

RESUME

NAME: (JOHN) MŪKONZI MŪSYOKI

EDUCATION

DEGREES IN PROGRESS:

Doctor of Philosophy in Performance Studies, University of Alberta; Drama Department, Canada — Commencing September 2019

DEGREES HELD:

Master of Arts in Drama (Thesis Based), University of Alberta, Canada — September 2016 to November 2018. Research area: Postcolonial African Theatre.

Bachelor of Arts in English, Linguistics and Literature, Kenyatta University, Kenya — September 2011 to July 2016.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL TRAINING:

- **Trainee, Playwriting Bootcamp!** Trained on Playwriting, Dramaturgy and **Adaptation**; Administered by Vern Thiessen at Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre — September 2018.
- **Participant in Theatre for Social Change:** Trained in The Rainbow of Desire methods by David E. Diamond focusing on reconciliation and trauma. August 2017.
- **Certified in Leadership Development and Mentorship:** Enrichment course for outstanding students, Kenyatta University, 2016. Obtained “distinction” in the course.
- **Certified in Publishing and Book Production:** Trained and certified, November 2014.
- **Certified Public Accountant of Kenya (CPA), Level V:** KCA University and Visions Institute of Professionals — July 2011 to December 2015 (Part time study).

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

- **Director and Dramaturg** for *Balance Board* by Bashir Mohamed. Chinook Series and Black Arts Matter (BAM) — December 2019 to February 2020.
- **Jury Member** for Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) working on EAC Diversity Grant — August 2019 to November 2019.
- **Production Dramaturge and Outreach Coordinator** for *The Colour Purple* by Marsha Norman. Citadel Theatre — August 2019 to September 2019.
- **Director** for *Balance Board* by Bashir Mohamed. Fringe Theatre Adventures — July 2019 to August 2019. Contract.
- **Dramaturge** for *Kwe Kalyet: Lwanda Magere Revisited* Ignite Afrika Trust — March 2019 to June 2019. Contract.
- **Director and Developmental Dramaturge** for *A Lesson on Justice* by Jay Sanni. Black Arts Matter (BAM!), Chinook Series — Winter 2019. Contract.
- **Director and Playwright** for *Fumbo* by Mukonzi Musyoki. Black Arts Matter (BAM!), Chinook Series — Winter 2019. Contract.
- **Fulltime Resident Dramaturge at Workshop West Playwright Theatre (WWPT)**. Lead for script evaluation, production dramaturgy, outreach, research and play development — July 2018 to July 2019. Contract.
- **Production Dramaturge and Outreach Coordinator:** *Matara* by Conni Massing, Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre — August to December 2018. Contract.
- **Production Dramaturge,** *Three Mysterious Women* by Peter Elliot Weiss, Stage Lab Festival — June to August 2018. Contract.
- **Assistant Director and Dramaturge,** *Wasp* by Steve Martin. Fringe Festival — August 2018. Contract.

- **Assistant Director**, *Exit the King* by Eugene Ionesco. Studio Theatre, Timms Centre for the Arts, University of Alberta — April 2018.
- **Developmental Dramaturge**, *Call of the Wild* (an adaptation) by Vern Thiessen. The Stratford Festival — November 2017 to February 2018. Contract.
- **Production Dramaturge** for *John Ware Reimagined* by Cheryl Foggo. Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre — November to December 2017. Contract.
- **Production Dramaturge**, *Skriker* by Caryl Churchill. ABBEDAM Productions, Second Playing Space, University of Alberta — November 2017.
- **A Literary Intern for Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre** working on new play dramaturgy, playwright in development and research coordinator — Spring and Summer 2017.
- **Dramaturge for New Play Development** at the Victoria School of Arts — Spring 2017. Contract.
- **Production Dramaturge** for *Bright Burning* by Colleen Murphy. Studio Theatre, Timms Centre for the Arts, University of Alberta — Winter 2017. Contract.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- **Office Administrator** at Dialfreight East Africa Limited, Kenya — January to June 2016. Contract.
- **English and Creatives Assistant Editor** at Longhorn Publishers, Kenya — August to December 2014. Contract.
- **Assistant Editor** at Writers Guild Kenya at Kenyatta University, Kenya — April to July 2014. Volunteer.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** for Drama 103: Play Analysis — Winter 2018.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** for Drama 101: Introduction to Theatre Arts — Fall 2017.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** for Drama 203: Performance Analysis — Winter 2017.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** for Drama 101: Introduction to Theatre Arts — Fall 2016.
- **Guest Lecturer** at the University of Alberta and Concordia University of Edmonton

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Research Assistant** for Theatrical Interactions for Change (TIC), Ignite Afrika Trust — March 2019 to Present.
- **Supervisor and Coordinator** for Ribbon Rouge Leadership Caucus, strategic planning for art-based community research — Fall 2018 to Winter 2019.
- **Graduate Research Assistant** for Prof. Kathleen Weiss, theatrical academic research, Studio Theatre seasonal planning and production research — Fall 2016 to Winter 2018.
- **Graduate Research Assistant** for Prof. Jan Selman working on new play development, script analysis, production research and staging. *Bright Burning* by Colleen Murphy — Fall 2016 to Winter 2017.
- **Graduate Research Assistant** for Prof. Donia Mounsef working on academic and production research — Fall 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

CREATIVE WORKS:

- **Composer and Performer:** “Mirror! Mirror! On the White Wall”: **Crossing Bridges** a project funded by KIAS (Kule Institute for Advanced Study) at Campus Saint-Jean — December 2018.
- **Playwright:** New Works Festival, *Fumbo*: Staged reading and talkback session on writing about violence in postcolonial African context — November 2018.
- **Playwright:** Black Arts Matter (BAM!) in Chinook Series, *The Golden Handshake: A* stage reading with a talkback session on writing about homosexuality within an African context — February 2018.
- **Playwright:** New Works Festival, *The Golden Handshake*: Staged reading and talkback session on writing about homosexuality in postcolonial African context — November 2017.

