

Fourteenth International Arthur Miller Conference
October 19, 2024
Minor Memorial Library
Roxbury, Connecticut

Bios of Presenters

Susan C. W. Abbotson teaches in the English department at Rhode Island College, specializing in modern and contemporary drama. She is a leading scholar on Arthur Miller, with many published articles as well as books on the subject, including *A Critical Companion to Arthur Miller* and *Student Companion to Arthur Miller*. She also is the author of *Understanding Death of a Salesman* (with Brenda Murphy) and edited the recent series of twelve student editions of Miller's plays for Methuen. Previously serving as President of the Arthur Miller Society, Sue currently serves on its board and manages their website. She is currently working on two more Miller volumes: *Arthur Miller in Context*, a collection of original essays she is co-editing with Josh Polster for Cambridge University Press, and a monograph, *The Critical Reception of Arthur Miller* for Camden House.

John S. Bak is Professeur at the Université de Lorraine in France and holds degrees from the Universities of Illinois, Ball State, and the Sorbonne. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University Palackého in the Czech Republic in 1995 and Visiting Fellow at Harvard (2011), Columbia (2013), Texas at Austin (2014, 2024), and Oxford (2014-16). His edited books include *Tennessee Williams and Europe* (Rodopi, 2014) and *New Selected Essays: Where I Live* (New Directions, 2009). He is the author of the monographs *Ernest Hemingway*, *Tennessee Williams*, and *Queer Masculinities* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2009) and *Tennessee Williams: A Literary Life* (Palgrave, 2013).

Jan Balakian has published essays about American drama in books by Cambridge University Press, Palgrave, and Penn State University Press; interviews with Arthur Miller and Wendy Wasserstein; and a cultural studies book about the plays of Wasserstein (*Applause*). She has also written two prize-winning screenplays and hosted the first international conference at Kean, "Why American Plays Matter," funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities. Her recent play, *Dreams on Fire*, explores the transmission of trauma across generations via the Armenian genocide.

Kent Burnham is a director, actor, theatre-educator, producer, and activist. He is the Director of Theatre Arts at The Frederick Gunn School. He has worked as an actor and director regionally throughout the country, and appeared on television and in film. He is thrilled to be in Northwest Connecticut creating and developing dynamic theatre. Kent is also the Co-Producing Artistic Director of Connecticut Theatre Exchange (CTX).

Alessandro Clericuzio teaches American Literature at the University of Perugia, Italy. He has published essays and books on American theater, more specifically on John Guare, Sam Shepard, David Rabe, Mae West, Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, and

theatre and drama during the Great War and in the 1920s. He is the author of *Tennessee Williams and Italy. A Transcultural Perspective*, Palgrave, 2016.

Kimiye Corwin resides in Roxbury, Connecticut, with her husband and two daughters. She danced professionally with the Jose Limon Dance Company and has acted for theater, TV and film. Some choreography credits include Yale Repertory Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. She taught at Stella Adler Studio/NYU and is now the Director of Theater at The Woodhall School in Bethlehem, Connecticut. Kimiye is a member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA and The National Alliance of Acting Teachers. She is on the Artistic Advisory Board of Connecticut Theatre Exchange and part of the programming committee for the Arthur Miller Writing Studio. Training: Juilliard (BFA in Dance), Brown/Trinity (MFA in Acting). kimiyecorwin.com

Jane K. Dominik, current President of the Arthur Miller Society, has written on Miller's work for more than thirty years. Her publications and numerous conference papers include commentaries on *The Price* and *The American Clock* published by Methuen, and essays and reviews in collections edited by other Miller scholars, the *Arthur Miller Journal*, and its precursor, the *Arthur Miller Newsletter*, which she founded. Her research has focused on the staging of his plays, music, women characters, creative assignments, and the critical reception of his work. She has also performed scenes from Miller's plays and the role of Linda in *Death of a Salesman*.

Ramón Espejo-Romero is a Distinguished Professor at the University of Seville, Spain, where he teaches American literature and culture. His research has focused on a variety of authors, including Herman Melville, Edith Wharton, Tom Wolfe, and Paul Auster, and playwrights Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Matthew Lopez, and Annie Baker. He has published translations of seminal plays by some of these authors and several book-length studies analyzing their impact within Spanish theatre. Recently, he has begun branching out into Hispanic theatre in New York City, specifically the Hispanic theatre movement originating in the 1960s. His forthcoming books are on the challenges of primary and secondary education in Spain, a historical survey of American theatrical borrowings in Madrid, and a cultural history of Teatro Talía in New York City. He currently serves as Vice President of the Arthur Miller Society.

