

Mateo Hernandez

they/them & he/him

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

- 2025 Master of Fine Arts, Drama & Theatre for Youth & Communities
Graduate Portfolio, Women's & Gender Studies with LGBTQ Studies Track
The University of Texas at Austin
- 2020 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre Education
The University of Texas at Austin
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CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Drama- and Arts-Based Pedagogies in Education and Community Settings
Arts-Based Evaluation Methods
Playwriting & Playmaking for Youth
Critical Feminist of Color Approaches to Applied Theatre

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 Coleman A. Jennings Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Creative Drama/Theatre
for Young Audiences; *The University of Texas at Austin*
- 2023 Don & Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship; *American Alliance for Theatre & Education*
BIPOC Point Scholar; *Point Foundation*
Mary Margaret Blair Lindsay Endowed Scholarship; *The University of Texas at Austin*
Elizabeth McGoldrick Surginer Endowed Scholarship; *The University of Texas at Austin*
- 2022 Coleman A. Jennings Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Creative Drama/Theatre
for Young Audiences; *The University of Texas at Austin*
- 2013-2017 Presidential Scholar; *The University of Texas at Austin*
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RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY: PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH

Education/Pedagogy

- 2025 **Arts Integration Specialist; *Drama for Schools & Planet Texas 2050, UT Austin & ARISE Adelante Pharr, TX***
Coached facilitator/learning designer for summer programming around environmental health assets and burdens, mentored facilitator to incorporate arts-based learning and engagement methods, facilitated arts-based strategies with youth participants at ARISE Adelante.

- 2023 – 2025 **Teaching Assistant; *Drama for Schools Summer Institute, UT Austin***
Co-facilitated K-12 teacher training in arts integration strategies and methods, Co-created and revised Institute curriculum, coached teachers in using arts/drama-based teaching methods.
- 2023 – 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant; *Longhorn Wellness Center & The Department of Theatre & Dance, UT Austin***
Conducted research on the context of public health education initiatives at UT Austin, facilitated workshops to introduce arts-based learning methods for public health educators, consulted educators/staff on using arts-based learning methods in public health contexts.
- 2019 **“4 P’s Curriculum Training” *FYI/ICAH, Chicago, IL***
Co-collaborated workshops of FYI’s leading tenets: Pleasure, Perspective, Power, and Practice, facilitated drama-based exploring of creating curriculum through the 4 P’s lens, fostered participants’ design of activities/games.
- Dramaturgy**
- 2024 – 2025 **Co-Festival Manager; *Teatro Vivo, Austin, TX***
Co-produced the 2024 and 2025 Austin Latinx New Play Festival, built production teams for 4-5 readings, led casting processes, mentored playwrights, directors, and dramaturgs on developing new work.
- 2024 – 2025 **Co-Chair, Education, Community Engagement, and Dramaturgy Committee; *The Cohen New Works Festival, The Department of Theatre & Dance, UT Austin***
Co-created system of tracking artistic development for various projects in the festival, facilitated panels of guest artists and project leads during festival, led group of dramaturgs in developing new work, cultivated values of the festival through production and artistic processes.
- 2023 **Dramaturg/Education Team Lead, TYA Tour; *The Department of Theatre & Dance, UT Austin***
Led team that crafted education packet for teachers along tour of *The Smartest Girl in the World*, created interactive lobby display, provided research and resources for cast and production team as needed.
- 2017 – 2018 **Development Associate; *Dallas Children’s /Cara Mia Theatre, Dallas, TX***
Supervised script for world premiere of *Yana Wana’s Legend of the Bluebonnet*, provided research of Coahuiltecan language for study guide, consulted on collaboration of multicultural identities of theatre makers.
- 2017 **Dramaturg/Education Team, TYA Tour; *The Department of Theatre & Dance, UT Austin***
Facilitated talkbacks after every public performance with multi-generational audiences, provided research of migrant farm work for touring production of *Luna* and subsequent education materials, crafted education packet for teachers along tour.

