

# MATTHIAS KNOX BOLON

he/they | non-union  
matthiasbolon.com

## EDUCATION

### **M.F.A in Shakespeare & Performance**

2023-2025, Mary Baldwin University, Shakespeare & Performance Program. Concentrating in directing and acting for the early modern stage, with additional experience in intimacy choreography, playwriting, dramaturgy, and prop design.

### **M.A. in Theatre & Performance Studies**

2022-2023, University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Theatre & Dance. Training in intimacy choreography, consent-based practices and transgender depictions in theatre.

### **B.A. with honors in Theatre**

2019-2022, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. Training in acting, carpentry, and design basics.

### **A.A in General Studies**

2019, Front Range Community College, Longmont, CO.

### **Continuing Education – Short Courses and Focused Symposia**

- 2023 Creating with Consent: Onstage Intimacies; July 10th-23rd. Instructors Amanda Rose Villarreal, Greg Geffrard, Laura Rikard, Raja Benz. California State University Summer Arts, Fresno.
- 2023 Introduction to Trauma-Informed Communication; February 18th. Instructor Roque Rodriguez. Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, Zoom.
- 2022 Level 2 - Foundations of Intimacy; Nov. 13-Dec. 18. Instructors: Charlie Baker and Zoe Burke. Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, Zoom.
- 2022 Working with Trans and Non-Binary Artists; November 5th. Instructors: Raja Benz and Joy Brooke Fairfield. Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, Zoom.
- 2022 Level 1 - Foundations of Intimacy; October 5-28. Instructors: Nicole Perry and Claire Wilcher. Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, Zoom.
- 2022 Anatomy of an Apology; September 21. Instructors: Charlie Baker. Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, Zoom.
- 2022 Best Practices; September 10. Instructors: Greg Geffrard and Emily Rollie. Theatrical Intimacy Education, Zoom.

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Theatre Silco**, Silverthorne, CO - August 2024 - January 2026

VIVO Teaching Artist, instructing elementary school students K-5 on theatre basics in acting, ensemble, movement, technical design, warm ups, cool downs, vocal and physical health. The program is dual language (English-Spanish); teachers with low Spanish comprehension had daily lessons to improve understanding and support student needs.

### **Mary Baldwin University Shakespeare & Performance**, Staunton, VA - August 2023 - May 2025

Social Media Coordinator, managing the Shakespeare & Performance program's social media accounts and digital marketing content. This primarily focused on Instagram, Facebook, semester newsletters, and weekly digests.

### **Mary Baldwin University Theatre Department**, Staunton, VA - August 2024 - December 2024

Course Instructor, instructing undergraduate students on acting techniques, performance preparation, public speaking, and script analysis for THEA 121: Acting 1.

### **Mary Baldwin University Grafton Library**, Staunton, VA - August 2023 - May 2024

Student Library Assistant, managing front desk tasks, checking in and out library materials, reshelfing materials, organizing book displays, and assisting with basic research inquiries from MBU students.

### **University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO - January 2023 - May 2023

Teaching Assistant, assisting with grading and lecturing for WGST 2050: Gender, Sexuality and Popular Culture with Dr. Shannon Leone.

**University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO - August 2022 - December 2022

Teaching Assistant, assisting with grading and lecturing for THTR 1009: Theatre & Society with PhD Candidate Heather Kelley. Lecture topics: *Gender and Applied & Documentary Theatre* (co-lecturer).

**Colorado Shakespeare Festival**, Boulder, CO - May 2022 - August 2022

House Manager Managing the outdoor Mary Rippon Theatre during evening shows for, primarily, *The Book of Will* and, occasionally, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. This position required organizing a team of nine staff members, fixing ticket machine errors, handling conflict resolution, and smooth running of the front of house and audience experience.

**University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO - May 2022 - August 2022

Theatre Scene Shop Employee. Duties include carpentry work (measuring and cutting wood, building sets), painting (scenery backgrounds), basic metal work (cutting, welding), and electrics (hanging lights, tying cable).

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Theatre Silco**, Silverthorne, CO - August 2024 - January 2026

VIVO Teaching Artist, instructing elementary school students K-5 on theatre basics in acting, ensemble, movement, technical design, warm ups, cool downs, vocal and physical health. The program is dual language (English-Spanish); teachers with low Spanish comprehension had daily lessons to improve understanding and support student needs.

