

**DEBORAH SALEM SMITH**

[dsalemsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:dsalemsmith@yahoo.com)

**EDUCATION:**

M.A. English Literature, emphasis in Drama, Boston University, 2002

M.F.A. Creative Writing, emphasis in Poetry, University of Michigan, 1999

A.B. Art and Archaeology, graduated cum laude, Princeton University, 1996  
Selected to write an additional thesis in poetry

**PLAYS:**

***Faithful Cheaters***

Workshop, Trinity Repertory Company, 2015

Workshop, Trinity Repertory Company, September 2014

Reading, New Play Week, Trinity Repertory Company, July 2013

***Love Alone***

Reading, Women's Project Theater, New York City, 2014

Indy Week (North Carolina) Best Play of 2014 selection

IRNE Award Finalist: Best New Play of 2013

Full production, PlayMakers Repertory Company, dir. Vivienne Benesch, 2014

Full Production, The University of Utah, 2013

Staged Reading, University of Virginia, 2013

Premiere, Trinity Repertory Company, 2012

Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, 2011

Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, Honorable Mention, 2011

Workshop, Trinity Repertory Company, led by Melissa Kievman, 2011

MacDowell Colony Residency for development of the play, 2010

Reading, New Play Week, Trinity Repertory Company, August 2010

Reading, Trinity Repertory Company, April 2010

National semifinalist, O'Neill Playwrights Conference, 2010

***Some Things Are Private***

Production, University of California, Davis, 2010

Premiere, Trinity Repertory Company, dir. Laura Kepley, 2008

“Critic’s Pick,” *The Boston Globe*, 2008

Week-long workshop with cast, Trinity Repertory Company, 2006

Full company workshop, New Play Week, Trinity Repertory Company, 2006

Commission from Trinity Repertory Company, 2006

***Boots on the Ground*** (as D. Salem Smith)

Production, Elms College, 2008

Reading, Yale University, joint production schools of Divinity and Law, 2007

Reading, *Reading Across Rhode Island*, 2007

Premiere, Trinity Repertory Company, dir. Laura Kepley, April 2006

Commission from Trinity Repertory Company, 2005

***Good Business***

Reading, Trinity Repertory Company, 2007

Reading and workshop, New Play Week, Trinity Repertory Company, 2007

**AWARDS and HONORS:**

New Play Commission, Trinity Repertory Company, 2014

Commission, *Defeat is an Orphan* (one-act), Lifespan Hospitals, 2013

Bray Visiting Scholar/Creative Artists Fellowship, Alpert Medical School at Brown University, 2012-2013

Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, 2011

Honorable Mention, Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, 2011

MacDowell Colony Residency, 2010

Playwright-in-Residence, Trinity Repertory Company, Rhode Island, 2007-present

Fulbright Emerging American Artist (Playwriting) Fellowship, Dublin, Ireland, 2004-2005

Rhode Island School of Design Humanities Travel Award to Belfast, Ireland, 2004

Andrew Mellon National Fellowship in the Humanities, 2001-2002

Hopwood Major Essay Award, 1999

Nominated for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award and the David & Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Teaching, University of Michigan, 1999

University of Michigan Travel Grant Award, Oxford, England, 1998

Colby Fellowship in Creative Writing, University of Michigan, 1997

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship in Poetry, University of Michigan, 1997

Francis LeMoyne Page Visual Arts Award, Princeton University, 1996

Morris W. Croll Poetry Prize, Honorable Mention, Princeton University, 1996

Ward Poetry Prize for Superior Work in Poetry, Princeton University, 1995

#### **PUBLIC TALKS:**

Grand Rounds Speaker, Rhode Island Hospital (also streamed live to affiliate hospitals), "Defeat is an Orphan," 2013

Panelist at Ocean State Summer Writing Conference, "Playwriting with Tony Estrella, Deborah Salem Smith, and Kate Snodgrass," 2013

Panelist at "Communicating Through Art: Encoding and Decoding Creative Meaning," Princeton University, 2013

Invited Lecturer, Medical Center Hour: Medicine and Society in Conversation, University of Virginia, "A Playwright Takes on Medical Malpractice and Forgiveness," 2013

Grand Rounds Speaker, Rhode Island Hospital (also streamed live to affiliate hospitals), "Setting the Stage: A Playwright's Take on Malpractice," 2012

Invited Lecturer, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University, "But I'm a Good Doctor: A Playwright Takes on Medical Malpractice," 2012

Keynote Speaker, Medical Arts Weekend, Courthouse Center for the Arts, "But I'm a Good Doctor: A Playwright Takes on Medical Malpractice," 2012

Interview, WRNI Rhode Island's NPR station, "Artscape: Telling the Story Behind a Medical Mistake," 2012

Invited Lecturer, St. Georges School, *Day of Action: Playwriting and Marriage Equality*, 2012

Panelist at "The Playwright's Process," with writers Sarah Ruhl and Charlotte Meehan, Trinity Repertory Company, 2007

Invited Lecturer, Leisure Learning Lecture Series, East Greenwich, RI, 2007

Moderator for post-show discussions for Trinity Repertory Company, 2006-2007

Moderator for an interview with painter Jill Moser, University of Rhode Island, 2006

Panelist at "The Artist as Citizen," Boston Theater Conference, 2006

Poetry reading for The Literary Festival Series, San Rafael, CA, 2000

Poetry reading for The Mark Webster Reading Series, Ann Arbor, MI, 1998

Poetry reading for The Arts Council's Reading Series, Princeton, NJ, 1996

Poetry reading for The Reading Series, Princeton, NJ, 1996

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

*Love Alone*. Published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc., March 2015.

