

Nambi E. Kelley

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Objective

To obtain a position that fosters creative and professional growth in both academic and artistic settings.

Education

- ! Showrunner's Academy, Writers Guild of America, Diana Son, NYC, 2024
- ! Master of Fine Arts, Interdisciplinary Arts, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont
- ! Bachelor of Fine Arts, Playwriting, The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

Creative Endeavors

Writing & Producing: Film & TV

- ! Show Creator: Untitled Belly Project, (Lionsgate) TBD
- ! Show Creator: Life/Blood, TBD (UCP w Stacey Abrams)
- ! Consulting Producer: Polaris (Small Wonders)
- ! Co-Producer: Bel Air (Peacock)
- ! Executive Story Editor: Lady In The Lake (Apple)
- ! Staff Writer: Our Kind of People (Fox)
- ! Staff Writer: The Chi (Showtime)
- ! Screenwriter: Infants of the Spring (Lagralane Group, pre-production)

Writing: Plays - Representative Productions

- ! *Stokely: The Unfinished Revolution* - Court Theatre
- ! *Re/Memori* - Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Penumbra Theatre Company
- ! *Native Son* - Yale Repertory Theatre, The Acting Co. (NYC Premiere), CTG-LA, Mosaic Theatre, Antaeus Theatre, Marin Theatre, Court Theatre
- ! *Toni Morrison's Jazz* - Marin Theatre Company, Baltimore Center Stage
- ! *Blood* - National Black Theatre (Workshop Production)

- ! *Xtigone* - African American Shakespeare Co., Cal State University East Bay
- ! *For Her As A Piano* - Pegasus/Goodman Theatre
- ! *The First Woman* - Halcyon Theatre, Lincoln Center Director's Lab
- ! *The Book of Living and Dying* - Esplanade Theatre, Singapore Arts Festival

Acting: Television

- ! Chicago Justice - Guest Star - NBC / prod. Dick Wolf
- ! Chicago Med - Co-Star - NBC / prod. Dick Wolf
- ! Search Party - Co-Star - TBS / dir. Ryan McFaul
- ! Madam Secretary - Co-Star - CBS / prod. Tea Leoni
- ! Elementary - Co-Star - CBS / dir. Lucy Liu
- ! *Person of Interest* - Co-Star - CBS / dir. Richard J. Lewis
- ! *The Beast* - Guest Star - A&E / dir. Tom Verica
- ! *City of Angels* - Recurring - CBS / prod. Steven Bochco
- ! *Close to Home* - Recurring - WB Pilot / dir. Brian Robbins
- ! *LA Dragnet* - Co-Star - ABC / dir. Kevin Dowling
- ! *Strong Medicine* - Co-Star - LIFETIME / dir. John Perrin Flynn
- ! *Early Edition* - Co-Star - CBS / dir. Gary Nelson
- ! *Cupid* - Co-Star - ABC / dir. Elodie Keene

Acting: Film

- ! Haunt - Lead - dir. Faith Pennick
- ! Bel Air - Supporting - dir. Christopher Coppola

Acting: Theatre (New York & Regional)

- ! *Kunstler* - Kerry - 59 E 59 Theatres / dir. Meagen Fay
- ! *Pipeline* - Nya - City Theatre / dir. Reg L. Douglas
- ! *The Glass Menagerie* - Laura - Steppenwolf Theatre / dir. Yassen Peyankov
- ! *Harriet Jacobs* - Harriet - Steppenwolf Theatre / dir. Hallie Gordon
- ! *Nikki Giovanni: New Song...* - Nikki - Steppenwolf Theatre / dir. Leslie Holland
- ! *Come Back... Jimmy Dean* - Edna Louise - Steppenwolf Theatre / dir. Jonathan Berry
- ! *The Marriage of Bette & Boo* - Joanie - Steppenwolf Theatre / dir. Kim Rubenstein

- ! *Balm in Gilead* - Ann - Steppenwolf Theatre / dir. K. Todd Freeman
- ! *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* - Mattie - Goodman Theatre / dir. Chuck Smith
- ! *Two Trains Running* - Risa - Goodman Theatre / dir. Chuck Smith
- ! *The Good Negro* - Claudette - Goodman Theatre / dir. Chuck Smith
- ! *The Ballad of Emmett Till* - Ruthie May - Goodman Theatre / dir. Oz Scott
- ! *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* - Ernestine - Goodman Theatre / dir. Chuck Smith
- ! *Drowning Crow* - Mary - Goodman Theatre / dir. Kate Whoriskey
- ! *Antigone* - Ismene - South Coast Repertory / dir. Kate Whoriskey
- ! *Court Martial at Fort Devens* - Ginny Boyd - New Federal Theatre / dir. Mary Beth Easley
- ! *Charleston Olio (opposite Phylicia Rashad)* - Lizzy May - Natl Black Theatre Festival / dir. Ifa Bayeza
- ! *Harriet Jacobs* - Harriet - Kansas City Repertory / dir. Jessica Thebus
- ! *Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill* - Lady Day - Fleetwood Jourdain / dir. Phil Van Lear
- ! *Gees Bend* - Sadie - Arkansas Repertory / dir. Gilbert McCauley
- ! *Seven Guitars* - Vera - TheatreWorks / dir. Clinton Turner Davis
- ! *Midsummer Night's Dream* - Hermia - Arts Lanes / dir. Paige Hearn

