Curriculum Vitae

Quest Sky Zeidler

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Education

PhD, Theatre and Performance — University at Buffalo, SUNY; expected 2030
MA, Theatre Arts — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2017
BA, Theatre Arts; History of Art & Visual Culture — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2016

Research Interests

- Queer theatre, queer performance, lipsynch, drag
- Monster theory, horror criticism, Gothic studies
- 20th century avant garde, expressionism

Teaching Experience

Instructor — University at Buffalo, SUNY

- Play Lab, Theatre Studio 2 (*Polaroid Stories*), Spring 2026 (TH 411, *upcoming*)
  - 10 students, in person
- Basic Acting 1, Spring 2025 (TH 108)
  - 12 students, in person

Teaching Assistant — University at Buffalo, SUNY

- Advanced Dramaturgy, Fall 2026 (TH 415, Ariel Nereson)
  - 6 students, in person
- Writing About Performance, Spring 2026 (TH 320, Eero Laine)
  - 20 students, in person
- American Popular Entertainment, Fall 2025 (TH 102, Janet Werther)
  - 30 students, in person
- World Theatre Before 1700, Fall 2024 (TH 301, Danielle Rosvally)
  - 60 students, online asynchronous

Student Teacher — Long Beach City College

- Acting 2 – Technique and Characterization, Spring 2024 (TART 2, Tony Carreiro)
  - 20 students, in person

Teaching Assistant — University of California, Santa Cruz

- Drama to Modern Age, Spring 2017 (THEA 61C, Dor Cosby Atkinson)
  - 70 students, in person; 1 section, 25 students
- Monsters in the Dramatic Imagination, Winter 2017 (THEA 80C, Michael Chemers)
  - 300 students, in person; 2 sections, 25 students
- Queer Theatre, Fall 2016 (THEA 80Q, Danny Scheie)
  - 60 students, in person

Conference Attendance

American Society for Theatre Research

- Working Group: Refrains, Resonances, and Acoustic Territories: Music, Performance, and Theatrical Space (2026)
- Working Group: Performative Monstrogenealogies (2025)
- Working Group: In a Trans Time & Place (2024)

➢ Working Group: The Monstrous Utopian (2023)

Festival of Monsters

➢ Presenter: "Buffalo's Drag Vampire: Accessing Alternative Masculinity as Count Twinkula" (2026)

Global Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Symposium

➢ Presenter: "Buffalo's Drag Vampire: Accessing Alternative Masculinity as Count Twinkula" (2026)

➢ Presenter: "I'm More True Than Real: Transhumanist Prosthetics in Drag Performance" (2025)

Mid-America Theatre Conference

➢ Dramatist Play Lab: "Clicks" by Aaron Scully, director (2026)

Cultural Studies Association Conference

➢ Presenter: "Maybe This Time: Cycles of Queer Utopia and Dystopia in *Indecent* and *A Transparent Musical*" (2025)

HSWG Queer Horror Conference

➢ Presenter: "Sick in the Head: The Monstrosity and Camp of Dr. Anonymous" (2025)

Community Work & Service

Research Assistant — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-26 (ongoing)
to Lindsay Brandon Hunter (2026)
to Danielle Rosvally (2026)
to Ariel Nereson (2025)
to Eero Laine (2024-25)

Season Selection Committee — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-26 (*ongoing*)

Graduate Student Association, Theatre and Dance Chapter — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-26 (*ongoing*)

Judge — Drama Teachers Association of Southern California; 2023-24

Judge — Fullerton College High School Theatre Festival, 2023

Volunteer Reader — Garry Marshall Theatre, 2022

Directing Mentor — University of California, Santa Cruz; Chautauqua New Works Festival, 2017

Audition Workshop — University of California, Santa Cruz; Barnstorm Lab, 2016

Drag Workshop — University of California, Santa Cruz; Barnstorm Lab, 2015-16

Volunteer Reader — Bay Area Playwrights Foundation, 2016-2019

Publications

"I'm More True Than Real: Transhumanist Prosthetics in Drag Performance"

➢ in *Queer Bodies in Speculative Fiction* (working title), eds. María Gil Poisa and Débora Madrid Brito, Peter Lang (*forthcoming*)

"Revenge of the Monster Queer: The Cosmic Horror and Eldritch Liberation of Drag"

➢ in *Monstrous Utopias: Performance and the Radical Possibility of Hope*, eds. Michael Chemers and Analola Santana, Routledge (2026)

"You Can't Just Be a Picture: Expressionistic Memory and Trauma in *Lion in the Streets*"

➢ MA thesis, Proquest: https://escholarship.org/uc/item/40c939t9

Awards & Fellowships

Schomburg Fellowship — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-26
Teaching Assistantship — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-26
Research Assistantship — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-26
Steig Olson Scholarship — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2024-25
Teaching Assistantship — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2016-17
Phi Beta Kappa — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2016
Arts Dean's Award in History of Art and Visual Culture — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2016
➢ Awarded for paper "Pas de Trois: *Trio A* Dancing Between Performance, Film, and Art"
Honors in History of Art & Visual Culture Senior Seminar — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2016
➢ Awarded for paper "Performance Art: Ritual and Performativity in Bronze Age Greek Murals"

