

# Claudia Brownlee

Costume Design | Claudise93@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

**Carnegie Mellon University** Pittsburgh PA

MFA Costume Design | 2023

**University of Maryland** College Park, MD

BA Theater | 2017

**Fashion Institute of Technology**, New York, NY

AAS Fashion Design | 2014

**Baltimore City Community College**, Baltimore, MD

Fashion Design | September 2011 - 2012

## EXPERIENCE

**Pittsburgh Opera, Director of Costumes**

Pittsburgh, PA - Present

- Utilize extensive knowledge of history, costume history, costume design, and costume construction techniques.
- Prepare budgets and forecasts for all costume and wardrobe aspects of productions, including labor and materials.
- Organize costume rental packages, assist guest costume designers
- Manage costume shop staff

**Carnegie Mellon University, Adjunct Faculty Costume Design**  
2023

Course: *Who Wore What: When, Where, and Why*

- Year-long survey course examining the development of global dress and identity from ancient civilizations to the first half of the 20th century.
- Explores the progression of trade and technology, and political and economic developments in history are their influence on dress.
- Taught to both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Included hands-on activities and museum visits to contextualize the material.

**Carnegie Museum of Art, Museum Educator**

Present

- Create lesson plans for children and patrons of the museum to learn and connect with the art exhibits at the Carnegie Museum of Art.
- Collaborate with other Museum educators to find new and exciting experiences for museum patrons.
- Lead camps for children that involve sewing and art skills.

**Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, PA, Class Instructor, Introduction to Photoshop  
March 2023 - May 2023

## Select Costume Design

**12 Ophelias Pittsburgh Playhouse | 2025**

**Jerry's Girls Pittsburgh Playhouse | 2025**

**The Color Purple** Pittsburgh CLO | 2024

**Lady Day** Pittsburgh CLO | 2024

**Così fan Tutte** CMU | Pittsburgh, PA 2023

**Robin Hood** Pittsburgh Public Theater 2022

**Kennedy Play** CMU | Pittsburgh, PA 2021

**James Van Der Zee** workshop | Pittsburgh, PA 2021

**Billy Elliot** COCA | St. Louis MO 2021

**A Late Summer Night's Stroll** Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis | St. Louis MO 2020

**Winter Rep: Movement in Color** COCA | St. Louis MO 2019

**Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963** COCA | St. Louis MO 2019

**Such Sweet Thunder** Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis | St. Louis MO 2019

**Freya** by Lyra Yang | Film 2019

**Into The Woods** COCA | St. Louis MO 2019

**TRIumphant** COCA | St. Louis, MO 2019

**MOMENTUM** COCA | St. Louis, MO 2019

**The Little Dancer** COCA | St. Louis MO 2018

**Evelyn's Bracelet** by Lyra Yang | Film 2018

**If/Then** The Theatre Lab | Washington DC 2018

**Peepshow** Dog and Pony DC, Woolly Mammoth 2018

**My Life has been Like Water** by Mark Castello, The Clarice | College Park, MD 2017

**Homage to my Twenties** by Kelly Colburn, The Clarice | College Park, MD 2017

**Goldfish** by Shuping Yang, The Clarice | College Park, MD 2016

**This is our Youth**, The Clarice | College Park, MD 2015

## Costume Design Assistant

**Murder on the Orient Express** CD: Hugh Hanson, Pittsburgh Public Theatre 2022

**"The Remains"** CD: Ásta Hólestter, Studio Theater 2018

**"Word Becomes Flesh"** CD: Marci Rodgers, Anacostia Playhouse 2017

**"Afro Victorian"** CD: Marci Rodgers, Photo-shoot Co-Wardrobe Stylist RDioneFoto 2016

**Black Nativity** CD: Marci Rodgers, Alliance Theater 2014

# Claudia Brownlee

- Offer real-world learning materials for students to use within their field of focus.
- Plan, prepare, and deliver lesson plans and instructional materials facilitating active learning.
- Develops schemes of work, lesson plans, and tests that are in accordance with established procedures.
- Instruct and monitor students in the use of learning materials and equipment.

**Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, PA, Teacher Assistant, Costume History  
August 2021 - May 2023

- Assist the instructor **monthly** by creating new lectures to innovate the course curriculum.
- Responsible for assignment and quiz creation on topics such as Western Cultures from Prehistory-Modern Day and Indigenous Cultures.
- Present class lectures and provide space for civil discourse.
- Work with students to ensure comprehension of coursework and material.

**Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, PA, Draping Teacher Assistant  
August 2022 - December 2022

- Assisted instructor by prepping materials and paperwork for class
- Worked with students to ensure comprehension of coursework
- Provided feedback to students that will enhance their academic growth

**Center of Creative Arts**, St. Louis, MO, Costume Manager  
September 2018 - December 2020

- Worked with students of all ages on performances and conducted relational teaching about professionalism.
- Designed Costumes and managed the shop for mainstage productions.
- Supervised costume shop, storage, and production wardrobe.
- Managed daily projects: scheduling meetings, fittings, and design work.
- Interview and hire costume interns and seasonal staff.
- Maintained annual costume shop budget for supplies and 5-6 productions annually.

**WolfTrap Summer Opera**, Fairfax VA — *Stitcher, Summer 2017/2018*

- Worked directly with Wolf Trap Opera's Costume Shop Manager and Costume Designers to construct all costumes, alterations, and maintenance for the summer season.
- Worked as a wardrobe supervisor and wardrobe crew during the run of each show.

**Washington National Opera**, Washington DC — *Stitcher, 2018*

- Communicated with Drapers and firsthand on garment construction from corsets, petticoats, and other costume items.
- Worked on constructing craft items, i.e., hats, boots, belts, and jewelry.

**The Clarice Smith Center of Performing Arts**, College Park MD— *Stitcher, 2018*

- Worked with Drapers on garment construction and alterations.
- Worked on constructing craft items, i.e., Hats, boots, belts, and jewelry.

**Intimate Apparel** CD: Marci Rodgers, University of Maryland 2015

**Fall 2015 MFA Dance Thesis** CD: Tyler Gunther, University of Maryland 2015

## TV/FILM PA

### **"BlackKlansman"**

**dir. Spike Lee, des. Marci Rodgers**, New York, NY — Costume PA, 2017

## SKILLS

Art and design research skills, Detail oriented, Ability to work in fast-paced environments  
Strong communication skills, Ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously, and  
Problem-solving, Strong Organizational skills

### Technical

- Flat Pattern and Draping
- Garment construction
- Alterations
- Flats and Specs
- Illustrations

### Computer

- Adobe Photoshop and, Illustrator
- Maya
- ZBrush
- Procreate
- Microsoft Suit

## Research Topics

### **Theatre Translation Across Cultures: "The American Audience and French Stage"**

University of Maryland College Park Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

### **"Kombucha Boom"**

Carnegie Mellon University, MFA Thesis