

5-20-2020

## Walker, Ethel Louise Pitts

San Jose State University

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### Recommended Citation

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Name:** Ethel Louise Pitts Walker  
**Address:** 9200 Milliken Ave., #7102  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Television, Radio, Film & Theatre Department  
San Jose State University  
San Jose, CA 95192-0098  
**Phone:** (909) 294-5616 (H)

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - COLUMBIA**, Graduated 1975;  
Ph.D. in Theatre; Dissertation: "The American Negro Theatre"  
Major Field: Theatre History and Criticism;  
Minor Fields: History and English

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**, Graduated in 1965;  
M.A. in Speech and Drama;  
Minor Fields: English and History

**LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (MISSOURI)**, Graduated 1964;  
B.S. in Education in Speech and Drama  
Minor Field: English

**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Graduated in 1960

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

San Jose State University, San Jose, CA (Professor Emeritus)	1989-2013
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (Visiting Lecturer)	1988-89
University of California, Berkeley, CA (Visiting Lecturer)	Spring 1988
Laney Community College, Oakland, CA	1979-1980
University of Illinois, Urbana, CA	1977-1979
Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO	1968-1977
Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA	1965-69

### **COURSES TAUGHT:**

Graduate Seminar in Theatre History	Theory & Techniques of Acting
Graduate Seminar in Directing	Beginning Acting
Theatre History	Production & Rehearsal Workshop
Introduction to the Theatre	Improvisation
Introduction to Black Theatre	Reader's Theatre Workshop

Script Analysis  
Appreciation of Drama  
Contemporary Theatre  
Directing  
Theatre Aesthetics  
Modern Drama  
Graduate Seminar in Performance & Culture

Storytelling  
Oral Interpretation  
Afro-American Folk Themes  
African American History  
Harlem Renaissance  
Multicultural Arts  
The Arts in U.S. Society

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Acting Chair of Television, Radio, Film, & Theatre Department, 2008-  
Coordinator of Theatre Arts Program in the Department, 2006-2007  
Lead Writer for the National Association of Schools of Theatre Accreditation, 2006-2007  
Coordinates Assessment for Theatre Arts, 2006-  
Temporary Member of BOGS, Spring 2006  
Coordinated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of El Teatro Campesino and Luis Valdez,  
Fall, 2005  
Chair, Department's Academic Retreat, 2004  
Member, Evaluation of Department Chair Committee, 2003-2004  
Member, Academic Senate Diversity Task Force Committee, 2002-2003  
Member, Search Committee, Associate Dean of College of Humanities & the Arts,  
Spring 2001  
Chair, Department Curriculum Revision Committee, 2001  
Member, Search Committee, African American Studies Department, 2001  
Acting Coordinator of Department's Graduate Program, Spring 2001  
Member, Hiring Committee, African American Studies Department, 2001  
Member, College Curriculum Committee, 2000-  
Chair, Department RTP Committee, 1999-2000  
Chair, Retreat Planning Committee, African American Studies Department, Fall 2000  
Member, General Education Assessment Plan Committee, 1999-2003  
Member, Review Committee for Dr. Cobie Harris, Chair, African American Studies  
Member, Department RTP Committee, 1998-1999  
Member, College PSSI Committee, 1997  
Chair, Department RTP Committee, 1996-1997  
Member, College RTP Committee, 1995-1996  
Member, University English Credential Advisory Board, 1994-1999  
Member, African American Studies Advisory Board, 1993-  
Member, Outstanding Professor Committee, 1990-1994  
Member, MPPP Committee, 1990  
Member, College Research Committee, 1990-1994  
Member, Department Graduate Committee, 1989-  
Member, Department Curriculum Committee, 1989-

**OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

Selected by Dean of H&A College to participate in Inclusive Excellence Project, 2006

Member of Difficult Dialogue Seminar, 2006-2007

Brought members of The Walt Disney World Recruitment Division to SJSU, Fall, 2006

(Three SJSU students are presently serving as Interns at Disney World)

Speaker at Dedication of Tommie Smith/John Carlos Memorial, October, 2005

Panel Member, "The Fabric of Race: Lynching in America" Symposium, September, 2005

Panel Member, KSJS' "Talkin'Blues" (part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Fountain Blues Festival), May, 2005

Coordinated the TRFT Department Assessment Retreat, September, 2004

Faculty in Residence for Diversity for the Faculty Development and Support Center, 2002-2004

Served on Panel for the Higher Learning Leadership Conference, April 2000

Delivered Presentation at the Humanities & the Arts Ed Equity Program, November 1999

One of Three Representatives from the Theatre Arts Department at the CSU Assessment and Outcomes Theatre Arts Conference, Hayward, 1999  
Faculty Advisor to Anne Burk, Winner of the 1999 University Research Award, 1999  
Worked on the Spring Activity Conference, 1997  
Volunteer for the University Fellows Orientation Program, 1995-1997  
Introduced Author, June Jordan at Reading presented by the Center for Literary Arts, April 1994  
Guest on KSJS Radio Program, "Black Images in Film", February, 1993  
Chaired Department's Educational Equity Symposium, on Teaching Strategies, January 1993  
Introduced Novelist Terry MacMillan , Center for Literary Arts, April 1992  
Panel Member, Educational Equity Committee of the College of Humanities and the Arts, "Teaching Strategies and Learning Styles for a Multicultural Student Body", April, 1992  
Faculty Leader for New Student Orientation, August, 1991  
Faculty Book Club, "Lorraine Hansberry's *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*, April 1991  
Lectured to Educational Counseling Classes, "Careers for Theatre Arts Majors and Minors", April 1990  
Faculty Mentor, 1998-1990

