BFA Musical Theatre | University of The Arts

August 2016 - December 2019

Production Dramaturgical Experience

New Work

Cockroaches | Breaking and Entering Theatre Co. (Nov 2023)

wr. Emma Schillage

- A twist on the traditional Southern Gothic, *Cockroaches* follow the lives of three sisters as they traverse adolescence, poverty, and the monstersthat surround them.

Into the Side of a Hill | Normal Ave Productions (Oct 2023)

wr. James Tyler

dir. Ken-Matt Martin

- Set in an HBCU in 2004, *Into the Side of a Hill* follows a step team as they prepare for a competition. The young men lean on each other while battling poverty, unexpected pregnancy, politics, and toxic masculinity.

Your Maximum Potential | Breaking the Binary Festival (Oct 2023)

wr. Travis Tate

dir. Dominique Rider

- *Your Maximum Potential* finds a group of queer millennials. Everyone wants something, and with the guidance of self-help guru Uriel they believe they can reach their maximum potential.

Vile Isle | Lenfest Center for the Arts (March - May 2023)

wr. Justin Halle

dir. Spencer Whale

- The world is ending and all these queers can think about is hurting each other. Who has the right to say the word "faggot"? Who cheated on whom? Can they come together before it's too late?

Cuck Cuck Bull | The Brick (Jan - March 2023)

wr. and dir. Spencer Whale

- Danny and Ike are looking to sow their wild oats before they tie the knot. When they invite a third into their boudoir, they discover new desires they're ashamed of. Can their relationship survive their individual metamorphoses?

📍 New York City

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Skills

Social Media Management

Graphic Design

Proficient in Microsoft

Dance (Ballet, Tap, Jazz)

100 WPM

Luna and the Starbodies | Powerhouse Theater (July 2022)

wr. Truth Future Bachman

- Luna is a Shapeshifter. Deeming the planet Earth unfit for her kind, she traverses the cosmos in search of a safe place to give birth to and raise her Starbodies. Luna and the Starbodies is a galactic tale of found family, motherhood, and transformation.

Figaro--F*ggots | Lincoln Center (Aug - Oct 2021)

wr. and dir. Kevin Carillo

- A theatrical adaptation of Larry Kramer's controversial novel, Figaro--F*ggots explores queer literature through the lens of classics by infusing it with the score of Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro.

A Psychic Investigation Into the Death of Someone I Once Knew | The Void Productions

wr. Will Vence Jr

dir. Brittney Anderson

- The disappearance of a high school friend brings telepathic investigator August back to the hometown that never truly accepted them in the first place.

Villager | Philadelphia Fringe Festival (2020)

wr. Daniel Jones

dir. Brittney Anderson

- This original musical--produced entirely remotely through virtual reality--uses the world of Animal Crossing to explore the pain of feeling left behind.

484 | The Void Productions (2020)

wr. Lulu Cornelious

dir. Brittney Anderson

- What does it really take to get ahead in this capitalist hellscape? Told with a Twilight Zone-esque darkness, 484 takes two employees--one white and one Black--and pits them against each other, putting them under more and more drastic duress until one of them breaks.

Just Another Normal Conversation | Philadelphia Fringe Festival (2018)

wr. Brittney Anderson

dir. Kimberly Redman

- The world's fate is left in the hands of a Theorist, a Sociologist, and their Assistant--they drove everyone else crazy. Can they stop arguing over semantics and theory long enough to actually push the button?

Boxed: the Black Show | Equinox New Play Festival

wr. Lulu Cornelious

dir. Azariah

- Through poetic vignettes, the audience watches Jamie's journey to self-actualization as a young Black woman in a white supremacist world.

Sea Monkey: a seemingly underwater musical | Gershman Black Box

wr. Daniel Jones

dir. Brittney Anderson

- With the knowledge that he'll only live for 24 hours, Sea Monkey decides that he wants to explore the world above where meets creatures that drastically change his outlook on life.

Established Work

The Mountaintop | Utah Shakes

wr. Katori Hall

dir. Cameron Knight

When the Rain Stops Falling | Lenfest Center for the Arts (2023)

wr. Andrew Bovell

dir. Ares Harper

Medea | Lenfest Center for the Arts (2023)

wr. Euripides

dir. Tiffani Swalley

Mother Courage and Her Children | Philadelphia Fringe Festival (2018)

wr. Bertolt Brecht

dir. Brittney Anderson

Institutional Dramaturgical Experience

Copywriter/ Marketing Associate | Media Theatre

- provided dramaturgical analysis for shows in the season
- developed social media content for subscribers
- developed dramaturgical content for website

Resident Dramaturg | Broadway Bound Theatre Festival

Literary Manager | The Void Productions

- conceived the living newspaper program Informed & Entertained
- facilitated the application and evaluation process
- evaluated submissions
- provided dramaturgical support for chosen playwrights (research and new play development)

Play Reader & Evaluator

- A is For Playwriting Contest - amplifies art and artists who work to end the stigma against abortion.
- Broad Horizons -- a non-profit organization located in New York City devoted to developing new plays for the theatre.
- Philadelphia Young Playwrights -- Philadelphia Young Playwrights (PYP) has partnered with educators to bring the transformative power of playwriting into classrooms and community settings across Greater Philadelphia

Literary Intern | The Wilma Theater (2017)

- Organized and facilitated the Theater's literary database
- facilitated callbacks for the season
- provided script coverage for submissions (at least 4 a day)
- notated artistic team meetings