CONFERENCES ACTIVITIES:

- Musyoki J. M, “Re-suturing The Kenyan National Identity: Displacement and Reconciliation in Francis Imbuga’s *The Return of Mgofu*.” **MLCS Graduate Student Conference**, University of Alberta. February, 2019.
- Musyoki J. M, “Time and Place as Definitive Aspects of Postcolonialism in Francis Imbuga’s *The Green Cross of Kafira*.” **MLCS Graduate Student Conference**, University of Alberta. February, 2018.
- **Organizing Committee for Hum 101 Conference:** University of Alberta. June, 2018.
 - **Participant and Facilitator:** “*Reconstructing Leadership the Young Way*” (A Conference focusing on leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship). Kenyatta University. November, 2013.
 - **Participant and Volunteer:** “*The Art of Investment*” Kenya College of Accountancy University. March, 2013.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING RECEIVED

- **Bleviss/Motkovich Family Award in Drama.** The Department of Drama, January 2020.
- **Graduate Research Assistantship.** Department of Drama, University of Alberta, September 2019.
- **Doctoral Recruitment Award,** Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta, September 2019.
- **Alberta Provincial Archives Grant** for Play Development and Production; Dramaturge and Director, June 2019 to August 2019.
- **Graduate Student Internship Program (GSIP)** Grant, September 2018.
- **Research Fellow for Dramaturgical Research for Ignite Africa** (a cross-cultural theatre project carried out by Canadian and Kenyan artists and academics under supervision of Prof. Jan Selman), September 2018.
- **Workshop Funding, Alberta Foundation for the Arts,** Theatre for Living's Rainbow of Desire Workshop, November 2017.
- **SCiP (Serving Communities Internship Program) Internship Scholarship,** for research, dramaturgy and script evaluation. April 2017 to August 2017.
- Graduate Research Assistantship. **Department of Drama,** University of Alberta, January 2017.
- **Harriet Snowball Winspear Graduate Scholarship** in the Faculty of Arts, September 2016.

- Graduate Research Assistantship. **Department of Drama**, University of Alberta, September 2016.

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- **Arts and Expression Coordinator** for Ribbon Rouge Foundation. Supervising and collaborating with local dramatists, painters, dancers, poets and writers to facilitate a listening campaign dealing with health disparity in Alberta among people of African descent (Black, Caribbean and African) — July 2018 to the present.
- **Trainer, Mentor and Organiser** for Kipaji Youth Training Program via Ignite Afrika Trust Kenya in Kisumu County, Kenya from March 2019 to July 2019.
- **Mentor** for Winter and Spring interns at Workshop West Playwright's Theatre for an entire 40th season — January 2019 to April 2019.
- The **Drama Coordinator for Humanities 101**, University of Alberta, a course dealing with incorporation of the community into the institution, working with victims of trauma, the elderly and members of community who are not privileged to get university education — Fall 2016 to Spring 2018.
- **Treasurer of the GDSS (Graduate Drama Students Society)**, Fall 2016 to Winter 2018.
- **Participant and Volunteer**; Mater Heart Run a Community Fundraising Initiative on June 2015.
- **Participant and Volunteer**; Mater Heart Run a Community Fundraising Initiative on June 2014.

VOLUNTEERING:

- **Mentor and Supervisor** for **Spring and Summer Interns** through SCiP (Serving Communities Internship Program) Internship Program for Research and Documentation at Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre from January 2019 to June 2019.
- Organizing Committee for Humanities 101 Conference Spring of 2018.
- Volunteer for Stage Lab Front House Summer 2018.
- Volunteer and Organizer for New Works Festival October to November 2017
- **Editor**, through **Kenyatta University Literature Department** for **Writers Guild** from September 2015 to December 2015.
- **Organiser** for “Soft Skills Training Workshop” at **Vision Institute of Professionals** through Student Union Club from **January 2014 to March 2014**.
- **Organiser** for the Conference; “Reconstructing Leadership the Young Way” in Kenyatta University from September 2013 to November 2013 through Bridge Networking Organisation.
- **Organiser** for the conference “The Art of Investment” in Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA) University from January 2013 to March 2013.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- A member of **Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA)** from July 2018.
- Member, **Golden Key International Honor Society** from January 2018.

OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

- Proficient knowledge of basic computerized pedagogy.
- Creative writing and critical thinking.
- Good communication skills.

- Football and volleyball.
- Teaching and public speaking.
- Academic evaluation and research.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English

Kiswahili

Kikamba