

# TAMARA L. KISSANE

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**Piedmont Laureate, 2020**  
**Outstanding Contribution to the Arts from Chatham Life & Style, 2020**

## PODCAST EXPERIENCE

**Founder & Executive Director, Artist Soapbox**, Durham, NC. 2017-present.

- Host and producer of podcast featuring original audio fiction + interviews with Triangle-area (North Carolina) artists about their creative process. Currently at episode #151.
- Producer, director, and writer of two full length audio plays (Master Builder; The New Colossus), audio anthology (Declaration of Love), 10 minute shorts (ASBX Shorts, Creekside with Winona), Additional audio plays in development.
- Co-facilitator of Soapbox Audio Collective group for aspiring audio dramatists
- Panelist, Workshop leader, and Speaker: National Women's Theatre Festival, HOME BREW, Triangle ArtWorks Lunch & Learn, Dramatist Guild NC, Beltline to Broadway, Justice Theatre Project, Musical Theatre Factory (MTFxR), UNC Humanities, North Carolina Writers Network.
- Named best local podcast by Indyweek, 2018.
- Recipient of Durham150 grant, Mary Duke Biddle Foundation grant, Manbites Dog Theater grant.

## Selected Writing Experience

### PLAYWRIGHT

*Love, Chrysanthemum (working title)*, Honest Pint, commissioned musical theatre piece in development, reading TBD 2021.

*NICE WHITE PARENTS 2016*, selected and featured in The Sips & Scripts New Works Festival 2021 (NC Playwrights Lab).

*Radiant Edges of the Earth*, Burning Coal ~ Annual Oakwood play series, Fall 2021.

*Love and Kisses*, Seed Art Share, Our Stage, Your Screen ~ An evening of Zoom plays, February 2021.

*Game On*, Artist Soapbox, audio anthology, 5 minute audio piece, released Oct 2020.

*Thunderclap*, Burning Coal 19th Amendment Project, 10 min play, online August 2020.

- Also produced by Mad Cow Theatre in October 2020.

*Leveraging Mr. Bumble*, PlayMakers Repertory, STUCK monologue, online July 2020.

*The New Colossus*, Artist Soapbox, audio drama, released April 2020.

*Jesus Pancake*, Artist Soapbox, audio drama, release date 2022.

- Staged reading, NC State, University Theatre, Fall 2019

*Master Builder (after Henrik Ibsen)*, Artist Soapbox, audio drama, released July 2019.

- Women's Theatre Festival Fringe Production

*Master Builder (after Henrik Ibsen)*, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, commissioned, full production, January 2018.

*The New Colossus*, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, commissioned, full production, May 2016.

*Girl in the Midst*, REDBIRD Festival, commissioned, festival cancelled, 2016.

### **CO-PLAYWRIGHT**

*ARGO*, University Theatre, NC State University, September 2020.

- Audio adaptation of *Jason and the Argonauts*, co-written with faculty member, Rachel Klem.

*Audio Drama Serials*, Soapbox Audio Collective/Artist Soapbox, 2019-present.

- Facilitating two writers' collectives creating serial audio dramas for release post-COVID.

*Creekside: The Journey of a Young Environmentalist*, Curious Theatre Collective, school performances, 2019.

*Sally's Ride: To space and beyond!*, Curious Theatre Collective, school performances, Fall 2017- 2019.

*NC Mysteries*, Common Wealth Endeavors, commissioned, reading, August 2015.

### **SCRIPT CONTRIBUTOR**

*DEVISED 2020*, University Theatre, NC State University, April 2021.

*The Reckoning*, Archipelago/CINE, feature film, release date 2019.

### **SELECTED PRESS:**

- RDU On Stage: Review: Tamara Kissane's Audio Drama THE NEW COLOSSUS May Satiates the Appetite of Audiences Mourning Live Theater
- IndyWeek: Listen to a New Six-Part Podcast of Tamara Kissane's Unhinged Chekhov

- IndyWeek: Profile on Tamara Kissane and the Master Builder Audio Drama
- Creatives in Conversation: Tamara Kissane: Theatre-maker and Podcast Host
- RDU On Stage: Theater Podcast Featuring Durham Theater-maker Tamara Kissane
- RDU On Stage: Triangle Theater-maker Tamara Kissane writes about the birth of her audio drama
- IndyWeek: The Hidden Link between Tamara Kissane's new play Master Builder and her podcast Artist Soapbox
- The New Colossus Updates Chekhov for an Entitled, Infantile Internet Age
- Seagull adaptation: Clever, engrossing
- Colossal Colossus

## SELECTED RELATED EXPERIENCE

**Workshop Leader and Script Mentor, NC State, University Theatre, Raleigh, NC.** Spring 2018-present.

Mentoring student playwright through the revision process and preparation of her script for a full production at NC State. Conducting workshops on playwriting for students submitting work to the Creative Artist Award competition (spring 2018, winter 2019, spring 2019).

**Founding Member, Curious Theatre Collective, Chapel Hill, NC.** 2016-present.

Theatre ensemble dedicated to telling the stories of remarkable women. Co-wrote and acted in *Sally's Ride: To space and beyond!*, a play for children performed in elementary schools throughout the Triangle. Co-wrote live and audio version of *Creekside: The Journey of a Young Activist*. [www.curioustheatrecollective.com](http://www.curioustheatrecollective.com)

**Script Curator and Facilitator, Public Works co-produced by Artist Soapbox and Mettlesome, Durham, NC.** 2019-2020.

Curated and organized a group of local writers performing their short works in progress (5 mins or less) based on writing prompts. Performances were followed by a conversation with the writers about their creative process and writing for audio.

**Co-leader and co-director, Summer Sisters, Durham, NC.** Summers 2013-2016.

Co-led a group of female theatre artists through the collaborative process of developing and performing an original piece of theatre in a shortened rehearsal time.

**Co-artistic director, playwright, ensemble member, both hands theatre company, Durham, NC.** 1997-2009.

Co-wrote and produced 10 full-length plays, including one of *the Indy's Best Original Scripts* of 2004, 2005, and 2007. Co-led theatre creation workshops, resulting in 2 new full-length plays. Assistant director for 10 original plays and 6 readings. Emphasized community involvement in theatre creation and evaluation, including up to 100

contributing artists in play-development. Focused on ensemble training for company of actors. Press included: 31 articles in 6 papers, including 1 *Independent* cover, 2 front page above-the-fold *Herald Sun* stories, 4 front page spots in the *News and Observer's* Arts or Work & Money sections, and 2 interviews on Frank Stasio's *The State of Things*. Received multiple grants from the North Carolina Arts Council and the Durham Arts Council.

## **EDUCATION**

**Dramatist Guild Institute** classes: Strategies for Adaptation, Script Analysis for Dramatists, Artist as CEO

**Bowling Green State University**, M.A. in College Student Personnel **GPA:** 4.00

**Duke University**, A.B. in Drama and Cultural Anthropology, Magna Cum Laude **GPA:** 3.75

**University College of London**, London, England. Summer Courses

**Honors:** Dean's List with Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa, National Honor Society