Applied Theatre

- 2023 – 2025 **“From Idea to Page” *Teatro Vivo, Austin, TX***
Co-facilitated multiweek playwriting workshop with new to intermediate playwrights local to Austin, produced workshop as part of the Teatro Vivo season, invited and facilitated guest artists to teach and engage playwrights.
- 2024 **“La Pastorela” *Teatro Vivo, Austin, TX***
Facilitated a group of high school students as cultural dramaturgs to adapt the script of *La Pastorela*, trained actor/facilitators to co-create every performance uniquely with each audience, conducted research on audience impact for feelings of community and belonging through the performance.
- 2024 **“PJP at Gardner Betts” *Performing Justice Project & UT Austin***
Co-facilitated multiweek theatre workshop residency for young people incarcerated by Travis County, collaboratively designed culturally-responsive residency, mentored young people in writing and performing their stories.
- 2022 **“Metamorphosis” *Museum Theatre & GirlForward, UT Austin***
Co-created museum theatre performance in conversation with artwork in galleries at Blanton Museum of Art, investigated ideas of migration and home with teenage girls in partnership with GirlForward, conducted research on theatrical engagement within museum contexts.
- 2017 – 2021 **Performer/Sex Educator *FYI/ICAH, Chicago, IL***
Devised and performed participatory plays for youth about reproductive justice/sexual health, facilitated sex education workshops using arts/theatre-based methods, collaboratively created community engagement opportunities with other justice-based organizations.
- 2019 **“Home4Healing/TRANSChurch” *FYI/ICAH, Chicago, IL***
Co-collaborated 8-session series for transgender youth in exploration of home, utilized arts-based activities in facilitation of questions of belonging and care, cultivated space of safety and bravery by youth.
- 2018 **“Devising around Emotions” *About Face Youth Theatre, Chicago, IL***
Facilitated guest artist workshop for queer youth ensemble, led exploration of emotional navigation in devising process, formulated strategies to stay safe and honor emotional boundaries in devising processes.
- 2017 **“Work” *Cohen New Works Festival 2017, UT Austin***
Conceived theatrical experience centering voices of custodial staff on UT’s campus, facilitated interviews of custodial staff with a team of theatre devisers, lead devising process and directed subsequent production.

RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY: PUBLICATIONS

- (upcoming) Hernandez, Mateo. "Re-storying as Reflective Practice: Learning Towards Liberatory Values." MFA Thesis, The University of Texas at Austin. Summer 2025.
- Hernandez, Mateo. "Why Go On Tour?: Taking *The Smartest Girl in the World* to Central Texas Students." Off-Book: A Theatre & Dance Blog. Commissioned Blog. <https://sites.utexas.edu/theatredance-blog/2023/11/16/why-go-on-tour-taking-the-smartest-girl-in-the-world-to-central-texas-students/>. November 16, 2023.
- Hernandez, Mateo. "How Do We Tend to Collaboration?" HowlRound. Commissioned Essay. <https://howlround.com/how-do-we-tend-collaboration>. September 28, 2023.
- Hernandez, Mateo and McEniry, Cortney. "A Call to Change: Enacting Anti-Racist Practices in TYA Organizations." TYA Today. Commissioned Investigative Article. Spring 2018. pp 27-33.
- Hernandez, Mateo. "Toward a Model of Inclusive Practice: An Intern Perspective from the Halls of the Guthrie." HowlRound. Café Onda. Commissioned Blog. <http://howlround.com/toward-a-model-of-inclusive-practice-an-intern-s-perspective-on-the-guthrie-theater>. April 28, 2017.
- Hernandez, Matthew. "Luna: The Impact of a Migrant Story on Tour to Austin Students." Off Book: A Theatre & Dance Blog. Commissioned Blog. <https://sites.utexas.edu/theatredance-blog/2017/04/05/luna-the-impact-of-a-migrant-story-on-tour-to-austin-students/>. April 5, 2017.
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SESSIONS

PAPERS

- 2025 (upcoming) "Teatro Vivo: Performance, Resistance, and Evolution." Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, (Digital): July 2025.
- 2024 "Form Over Content: Invoking Queer Sensibilities in Plays for Young Audiences." International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network Conference, (Havana, Cuba): May 2024.
- 2023 "Queering Pedagogies: Problematizing the Spectrum, Imagining Galaxies." Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, (Austin, TX): August 2023.

WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCES, PANELS

- 2025 (upcoming) "Whose Play Is It?: Culturally Specific Theatre in White Institutions." American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Cleveland, OH): July 2025.
- (upcoming) "When Performing For Becomes Performing With: Teatro Vivo's Annual Pastorela." American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Cleveland, OH): July 2025
- (upcoming) "Latine and Latin American Festivals: Long-Practiced and Undertheorized." Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, (Digital): July 2025.
- "Research & Scholarship Working Group #1 (Chair)." TYA/USA National Conference, (Bethesda, MD): May 2025.

- 2024 “Smartest Girl in the World: Practice as Research.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education National Conference, (Atlanta, GA): August 2024.
 “Teaching Drama As an Act of Abolition.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Chicago, IL): July 2024.
 “Fractal Patterns: Finding Nature within Ourselves Using Digital Storytelling.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Chicago, IL): July 2024.
 “Nurturing Strong Branches of Accessibility: Smartest Touring to Public Schools.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Chicago, IL): July 2024.
- 2023 “Story & Process Drama: Building SEL Focused & Culturally Responsive Classrooms.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Seattle, WA): July 2023.
 “Getting ‘Taboo’ Plays to Youth Who Need Them Most.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Seattle, WA): July 2023.
 “Tools for Liberation: Activating collaboration & creation through prop design.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Seattle, WA): July 2023.
 “Making Community with BIPOC YA Theatre & Lit Arts.” BIPOC POP Symposium, The University of Texas at Austin, (Austin, TX): March 2023.
- 2022 “Bilingual Latiné Theatre with and for Youth.” American Alliance for Theatre & Education National Conference, (Providence, RI): July 2022.