"Great Art is Local: Playwright Deborah Salem Smith Interviews Curt Columbus, Artistic Director of Trinity Repertory Company." *HowlRound* March 2015.

"The Case for Long-Term Playwright Residencies." *HowlRound* January 2015.

"A Playwright's Perspective: Deborah Salem Smith interviews Stephen Thorne." *The Trinity Square Magazine* Winter 2011.

"A Playwright's Perspective: Deborah Salem Smith interviews writer Pamela Gien." *The Trinity Square Magazine* Winter 2010.

"A Playwright's Perspective: Deborah Salem Smith interviews writer Steven Dietz." *The Trinity Square Magazine* Fall 2009.

"A Playwright's Perspective: Deborah Salem Smith interviews writer Laura Schellhardt." *The Trinity Square Magazine* Spring 2009.

"A Playwright's Perspective: Deborah Salem Smith interviews set designer James Schuette." *The Trinity Square Magazine* Holiday 2008.

"A Playwright's Perspective: Deborah Salem Smith interviews writer Adam Bock." *The Trinity Square Magazine* Winter 2008.

“A Playwright’s Perspective: Antigone Today.” *The Trinity Square Magazine* Fall 2008.

“Behind Closed Doors.” *The Trinity Square Magazine* Fall 2007.

“Carol in a Minor Key: Deborah Salem Smith interviews director Amy Morton.” *The Trinity Square Magazine* Winter 2006.

“A Preface: The Diminishment of Infinity” and “Material Origin of Ethics.” *Berkeley Poetry Review* Issue 33 2001. (Both poems published as *D. Salem Smith*.)

“A Teacher’s Viewpoint.” *ABC News* (Internet) January 1997.

### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:**

**Playwright-in-Residence**, 2007-present

*Trinity Repertory Company*, Providence, Rhode Island

**Teaching Associate**, 2009-present

*Brown University/ Trinity Rep M.F.A. Program*

Created and taught Playwriting for first year M.F.A. students in Acting and Directing

Taught Core (Advanced Playwriting) for second and third year M.F.A. students

**Producer**, 2010-present

*Brown University/ Trinity Rep M.F.A. Program*

First Look Play Festival

**Bray Visiting Scholar/Creative Artists Fellowship**, 2012-2013

*Alpert Medical School of Brown University*

Created and taught (Play)writing and Medicine, a collaborative course combining Alpert medical students and Brown/Trinity M.F.A. acting students

**Producer**, 2012

*Alpert Medical School of Brown University*

Operating Theatre: A Reading of Collaborative Works by Brown/Trinity M.F.A. Actors and Alpert Medical Students

**Dramaturg**, 2010-2011

*Trinity Repertory Company*

*The Completely Fictional—Utterly True—Final Strange Tale of Edgar Allan Poe*  
by Stephen Thorne, directed by Curt Columbus

**Script Reader**, 2010

*WordBRIDGE*

Reviewed and critiqued play submissions for the Playwrights Laboratory

**National Judge**, 2009

*University of Michigan*

Hopwood Prize in Playwriting (for undergraduate and graduate students)

**Dramaturg**, 2009

*Trinity Repertory Company*

*The Secret Rapture* by David Hare, directed by Curt Columbus

**Guest Artist**, 2007-2009

*Rhode Island Council for the Humanities' Speaker's Bureau*

Topic: Theater and the State of Our State During the War in Iraq

**Guest Artist**, 2006

*Brown University/ Trinity Rep Consortium*

Led a workshop with director Laura Kepley for M.F.A. students in Acting and Directing

**Adjunct Faculty**, 2005-2006

*Rhode Island College*

Created and taught Creative Writing, a multimedia curriculum including drama, fiction, and poetry. Designed and taught honors and regular sections of College Writing, an interdisciplinary study of voice focused on the personal, argumentative, and analytical essay forms. Member of Composition Committee.

**Script Reader**, 2005

*The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center*

Reviewed and critiqued play submissions for the National Playwrights Conference

**O'Neill Critics Institute**, 2005

*The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center*

Selected for the critical training program which runs concurrently with new play development at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference

**Reader's Panel Member**, 2004-2005

*The Abbey Theatre, Ireland's National Theatre*

Reviewed and critiqued play submissions

**Visiting Academic**, 2004-2005

*Trinity College, School of Drama at the Samuel Beckett Centre, Dublin, Ireland*

**Adjunct Faculty**, 2002-2004

*Rhode Island School of Design*

Created and taught Introduction to Playwriting; also Literature and Composition, a multimedia curriculum on essay forms. Designed and taught two upper level theater courses: Intimacy in Motion, in which students created performance art; also Revision and Revolt, a study of structure in political 20th Century Drama. Advisor for original play written and produced by the Asian Cultural Association Committee Member and Drama Instructor for the Summer Program in English Language Studies for incoming students who were non-native speakers of English.

**Student Evaluations available upon request:** *Consistently received very high scores on student evaluations from all schools.*