

TJ Young

Playwright & Dramaturg

thorn.young@gmail.com | Pittsburgh, PA area

EDUCATION

MFA, Dramatic Writing — Texas State University, 2017 (Dept. of Theater and Dance Graduate Student of the Year, 2016)
B.A., English — University of Texas at San Antonio, 2010

FULL-LENGTH PLAYS & MUSICALS

The Inseparables — Stage Partners, pub. 2022 · 15+ productions since 2020

Pittsburgh Public Theater Commission · SUNY New Paltz (2026) · Carnegie Mellon University (2025) · Mirrorbox Theatre (2023)

Kill the Whale: A Musical Odyssey — in development for a commercial theatrical run

Cast includes Grace McClean, Courtney Basset, Jana Jackson, Kyle Scatliffe, Jessie Shelton & Amber Gray · dir. Taylor Reynolds · co-written with Daniel Emond (Jonathan Larson Grant awardee) · produced by Jonathan Delmar (Hadestown, Stereophonic, John Proctor Is the Villain, Merrily We Roll Along)

Eugene O'Neill Musical Theater Semi-Finalist (2026) · Orchard Project Workshop (Dec 2025, May 2026) · SAG Harbor Residency (Mar 2026) · Industry Reading (May 2026) · Montclair State University Workshop (2024)

We Fly — in development; NYC industry reading planned Fall 2026 (dir. Jade King Carol)

Reading: Pittsburgh Public Theater · Blue Ink Playwriting Contest Semifinalist (2026) · Reading: CMU Center for New Work Development (2026) · Eugene O'Neill Playwriting Conference Semifinalist (2024)

Our Side of Midnight

Developed as a member of the Pittsburgh Public Playwrights Collective (2026)

Employee of the Year

Developed as a member of the Pittsburgh Public Playwrights Collective (2025)

Sperm Donor Wanted — NYC Off-Broadway premiere, 2024

New York Premiere: Theatre4thePeople (2024) · L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award Finalist (2023)

Isle of Noises — slated for publication, Stage Partners, Fall 2026

James Madison University Commission (2022) · collaboration with Jeghetto · continued development with Pittsburgh International and Classic Theater (2026)

Hell Is Empty

Reading: Fade2Black Arts Festival (2025) · Reading: Pittsburgh Public Theater (2023)

Dark Skinned Pavement

InkSlinger Award Winner (2020) · Reading: Palm Beach Drama Works (2021) · Regional Premiere: Southeastern Louisiana University (2020) · Throughline Theater Company Spotlight Artist Reading

Lyon's Den

Reading: Pittsburgh Public Theater (2020) · Reading: Lycoming College (2021) · Production: Texas State University (2017)

NO. 6 — Concord Theatricals, pub. 2017

Productions: The Studio Theatre/Tierra Del Sol (2022) · Indiana Repertory Theater (2021) · Stage Left Productions (2021) · St. Philip's College (2021) · Saginaw Valley State University (2020)

Reading: University of British Columbia (2020)

STROKE

Seven Devils Semifinalist (2021) · Magic in the Rough Spaces Finalist, Rorschach Theatre (2023)

WASH

Seven Devils Semifinalist (2023)

White House Boys

One-Acts: Hop and Griz · Ruby's Baby Blue · Reel Times at Somerset High (Stage Partners Publishing Commission, 2024)

Ten-Minute Plays: Pan · Stuffed · Lilies · Before the Fire · Rocks the Cradle · Effie

One-Performer Shows: Colored TV (in development with Jason Shavers) · Touch/Starved · Screaming Just to Hear Myself

DRAMATURGY

New Play Dramaturgy

Sixty Nine-Seventy by Michael Eichler, 2026 (dir. Alex Manolo) · Man-Boy by Nick Eibler, 2026 · APIS by Lindsay Goranson, 2023–24 · Sons of the Boogie by Jason Mendez, 2023–24 · Higher by Wayne Firestone, 2022 · Trash Fish by Chelsea Harbin, 2021 · Paladin by Andrew Heinrich, 2021 · Quest and The Girl With the Yellow Jacket by Jonathan Brown & Amber Epps, 2020–21 · The Pandemic Project, James Madison University, 2021 (dir. Wolf Sherril) · Quest Of by Tyler Joseph Rossi, 2021 · Lower Sherbourne by Toby Malone, 2021 · Feet of Stone by Andrew Henrich, 2021–22 · Outgrowth by Toby Malone, 2021 · The Mad Classic by Jordan Morille, 2021 · Not Really (Little Star) by Toby Malone, 2020 · Young Playwrights Festival, City Theater, 2018–2026 · hop thA A by James Anthony Tyler (Black and Latino Playwrights Festival), 2017