**Bucknell University**, Lewisburg, PA - February 2025

Intimacy Choreographer/Workshop Facilitator, choreographing the intimacy for Bucknell University's *Twelfth Night* and offering a workshop on boundary setting and consent-based practices in theatre.

**Mary Baldwin University**, Staunton, VA - Fall semester, 2024

Course Instructor, Instructing undergraduate students on acting techniques, performance preparation, public speaking, and script analysis for the MBU Theatre Department's THEA 121: Acting 1.

**University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO - Spring semester, 2023

Teaching Assistant, assisting Dr. Shannon Leone with grading, discussions, and lecturing for the Women and Gender Studies Department's WGST 2050: Gender, Sexuality and Popular Culture.

**University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO - Fall semester, 2022

Teaching Assistant, assisting then PhD candidate Heather Kelley with grading, discussions, and lecturing for the Theatre Department's THTR 1009: Theatre & Society. Personal lecture topics included: *Gender and Applied & Documentary Theatre* (co-lecturer).

**Colorado Shakespeare Festival**, July 2022 - August 2022

Teaching Assistant, Focused in iambic pentameter, acting technique, character development, and personal growth and exploration. Assisting teacher Jordan Pettis with the *All's Well That Ends Well* day camp.

**Colorado Shakespeare Festival**, July 2022

Teaching Assistant, Focused in collaboration, discovery, character development, and personal growth and exploration. Assisting teacher Kaitlin Nabors with the Kindergarten "Sprites" day camp.

#### THEATRICAL DIRECTION / MANAGEMENT

**Production Manager (conflict resolution and community care points)**

2024 - 2025 - Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble, Staunton, VA.

**Co-director, *Best Mayor the King* (staged reading)**

Spring 2025 - Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble's Lamplighter staged reading series, Staunton, VA.

**Co-director / Playwright / Actor, *Pericles: for Young Audiences***

Fall 2024 - Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble's educational touring show, Staunton, VA.

**Assistant Stage Manager, *The Convent of Pleasure***

Spring 2024 - Mary Baldwin University, Shakespeare & Performance, Staunton, VA. Director Abigail Olshin.

**Assistant Stage Manager, *The Two Noble Kinsmen***

Spring 2024 - Mary Baldwin University Shakespeare & Performance, Staunton, VA. Directors Doreen Bechtol and Matt Davies.

**Director, *Queer Joy* (devised piece)**

Summer 2023 - Creating with Consent: Onstage intimacies showcase, Fresno, CA.

**Stage Manager, *All the Time in the World* (staged reading premiere)**

Fall 2022 - CU Sandbox Student Series, Boulder, CO. Director Noah Michael-Carlson.

## INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHY

**Taming of the Shrew**

Intimacy Choreographer, director Kelsey Harrison, Mortal Fools Collective, VA, summer 2025

**Much Ado About Nothing**

Intimacy Choreographer, director Alaina Shefelton, Endstation Theatre Company, VA, summer 2025

**Whirlwind (world premiere)**

Intimacy Choreographer, director Constance Swain, Endstation Theatre Company, VA, summer 2025

**Twelfth Night**

Intimacy Choreographer, Bucknell University, PA, spring 2025

**Bartholomew Fair**

Intimacy Choreographer Team Lead, Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble, VA, spring 2025

**Honest [Wolman's] Revenge, or the Atheist's Tragedy**

Intimacy Choreographer Team, Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble, VA, fall 2024.