Professional Development

American Society for Theatre Research Conference — American Society for Theatre Research; 2023-26
Festival of Monsters — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2026
Global Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Symposium — University at Buffalo, SUNY; 2025-26
Mid-America Theatre Conference — Mid-America Theatre Conference; 2026
HSWG Queer Horror Conference — University of Pittsburgh; 2025-26
Cultural Studies Association Conference — Cultural Studies Association; 2025
Program in Cognitive Affective Neuroscience (Guest Speaker) — University of Pittsburgh; 2025
Buffalo Humanities Festival — University at Buffalo, SUNY Humanities Institute; 2024
Faculty Diversity Internship Program — Long Beach City College; 2023-24
New Works Intern — Theatricum Botanium, Seedlings New Works Festival; 2019
Dramaturgy Intern — foolsFURY, Raw Materials New Works Festival; 2016

Works in Progress

Academic Papers:
"Buffalo's Drag Vampire: Accessing Alternative Masculinity as Count Twinkula"
"Darkness. And Then Pieces of Light: The Queerness of Impossible Stage Directions in *Polaroid Stories*"
"Maybe This Time: Cycles of Queer Utopia and Dystopia in *Indecent* and *A Transparent Musical*"
"Sick in the Head: The Monstrosity and Camp of Dr. Anonymous"
"No Tomorrow: The Queer Gothic Affect of *Macbeth*"

Creative Work

Podcasting

Ghosts Were People Too, 2022-26, *ongoing*

A podcast that highlights the cultural importance and social function of ghosts as depicted in art and media. In this project we look at all things spectral through the lens of monster theory and Gothic studies. In each episode, my co-host Annabelle Bonebrake and I delve into a different work of art or cultural phenomenon, sharing our research and unmasking the fears and anxieties at the heart of every haunting.

Directing (*Selected Credits*)

Polaroid Stories by Naomi Iizuka
Director
University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2027 (*upcoming*)

Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Assistant director to Danielle Rosvally
University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2026

Clicks by Aaron Scully (staged reading)
Director
Mid-America Theatre Conference, 2026

Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Richard Eyre
Assistant director to Bart DeLorenzo
Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, 2022

The Dog Show by Ivan Faute (staged reading)
Assistant director & stage manager to Laura Stribling
Theatricum Botanicum, 2019

Sadie's Day by Danielle DeCrette (staged reading)
Assistant director & stage manager to Elena Campbell-Martinez
Theatricum Botanicum, 2019

Lion in the Streets by Judith Thompson
Director
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2017

Two Gentlemen of Verona by William Shakespeare
Assistant director to Patty Gallagher
University of California, Santa Cruz, Shakespeare-to-Go, 2017

The Odyssey by Kimberly Jannarone
Assistant director to Kimberly Jannarone
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2016

A Dream Play by August Strindberg
Assistant director to Kirsten Brandt
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2016

Woyzeck by Georg Büchner
Director
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2015

The Big Antarctic Ghost Hunt by Everett Schneiderman
Director
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2015

Maria: A Telenovela for the Stage by Stephen Richter
Director
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2015

The Haunting of Hill House by F. Andrew Leslie
Director
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2014

Drag Performance

Count Twinkula, 2025-26, *ongoing*

As the resident drag vampire of Buffalo, I use drag performance as a mode of embodied research, exploring the intersection between queerness and horror, monstrosity, and the Gothic. Through the character of Count Twinkula I play with the figure of the vampire as a performative site for alternative modes of masculinity. Drag enables me to take part in lipsynch as a means of queer devised performance, one in which I respond to, reclaim, and queer mainstream cultural artifacts.

Instagram: @bramstokerstwinkula

Performing (*Selected Credits)*

Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadow Cast
Floor Show Rocky
The Francis Bacon Experiment, 2026

Loose Lips: A Lipsynch Cabaret
Founder, Performer
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2015-17

Love's Labour's Lost by William Shakespeare, directed by Patty Gallagher
Actor, Boyet
University of California, Santa Cruz, Shakespeare-to-Go, 2016

Princess Ivona by Witold Gombrowicz, directed by Luke Medina
Actor, Lord Chamberlain
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2015

Rent by Jonathan Larson, directed by Danny Scheie
Actor, Ensemble
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2014

Spring Awakening by Frank Wedekind, directed by Rosie Glen-Lambert
Actor, Hansy
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2014

The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer, directed by Adam Odsess-Rubin
Actor, Tommy
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2013

Dog Sees God by Bert V. Royal, directed by Sutton Arabe
Actor, Beethoven
University of California, Santa Cruz, 2013

References

Ariel Nereson, PhD
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Danielle Rosvally, PhD
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Lindsay Brandon Hunter, PhD
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Michael Chemers, PhD
University of California, Santa Cruz

Kimberly Jannarone, PhD
Yale University