

Elle Thoni (they/them pronouns)

Playwright & Public Artist

210 West St. #3

Pittsburgh, PA 15221

elle.thoni@gmail.com | 507-421-2673

ellethoni.com



FULL LENGTH WORKS (SELECTED)

Monstrous, or, A Short Narrative on an Extraordinary Delivery of Rabbits

- Semi-finalist for the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, 2024 (still in-process)
- Second place recipient, Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival New Play Program, 2023
- Region 2 nomination - National Partners of the American Theatre Playwriting Award, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival New Play Program, 2023

Queen B: A New Work of Honeybee Futurism (original musical with book & libretto by Elle Thoni, music by Dameun Strange with additional contributions by Carlisle Evans-Peck)

- 2021 Southern MN Farm & Green Spaces Tour, Wild Conspiracy (artist's company), directed by Harry Waters Jr. with funding from 2020 Arts Tour Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Franconia Sculpture Park, and Dreamery Rural Arts Initiative
- 2019 Workshop Production, Wild Conspiracy (artist's company), funded by a 2019 Artist's Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board

Saber, MN (original audio play with score by Carlisle Evans-Peck)

- Audio play release December 2020 with funding from the Arts Impact for Individuals Grant of the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (Twin Cities, MN)
- Commissioned by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater (Minneapolis) for "Coming Home To Wild" as funded by 2019 NEA Art Works Grant, live premiere canceled due to COVID-19.

Aquanesia (live outdoor adventure game, Game Writer Elle Thoni in collaboration with Game Designer Kim Loken and Art Director Bayou Bay)

- Premiere productions in Grand Rapids, MN (Reif Performing Arts Center) and Rochester, MN (Rochester Arts Center) Sept-Oct 2018
- Commissioned by Northern Lights.mn (Twin Cities, MN) with funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Bestiary of Rogues

- Finalist submission for MFA Playwriting Programs at Brown and Yale Universities, 2016

(FULL-LENGTH WORKS CON'T)

Woolly: A De-Extinction Play

- Athena Project “Read & Rant” Featured Play, Oct 2022
- Finalist submission for Jerome Fellowship in Playwriting (Playwrights’ Center) 2018
- Awarded acceptance to MFA Playwriting program, Columbia University, 2015 (never enrolled).

SHORTER PLAYS (SELECTED)

Moon Zoo

- Playwrights Symposium selection, Mid-Atlantic Theater Conference, upcoming 2024
- Student showing, Playground XXI Festival, Carnegie Mellon University, Dec 2023

Lost Lake

- Premiere production, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater (Minneapolis, MN) March 2018 as part of 2017/2018 Puppet Lab Fellowship

Modern Anxiety Goes to the Beach (co-created with Kat Luna and Kat Purcell)

- Remount at Mother Goose’s Bedtime Stories (Minneapolis, MN), Oct 21, 2018
- Juried performance at Queertopia (Minneapolis, MN), June 20-23 2018

The First Whale

- Merit Award, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival - Region 2, January 2023
- Reading, The Future is Female Festival (Olympia, WA), April 2017
- Reading, The Rose Festival (Montréal, Canada), May 2017

ADDITIONAL RECENT AWARDS (SELECTED)

- Semi-finalist, Princess Grace Playwriting Award, New Dramatists, 2023
- Writer-in-residence, The New Harmony Project, 2023
- Awardee, Further Fund Grant, Frank Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry (Pittsburgh), 2023
- Finalist, CMU-Alfred P. Sloan Screenwriting Competition
- Finalist, R&D Group, The Civilians (NYC), 2022
- Awardee, Travel Grant, Network of Ensemble Theaters, 2020
- Script Pitch New Play Commission, Walking Shadow Theater Company (Mpls), 2019
- Finalist, Bell Museum of Natural History Artist-in-Residence, 2019
- Finalist, Jerome Fellowship in Playwriting, The Playwrights’ Center, 2018

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA - MFA Dramatic Writing

Pursuing, anticipated May 2024. Studying with Rob Handel, enrolled in the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence Future Faculty Certificate Program.

Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN - BA Theatre for Social Change, Summa Cum Laude

SEPT 2007 - JULY 2011

A self-designed, interdisciplinary degree in theatre arts, literature, and sociology with an emphasis on applied learning and field research. Included Performance as Social Change semester at University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa) in partnership with NYU's Tisch School of Art, as well as a Writing for Social Change semester through the Higher Education Consortium of Urban Affairs (Twin Cities, MN).

Perpich Center for Arts Education, Golden Valley, MN - High School Diploma, Literary Arts concentration

PROFESSIONAL PLAYWRITING APPRENTICESHIP

Mentor, Annabel Soutar — Porte Parole Productions (Montréal, Québec, Canada) 2013-2015

FELLOWSHIPS & JURIED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (RECENT)

Puppet Lab Fellow, In the Heart of the Beast/Jerome Foundation, 2017-2018

Composer-Librettist Studio, Nautilus Music-Theater (St. Paul, MN), 2017

PUBLIC ART CURATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Manager, Our Space is Spoken For Fellowship, 2018, inaugural year of BIPOC performance-as-public art fellowship housed under Twin Cities Media Alliance

Assistant Curator, Northern Spark 2017 Festival "Climate Chaos I People Rising", public art festival produced by Northern Lights.mn, head curator Steve Dietz

Project Manager, Water Shed installation, Porte Parole Productions, 2014-2015 developed and presented as a part of the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada.

TEACHING

Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA), 2022-present

- T.A. Eco-Theater under Wendy Arons, Spring 2024
- Instructor of Record, Documentary Theater, Fall 2023
- T.A. Basics of Self-Producing for Theater Artists under Rob Handel, Spring 2023

JungleWrites, Jungle Theater (Minneapolis, MN), 2018-2019 & 2017-2018, 7-month long mentorship program with adolescent womxn and gender-nonconforming playwrights.

Teaching Artist Fellow, SteppingStone Theatre for Youth (St. Paul, MN), 2011-2012

PUBLICATIONS (RECENT)

On Hauling Water: Outdoor Theatre as Re-Enchantment amidst Climate Crisis, Howlround Theatre Commons, May 2022, web.

Controlled Burn [image], Dark Mountain Issue 19, Spring 2021, print and web.

The Show Must Not Go On: Curing Theatre in the Age of COVID-19, MinnesotaPlaylist, April 2020, web.

SPEAKING AND CONFERENCE ROLES

Public Health, Private Spaces - creative response generator, Carnegie Mellon University, Oct 28, 2022

From Seeds to Movements, Feminist Leadership in Climate Justice - panelist speaker, University of MN, March 3, 2020

Making It Public - panelist speaker, Forecast Public Art (St. Paul, MN), Nov 19, 2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS - The Dramatists Guild, The Playwright's Center (Mpls, MN)