Production Dramaturgy

Fat Ham, Playmakers, 2024 (dir. Jade King Carol)

OTHER MEDIA

WAKE: A Cold Reading of Finnegans Wake, Podcast — 2024–2025

Date Everything, Video Game — Writer, 2023–2025 (almost 1 million copies sold)

Theater Embraces the Archive, August Wilson Archives — 2023

Latent Specters: An Interactive Narrative Podcast — Head Writer & Co-Creator, 2020–2023

HAUNTS (Augmented Reality Performance), Prototype — Head Writer & Co-Creator

PUBLICATIONS

Plays: Reel Times at Somerset High — Stage Partners Publishing Commission (2024) · The Inseparables — Stage Partners (2022) · No. 6 — Concord Theatricals (2017)

Print: "Revenge Is Mad Hard: Fat Ham and the Question of Cultural Reclamation," in Reproducing Shakespeare, Contributing Writer, incl. "The View of the Elders: An Interview" (pp. 213–228), 2026

Online: "Hearing Each Other Over the Gunfire," HowlRound Theater Commons (2019)

HONORS & AWARDS

2026, 2024, 2023

Eugene O'Neill Theater

Center Semifinalist

2026 Blue Ink Playwriting Contest Semifinalist

2026, 2025, 2023

Seven Devils Playwriting

Conference Semifinalist

2025 The Gold Medallion, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

2025 "Best of the Best" Ten-Minute Plays, Fade2Black Festival

2025 Ensemble Theatre Playwriting Contest Winner

2023 Magic in the Rough Spaces Finalist, Rorschach Theatre

2023 L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award Finalist

2020 Inkslinger Playwriting Competition Winner

2018 Herold and Mimi Steinberg Playwriting Award, Distinguished Play

2018 In-Progress New Play Reading Series Finalist, Unicorn Theatre

2017 Ken Ludwig Scholarship for Best Body of Work, Kennedy Center

2016 Herold and Mimi Steinberg Playwriting Award Winner, Kennedy Center

2017 New Work Festival Finalist, Kitchen Dog Theater

Regional/Local: Inaugural inQbator Reading, Quantum Theater (2019) · Artist Spotlight, Throughline Theater Company (2019) · John Cable Short Play Regional Selection (2017, 2016) · Gary Garrison 10-Minute Play Regional Selection (2016) · 10-Minute Play Winner, TETA Playfest (2016)

College: School of Drama Excellence in Teaching Award, Carnegie Mellon University (2022)

SELECTED WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited national speaker on playwriting craft and new-play dramaturgy for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (Regions 2, 5 & 7, 2019–2026), the Dramatists Guild of America, the Mid-America Theatre Conference (2026), and the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (2023). Topics include adaptation, character-based stakes, Zoom-era production, and craft fundamentals. Regional workshops for Pittsburgh Public Theater (2023, 2026) and Suspension Theatrical Arts (2024–2025).

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

National Playwriting Program Chair, Region 2, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (2018–2026) Board Member & Trustee, Pittsburgh Public Theater (2023–Present); Co-Vice Chair, Transition & Merger Board of Trustees (2026–Present)

Fellowship Adjudicator, Dramatists Guild Foundation (2024–Present)

Director & Coordinator, Kennedy Center Black Playwrights Gathering (2024–2025)

Co-Regional Representative, Dramatists Guild of America (2019–2025)

Reader & Mentor, Signpost Playwriting Fellowship (2023–Present) · Semi-Finalist Adjudicator, InkSlingers Playwriting Contest (2022–Present) · Co-Director, Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive (2020–2023)

Additional adjudication and reading-committee service: Rhode Island State Council of the Arts, Indiana Repertory Theatre, LMDA Dramaturgy Compensation Task Force, Playwrights Foundation, New Hazlett, Pittsburgh New Works Festival, and Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council.

TEACHING

Associate Professor of Dramaturgy, School of Drama, Carnegie Mellon University (2022–Present); previously Special Visiting Faculty, CMU (2021–2022). Adjunct Professor, Bowie State University, Point Park University, and Westminster College (2018–2022). Courses include Foundations of Drama, New Play Dramaturgy, New Work Development, Introduction to Playwriting, and Script Analysis for Designers.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Dramatists Guild of America · Playwrights Center · Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of America (LMDA)