**The Two Noble Kinsmen**

Intimacy Choreographer Team, Mary Baldwin University - S&P REN 531 course, VA, spring 2024

**Convent of Pleasure (staged reading)**

Intimacy Choreographer, Mary Baldwin University - S&P Second Year Showcase, VA, fall 2023

**Henry VI Part 2**

Intimacy Choreographer, Mary Baldwin University - S&P Second Year Showcase, VA, fall 2023

**Troilus & Cressida**

Intimacy Choreographer, Meadowlark Shakespeare Players, VA, fall 2023

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Intimacy Choreographer, Meadowlark Shakespeare Players, VA, fall 2023

**Macbeth**

Intimacy Consultant, University of Colorado, Boulder - Sandbox Student Series, CO, spring 2023

**5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche**

Intimacy Choreographer, University of Colorado, Boulder - Sandbox Student Series, CO, spring 2023

Yo Soy Una Mujer

Intimacy Consultant, University of Colorado, Boulder - Sandbox Student Series, CO, spring 2023

The Importance of Being Earnest

Intimacy Choreographer, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, fall 2022

Barbeque Apocalypse

Intimacy Choreographer, University of Colorado, Boulder - Sandbox Student Series, CO, fall 2022

The Performers

Intimacy Consultant, University of Colorado, Boulder - Sandbox Student Series, CO, fall 2022

**OTHER THEATRICAL ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE**

**Props Artisan / Swing, *Henry VI Part 3***

Fall 2024 - Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble's small-scale show, Staunton, VA.

**Dramaturg, *Honest [Wo]man's Revenge, or the Atheist's Tragedy***

Fall 2024 - Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble's small-scale shows, Staunton, VA.

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Social Media Management

Coordinator, Staunton, VA, Streetlight Shakespeare Ensemble, 2024 - 2025

Intimacy and Improv

Workshop instructor, Boulder CO, Sandbox Student Series, spring 2023

Foundations of Intimacy 2

Workshop instructor, Boulder CO, Sandbox Student Series, spring 2023

Foundations of Intimacy 1

Workshop instructor, Boulder CO, Sandbox Student Series, spring 2023

Trans Identity in Theatre

Lecturer, Sam Collier, THTR 1009: Theatre & Society, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, spring 2023

Trans Identity in Theatre

Lecturer, Dr. Shannon Leone, WGST 2050: Gender & Sexuality in Popular Culture, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, spring 2023

Gender

Lecturer, Heather Kelley, THTR 1009: Theatre & Society, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, fall 2022

Consent & Communication with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Workshop instructor, Boulder, CO, spring 2022

Women's Self Defense

Instructing coach, Dark Horse Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Longmont, CO 2019-2020

Girl Scout Gold Award: *Speak Above the Shoes*

Workshop instructor, Longmont, CO, summer 2017

## INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MENTORING

*Peer Reviewer*

M.F.A Thesis      Mary Baldwin University      Bell, Austen      2024 - 2025

*Peer Reviewer*

M.F.A Thesis      Mary Baldwin University      Roselene Jacob, Jovita      2024 - 2025

*Peer Reviewer*

M.F.A Thesis      Mary Baldwin University      Showalter, Kyle      2024 - 2025

## HONORS

**Ariel Service Award**

May 2025, The Ariel Service Award recognizes outstanding labor above and beyond normal responsibilities within the Shakespeare & Performance graduate program.

**Lavender "Antonio" Award**

May 2025, The Lavender "Antonio" award, recognition of those creating space for the LGBTQ+ community at Mary Baldwin University. MFA graduate recipient.

**Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant**

Spring 2023, University of Colorado, Boulder. Grant supporting research, scholarship and creative work of graduate students from all departments.

**Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Fellowship**

Spring 2023, University of Colorado, Boulder. Grant fellowship supporting graduate creative research while promoting equity, inclusion, and academic excellence.

## PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Adapting Shakespeare for young audiences; children's horror literature; trans representation in horror; trans representation in theatre; intimacy choreography and boundary practices; consent-based education.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Articles (\* peer-reviewed)**

- \*1. Bolon, M. Asserting Boundaries and Conflict Resolution with A Midsummer Night's Dream: Consent-Based Practices and Shakespeare. *The Journal of Consent-Based Performance*. Vol. 1, Issue 1, Fall 2022.
- \*2. Bolon, M. Trans Identity On and Off Stage: A Guide for Support Trans Actors Playing Roles Outside Their Gender Identity. *ProQuest LLC*. Coming summer 2023
- \*3. Bolon, M. Identity Awareness in Casting: When Trans Actors Play Roles Outside Their Gender Identity. *The Journal of Consent-Based Performance*. Vol. 2, Issue 2, Spring 2024.