Shennen Flannery serves as Board Secretary and Programming Committee Chair for the Arthur Miller Writing Studio. A graduate of Central Connecticut State University majoring in English and Writing, she holds a Post-Graduate Certification in English Education, an MEd from Plymouth State University, and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Writing for Children and Young Adults from McDaniel College, and has served as a research assistant to Dr. Barry H. Leeds for his book *The Enduring Vision of Norman Mailer*. Now retired as a high school English teacher, Shennen is also a children's author, nature writer (littlepondstories.org), and a Forest Therapy practitioner in New Hartford, Connecticut, as well as a volunteer for the Sharon Audubon Society's

Raptor Care Program, and a writer for Ghost Brothers host and The Graveyard Shift producer, Dalen Spratt.

Eric Hafker teaches in the English department at St. Francis Preparatory School. He directs the junior Advanced Placement in Composition program. Eric is the moderator of *The Little Portion*, SFP's literary arts magazine. He also heads the *Poetry Out Loud* recitation program in which several students have won the New York City Championship. Eric's poetry book, *Bare* (Open Umbrellas Press) is in its second edition.

Jaime Hastings (Executive Director, Arthur Miller Foundation) has been working alongside writer/filmmaker Rebecca Miller for thirteen years. Hastings was Associate Producer of the Emmy nominated HBO Documentary, *ARTHUR MILLER: WRITER*. She also produced the benefit event *ONE NIGHT – 100 YEARS* at the Lyceum Theatre on Broadway to honor the centenary of Arthur Miller and celebrate the launch of the Arthur Miller Foundation's public school theater education initiatives. Hastings was instrumental in developing the Foundation's programs in partnership with the New York City Public Schools Arts Office, The City College of New York Graduate Program in Educational Theatre, Bridgeport, and Norwalk Public Schools. She holds a BA in Musical Theater and Business Management from The State University of New York College at Geneseo and a Certificate of Business Excellence from Columbia Business School's Tamer Center for Social Enterprise. Hastings is a guest lecturer for Belmont University and Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr Michael S. D. Hooper is an independent scholar based in the UK. He is the author of *Sexual Politics in the Work of Tennessee Williams: Desire over Protest* (CUP, 2012) and of several articles that have appeared in the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. Recent publications include the essays "A Spectral Future: Dementia and the Nonhuman in *Marjorie Prime*" in *Age and Ageing in Contemporary Speculative and Science Fiction*, edited by Sarah Falcus and Maricel Oró-Piqueras (Bloomsbury, 2023), and "Playing House: Spatiality, Home, and Privacy in the Theatre of Jennifer Haley" in *Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, edited by Noelia Hernando-Real and John S. Bak (University of Seville Press, 2023). "A Horrifying Reversal: The Dislocating Impact of Age Consciousness in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*" is forthcoming from Transcript in *Fear of Aging: Old Age in Horror Fiction and Film*, edited by João Guimarães.

Emeline Jouve is Professor of American Theatre at Toulouse Jean-Jaurès University (France). Her research focuses on American avant-garde theatre. She is the author of *Glaspell's Poetics and Politics of Rebellion* (University of Iowa Press, 2017), *Avignon 68 & le Living Theatre* (Deuxième Epoque, 2018), *Paradise Now en paradis, Une histoire du Living Theatre à Avignon et après (1968/2018)* (Classiques Garnier, 2022) and *Un siècle d'avant-garde étasunienne* (Deuxième Epoque, forthcoming). She is the president of the International Susan Glaspell Society and of RADAC, French society for anglophone theatre. Emeline is also the editor-in-chief of the ejournal *Miranda* and the co-editor of *Nouvelles Scènes/anglais* (PUM). She is the coordinator of the ANR project ACTiF (American Contemporary Theater in France)

Tomáš Kačer is Associate Professor of English at Masaryk University, Czech Republic. He teaches courses in literature and culture, as well as drama, theater, and performance culture in the United States and Great Britain. His interest in Arthur Miller goes back to his early twenties, when he accidentally saw an amateur production of *A Memory of Two Mondays* in 2000, after which he rushed to get a copy of the *Penguin Portable Miller*. Tomáš is also a translator of novels, non-fiction and plays from English to Czech.