Acting: Theatre (International)

- ! *The Book of Living and Dying (co-writer)* - Eve - Singapore Arts Festival / dir. Chong Tze Chien
- ! *The Book of Living and Dying (co-writer)* - Eve - Esplanade Theatre / dir. Chong Tze Chien
- ! *Twelve Animals* - Ox, Horse, Rooster - LATT Theatre (Korea) / dir. Roger Rynd
- ! *The Shadow Thief* - Anna - LATT Theatre / dir. Roger Rynd
- ! *The Little Dragon* - Collector - LATT Theatre / dir. Roger Rynd

Professional Writing Affiliations

- ! National Black Theatre, Playwright-in-Residence
- ! Goodman Theatre, Playwrights Unit & Lila Wallace Fellowship Recipient
- ! Steppenwolf Theatre, New Plays Lab Playwright-in-Residence

- ! Dramatists Guild Fellowship (NYC & Chicago)
- ! LaMama Playwrights Symposium Playwright-in-Residence, Spoleto, Italy
- ! Ragdale Foundation, Residency Selection Committee
- ! Space on Ryder Farm, Creative Residency Artist
- ! Going to the River Playwrights Unit at the Lark, New York City
- ! Danny Glover's Robey Theatre Co. Playwriting Lab (formerly the Blacksmys at the Mark Taper Forum)
- ! MPAACT Playwright-in-Residence, Chicago

Awards & Recognitions

- ! Prince Charitable Trust Prize (\$25,000, 2019)
- ! Dramatists Guild Foundation Writers Grant Award (\$5000, 2019)
- ! Stage Raw Awards - Best Adaptation (*Native Son*)
- ! Broadway World Award - Best Adaptation (*Native Son*)
- ! Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination - Best Adaptation (*Native Son*)
- ! Kevin Spacey Foundation Award (Finalist)
- ! O'Neill Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist
- ! Black Ensemble Theatre, Chicago Playwright Award
- ! Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare Individual Artist Partner in Recovery Award
- ! Peace Maker of the Year Award, The Peace Museum & Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream

Executive Producing

Pigfoot Mary's Harlem Renaissance

Producer, First Woman LLC

- ! National Tour: Pigfoot Mary's Harlem Renaissance
- ! Description: A 45-minute play featuring about the birth of the food trucks in Harlem through one Black woman's journey
- ! Performance Dates: January 10, 2027 – March 21, 2027

Hero: The Boy from Troy

Producer, First Woman LLC

- ! National Tour: Hero: The Boy from Troy – A New Musical About Young John Lewis

- ! Description: A 45-minute play featuring original songs spanning hip-hop to gospel telling the story of Young John Lewis
- ! Performance Dates: January 17, 2025 – March 21, 2025 & January 15-March 6, 2026
- ! Source: BroadwayWorld.com

Jabari Dreams of Freedom

Producer, First Woman LLC

- ! National Tour: Jabari Dreams of Freedom
- ! Description: A 45-minute play featuring original songs spanning hip-hop to gospel telling the story of a young boy afraid to leave the house and encounters Barack Obama who takes him on an odyssey through time.
- ! Performance Dates: December 2021 – April 2022, December 2022 – April 2023
- ! Award-Winning Film Adaptation: Adapted into an award-winning film, screened at festivals worldwide

Academic & Teaching Experience

Adjunct Work

- ! Lake Forest College, IL (2008-2013) - Playwriting & African American Theatre
- ! University of Illinois at Chicago, (2015) – Playwriting & African American Theatre
 - o taught classes in playwriting and African-American Theatre, included seminar and field trips, in depth analysis, helping students create original plays, and using the John Dewey method of centering the student in their learning.

Guest Lecturer & Playwright-in-Residence

- ! University of Michigan (2007), University of Denver (2006), Williams College (2003)
 - o Designed and implemented curriculum for theatre and non-theatre majors
 - o Led workshops and workshopped professional scripts with students
 - o Organized theatre projects, field trips, and discussions on African American theatre

International Artistic/Academic Projects:

Project Director, 3P World AIDS Day Theatre Project, Tanzania, Africa (2005-2006)

- ! Organized an international performance piece with artists from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and the U.S.

- ! Conducted performance workshops in Tanzania
- ! Managed grants, fundraising, and promotional campaigns

Curriculum Director/Artist-in-Residence, LATT Institute of the Arts, Seoul, Korea (2003-2005)

- ! Designed and implemented an English language and integrative arts program for Korean children
- ! Supervised international teaching artists and directed student productions