GUEST LECTURES & PANELS

- 2024 *Using Drama-Based Pedagogy*
 Presented lecture on the incorporation of arts-based and drama-based teaching methods for the Sociocultural Influences on Learning course at The University of Texas at Austin: Spring 2024.
- 2023 *Creating Resource/Education Guides*
 Presented lecture on creating education/resource guides for TYA productions and helped students conceptualize their own resource guides for theoretical productions at The University of Texas at Austin: Fall 2023.
- 2022 *spayce boys and New TYA Plays*
 Presented on panel about playwrighting for youth and developing new TYA plays at The University of Texas at Austin: Fall 2022.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

The University of Texas at Austin

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR (AI)

TD 302S Arts Integration for Multidisciplinary Connections

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA)

EDC 270S	Secondary Methods
TD 351T	Theatre for Young Audiences Tour
TD 326F	Creative Drama II
TD 351F	Teaching Artists in Schools & Communities
TD 626E	Directing the Young Performer
EDC 331S	School Organization & Classroom Management
BDP 101	Introduction to Museum Studies

ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE

College and University, UT Austin

2024 – 2025	Student Executive Committee; <i>Cohen New Works Festival</i>
2023	Organizing Team; <i>Theatre of the Oppressed Symposium</i>
2016 – 2017	Student Organizer/Committee Member; <i>Students of Color Organization for Performance & Engagement (SCOPE)</i>
2014 – 2016	Officer; <i>Alpha Psi Omega</i>

Local to Austin, Texas

2023 – Present	Member, Board of Directors; <i>Teatro Vivo</i>
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Local to Chicago, IL

2018 – Present	Company Member; <i>FYI: For Youth Inquiry Performance Company</i>
2018 – 2020	Member, Leadership Team; <i>ALTA: Alliance of Latinx Theatre Artists in Chicago</i>

Professional Service (National/International)

2023 – Present	Member, Board of Directors; <i>American Alliance for Theatre & Education</i>
2022	Conference Intern; <i>American Alliance for Theatre & Education</i>
2018 – 2019	Steering Committee Member; <i>LTC: Latinx Theatre Commons</i>

THEATRE PRACTICE

Playwriting (New Play Development)

riverwild

Cohen New Works Festival, April 2025
The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Theatre & Dance

spayce boys

University of Texas New Theatre (UTNT), March 2024
The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Theatre & Dance
New Plays for Young Audiences BIPOC Initiative, June 2021
New York University: Steinhart
Ingenio New Play Festival, September 2020
Teatro Vivo, Cara Mia Theatre Co., Milagro Theatre

el bailador

Austin Latinx New Play Festival, April 2023
Teatro Vivo

Directing

- 2025 (upcoming) *Rosita y Conchita* by Austin Scottish Rite Theater, et al. Penfold Theatre Company, October 2025.
Emiliana: A Revolution Cabaret by Jessica Peña Torres. Cohen New Works Festival, April 2025.
riverwild by Mateo Hernandez. Cohen New Works Festival, April 2025 (co-directed with Joshua W. Martin).
- 2024 *La Pastorela* by Roxanne Schroeder-Arce, et al. Teatro Vivo, December 2024.
Luna by Ramón Esquivel. ZACH Theatre, Fall 2024.

New Play Dramaturgy

- 2024 *Emiliana: A Revolution Cabaret* by Jessica Peña Torres. Ground Floor Theatre, September 2024.
ZAPATA: A Folklorico Superhero Musical by Jesse Sanchez. ZACH Theatre, April 2024.
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TEACHING ARTIST EXPERIENCE

Goodman Theatre , Chicago, IL	<i>Summer Teen Intensives, Disney Musicals in Schools</i>
Mudlark Theatre , Evanston, IL	<i>After-school creative drama</i>
Chicago Children's Theatre , Chicago, IL	<i>After-school creative drama, STEAM</i>
Emerald City Theatre , Chicago, IL	<i>After-school creative drama</i>
Beverly Arts Center , Chicago, IL	<i>After-school creative drama</i>
Creative Action , Austin, TX	<i>After-school SEL creative drama</i>
Zach Theatre , Austin, TX	<i>Improv-based camps/intensives</i>

ADDITIONAL TRAINING/SKILLS

Proficient in Spanish language
Trained facilitator in Popular Education, Pedagogy/Theatre of the Oppressed
Training and Experience in Harm Reduction and Trauma-Informed Space Making

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE)
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Latinx Theatre Commons (LTC)
National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC)
Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (TYA/USA) – USA Contingent of ASSITEJ International