

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

- Basic Acting 1, Spring 2025 (TH 108)
  - 12 students, in person

**Teaching Assistant** — University at Buffalo, SUNY

- Dramaturgy, Fall 2026 (TH 415, Ariel Nereson)
  - 9 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**

**Festival of Monsters**

- Presenter: “Buffalo’s Drag Vampire: Accessing Alternative Masculinity as Count Twinkula” (2026, *upcoming*)

**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)

### **American Society for Theatre Research**

- Working Group: Performative Monstrogenealogies (2025)
- Working Group: In a Trans Time & Place (2024)
- Working Group: The Monstrous Utopian (2023)

### **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**

**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

**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**

**Festival of Monsters** — University of California, Santa Cruz; 2026 (*upcoming*)

**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

**American Society for Theatre Research Conference** — American Society for Theatre Research; 2023-25

**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 Botanicum, 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. Selected credits include:

Intersect: A Pride Arts Festival (in progress)

Performer

Allentown, June 2026

Joust!

Performer, First Runner Up

Mr. Goodbar, June 2026

Vampiric Night Faire  
Performer  
Shawnee Volunteer Fire Company, June 2026

Rookie Knights: Knight of Champions  
Performer  
Hot Mama's Canteen, May 2026

Buffalo's Drag Royalty  
Performer  
Buffalo Creative Workshop, December 2025-May 2026

Bikinis and Bottoms  
Co-organizer  
University at Buffalo, SUNY LGBTQ+ Center, April 2026

MOSH: An Alternative Rock Drag Show  
Co-host  
Hot Mama's Canteen, April 2026

Rookie Knights  
Performer, Guest Judge  
Hot Mama's Canteen, November 2025

Rookie Knights  
Performer, Champion Knight (title winner)  
Hot Mama's Canteen, October 2025

**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