Dramaturgical Assistant | Wilma Theater

Kill Move Paradise

wr. James Ijames

dram. Walter Bilderback

- provided research to maintain group consciousness of the present state of police brutality in America
- provided narrative context for those whose lives were lost as a result of police brutality
- facilitated conversation between the playwright and the marketing department
- provided dramaturgical insight in the marketing plan
- supplemented the dramaturg's historical packets detailing Black Absurdism

Playwriting Experience

The Blind Date | Small Town Productions
10 Minute Play Festival

Fine | Strides Collective
Emerging Playwrights Group Reading

Sad Pool Party | DeFrente Productions
Collaboration Fest

Non-Dramaturgical Production Experience

Tattooed Lady | Assistant Director & Script Supervisor
Philadelphia Theater Company

Last of the Red Hot Mamas | Assistant
Director
Reading at Open Jar Studios

Dreaming Zenzile | Production Assistant & Script Supervisor
New York Theatre Workshop

Performance Experience

Plays

Queen of the Hive | Sam
wr. and dir. Tiffani Swalley
Schapiro Theater

Prophecy Plays | Assorted Characters
Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists

Center Black | Skittles
Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists

154 Revisited | Sonnet 123
Revolution Shakespeare

Cat in the Hat | Boy
Arden Theater Company

Tank Stranger Sees the Face of the Cosmos
in the Condensation of a Water Glass | Tank Stranger
wr. James Ijames
Theater Exile

Click | Maria
wr. Jaqueline Goldfinger (world premiere)
Simpatico Theater Company

Musicals

Shrek | Ensemble (u.s.)
Walnut Street Theater

Legally Blonde | Ensemble (u.s.)
Walnut Street Theater

The Producers | Dance Ensemble
Bucks County PAC

Memphis | Ensemble (Dance Captain)
Vanguard Theater

Hairspray | Ensemble (Dance Captain)
Vanguard Theater

Cowboy Bob | Cop Roy
Polyphone New Musical Festival

Dance

KN Dance Entertainment | Featured Dancer

Concerts

54 Below Sings Bring it On: the Musical | La Cienega

Feinstein's 54 Below

Boy Bands vs. Girl Groups | Lovebug / Jonas Brothers Medley

Feinstein's 54 Below

Design Experience

9 Ways to Plead with a God | Makeup Designer

Lenfest Center for the Arts

Der Ring Gott Farblonjet | Costume Designer

Lenfest Center for the Arts

God & Girl | Makeup Designer

Schapiro Theater

Jyoti's Bridge | Makeup Designer & Ass. Costume Designer

Schapiro Theater

Editorial

The Civilians NYC | Featured Writer

<https://extendedplay.thecivilians.org/author/dezi-tibbs/>

- kept company abreast of virtual productions happening around the country
- brainstormed article ideas for the Extended Play website
- provided feedback for the other writers' articles
- submitted articles and collaborated with editors to publish

Willpower Magazine | Editorial Intern

- edited articles from Willpower's freelance artists
- created social media content to market Willpower articles
- designed the layout for the articles when published on the website
- coordinated Willpower's subscriber list and crafted newsletters
- brainstormed ideas for future articles and future artist commissions

Blog

www.dezisthoughtbubble.com

- self-published blog
- published on the Wilma Theater website as a fundraiser for BLM
- used as materials in classroom lecture

Educational

Mentor | Philadelphia Young Playwrights

- evaluated student submissions
- provided specific constructive criticism to each applicant

Teaching Assistant | University of the Arts

Musical Theater Performance

- assisted the Head of Musical Theatre in her Freshman courses
- provided feedback on student assignments
- provided personal tutoring for students

Tutor | University of the Arts

Creative Writing, Honors English, Playwriting

- provided feedback on student essays
- analyzed student usage of rhetoric

Dance Instructor | Music Theatre Philly

Jazz, Tap

- taught two classes at dance studio (5-8/ 11-14)
- culminated in a recital at the end of season

Non-Theatrical Experience

Costume Shop Asst. Manager | Lenfest Center for the Arts

- Supervising and leading a team of costume shop employees, including hiring, training, scheduling, and managing their performance.
- Overseeing inventory levels, tracking costumes, accessories, and related items. This includes ordering, receiving, organizing, and maintaining stock levels.
- Ensuring excellent customer service by assisting customers in selecting costumes, providing guidance, and addressing any issues or concerns.
- Costume Maintenance: Managing the cleaning, repair, and upkeep of costumes, ensuring they are in good condition for rental or purchase.

Beauty Advisor | Ulta Beauty

- Assisting customers in finding products that suit their needs, offering advice, and providing demonstrations.
- Staying updated on the latest beauty trends, product launches, and ingredients to recommend products effectively.
- Meeting sales goals by engaging with customers, upselling products, and promoting special offers or promotions.
- Conducting beauty consultations to understand customers' preferences and recommending personalized skincare, makeup, or haircare routines.

Receptionist | Music Theatre Philly

- maintained hospitality for patrons
- reconciled teacher schedule conflicts and class schedules
- took appointments for private lessons
- welcomed patrons

Usher | Merriam Theater, Broadway in Bryant Park

- greeted and assisted patrons
- collected and verified tickets
- assisted patrons in finding their seats
- addressed patron concerns
- enforced the theater's policies
- cleaned and reset the theater after performances