Isabel Lobo is currently pursuing an English major at the University of Seville.

John London is Professor of Hispanic Studies and director of the Centre for Catalan Studies at Queen Mary University of London. His books include *Reception and Renewal in Modern Spanish Theatre* (1997), *Contextos de Joan Brossa* (2010), and the edited volumes *Theatre under the Nazis* (2000) and *One Hundred Years of Futurism* (2017). He writes on modern and contemporary theatre.

Esther Marinho Santana holds a PhD in Literary Theory and Criticism from the University of Campinas. Currently, she is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of São Paulo and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and serves as International Secretary for Latin America of the Edward Albee Society. She is the editor of *Albee Abroad* (Brill, 2023) and a contributing author to *Novas Histórias do Teatro* (Hucitec, 2024). Her research and publications encompass American, Brazilian, and traditional Chinese theatres, Brazilian theatre historiography, and global theatre studies.

María Ogalla is currently pursuing an English major at the University of Seville.

Ricky Oliver holds an MFA from the Brown University/Trinity Rep Acting Program and a BFA in Music Theatre from the University of Hartford's Hartt School Theatre Division. He currently serves as Director of Theater at the Trinity-Pawling School in Pawling, New York. Ricky has the great privilege of teaching acting techniques all over the world and served as Chair and Coordinator of Actor Training at his alma mater, The Hartt School, prior to moving to Trinity-Pawling last year. He has held several teaching appointments, including at Brown University, DeSales University, Molloy College, and CAP21. Recently, Ricky has taught within the Sharon Playhouse's Education Program in Sharon, Connecticut. As a performer, Ricky has performed around the country in two national tours, at several regional premieres, and in Off-Broadway houses. Some of his favorite roles include John Adams in *1776*, Younger Brother in *Ragtime*, Silvius in *As You Like It*, and Harry in *Time of Your Life*.

Dr. Joshua Polster is an Assistant Dean and a Professor of Theatre at Emerson College. He was the President of the Arthur Miller Society and currently serves on their Board of Directors. Dr. Polster is also a member of the editorial board for *The Arthur Miller Journal*, where he has published several articles. His books on Miller include *Reinterpreting the Plays of Arthur Miller*, Methuen Drama's critical editions of *Miller's A Memory of Two Mondays* and *Incident at Vichy*, and the upcoming

Cambridge University Press publication, co-edited with Dr. Sue Abbotson, *Arthur Miller in Context*.

Elizabeth Prohaska is a veteran member of the English department at St. Francis Preparatory School. She teaches the senior Advanced Placement Literature class and 11th grade American Literature. As coach of the school's Dun Scotus Debating Society, she has led countless students in the Brooklyn/Queens Catholic Forensics League to state and national championships. She has done the same as the school's men's and women's Varsity Volleyball coach. In addition, Ms. Prohaska lends her editing skills to the St. Francis Prep Science Research Program.

Ambika Singh, PhD, is an academic and independent researcher based in Rajasthan, India. Singh's research interests include American theatre, feminism, race studies, trauma, and critical gerontology. Her essays have been published in the *Arthur Miller Journal* and in the *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*. She recently edited the Methuen Drama Student Edition of Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*, published by Bloomsbury Publishing, United Kingdom. She has also been actively involved in content management at educational institutes and book companies.

Kornelia Slavova is professor of American literature and culture in the Department of English and American Studies, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, Bulgaria. Her publications are in the field of American literature and drama, gender studies, and cross-cultural studies. She is a veteran translator of Anglo-American drama for the Bulgarian stage. Her current research focuses on translation for the theatre and translingual literature.

Marla Truini moved to Connecticut after an acting career in New York. As Director of Drama at Westover School, she first offered Arthur Miller Studies, a seminar course with in-class reading of the plays that included a comparative analysis of political and social contexts. She revised the course for undergraduates at Southern Oregon University, where she holds a Masters of Theatre in Production and Design. A Ph.D. candidate at the California Institute of Integral Studies, she is studying empathy through the lens of devised theatre. She lives in Roxbury with her husband, writer Joe Truini, and their rescue dog Will.

Davyne Verstandig was the Director of the Litchfield County Writers Project at the University of Connecticut where she taught English, Drama, and Creative Writing for twenty-five years. Her course "Literature and Culture" each semester was for matriculating students, and free and open to the public using the works of writers of Litchfield County.