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

Black Theatre Network, Founding President  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education  
California Educational Theatre Association, Past President  
Legislative Action Coalition for Arts Education, Past President  
California Alliance for Arts Education  
Theta Alpha Phi Dramatic Fraternity

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

#### **BOOKS**

*African American Scenebook*, co-edited with Kathryn Ervin, published by Falmer Press, 1999  
*The New/Lost Plays by Ed Bullins: An Anthology*, published by That New Publishing Company, 1994 (Presented Lecture as part of SJSU's Center For Literary Arts 1993-1994 University Authors Series, February 1994)  
"The American Negro Theatre", *Black Americans in the Theatre*, Vol. II edited by Errol Hill, Prentice-Hall Publishing Co., 1980

#### **HANDBOOK**

"CETA Bibliography of Scenes from the African American Theatre", edited with Kathryn Ervin, Published by the California Educational Theatre Association, 1992

#### **ARTICLES**

"What Every Student Affairs Professional Should Know, Student Study Activities and Beliefs Associated with Academic Success" (Co-written with SJSU Teacher/Scholars), *Journal of College Student Development*, Vol. 43, March/April 2002

Consulting Editor for May/June 2001 edition of *Footstep Magazine*

Copy Editor for *Black Theatre's Unprecedented Times*, Published by the Black Theatre Network and the African Grove Institute for the Arts, Spring 1999

"The Values and Virtues of Ourselves", Keynote Address Presented at the Black Theatre Network Conference, August, 1998 and Published in *The Black Theatre Network News*, Vol. 9, Fall 1998

Editor *Blackstream* (Scholarly Papers delivered at the Association for Theatre In Higher Education Conference), March 1997

"The Minority University", *Multicultural Forum*, Published by San Jose State University, Vol. 7, Spring 1996

"The Dilemma of Multiculturalism in Theatre", *TDR: The Drama Review, A Journal of Performance Studies*, Vol. 38, Fall 1994

"The TeachARTS Project", *The California Educational Theatre News*, Fall 1993

"Incorporating African-American Theatre into a Basic Theatre Course", *Theatre Topics*, Vol. 3, No.1, September 1992

"What is Traditional Theatre", *ATHE News*, Vol. 5, May 1991

"KRIGWA, A Theatre By, For and About Black People", *Theatre Journal*, October 1988

"Traditional African Theatre", *Black American Literature Forum*, Winter 1983

"The Role of the Theatre on College Campuses", *Encore Journal*, April 1981

### REVIEWS

"1991 Black Theatre Festival - A Celebration", *The Sun Reporter*, August 21, 1991

"Three One-Act Plays Designed to Trip You Out", *The Sun Reporter*, July 24, 1991

"...Wine, Blues... Show Black Theatre Alive and Diverse", *The Sun Reporter*, March 21, 1990

"A Brutal In New England Winter", *The Sun Reporter*, October 18, 1989

"National Black Theatre Festival Spotlights Bay Area Artists", *The Sun Reporter*, September 6, 1989

### DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

<i>The Bacchae</i>	San Jose State University	2005
<i>Amen Corner</i>	San Jose State University	2003
<i>Long Time Since Yesterday</i>	San Jose State University	2000
<i>Medea</i>	San Jose State University	1996
<i>To Be Young, Gifted, and Black</i>	San Jose State University	1990
<i>When the Jumbie Bird Calls</i>	Wayne State University	1988
<i>High John De Conqueror-The Musical</i>	African American Drama Company	1985

<i>Purlie Victorious</i>	Laney Community College	1980
<i>No Exit</i>	Laney Community College	1979
<i>Can I Speak For You, Brother?</i>	African American Drama Company	1979
Take A Giant Step	Lincoln University	1977

### **OTHER THEATRE EXPERIENCE**

Owner and		
Exec. Director:	African American Drama Company, San Francisco, CA	1979-
Dramaturg:	<i>The Old Settler</i> , TheatreWorks, Palo Alto, CA	2000
Producer:	<i>Norman, Is that You?</i> , Berkeley Moving Arts Theatre	1980
Actress:	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , San Jose State University	1995
	<i>High John De Conqueror-The Musical</i> , The African American Drama Company (Touring Show)	1987-
	<i>The River Niger</i> , Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, S.F., CA	1985
	<i>Bloodlines to Oblivion</i> , Julian Theatre, S.F., CA	1983

### **PARTICIPATION AT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEETINGS**

- Panel Member, "Diversity, Inclusion and Pedagogy: Fifteen Years of *Theatre Topics* Scholarship Revisited", Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August, 2005
- Panel Member and Reader, "There's a Better Day A Comin' - Anti-Lynching Plays", Black Theatre Network Conference, August 2003
- Scene from *Long Time Since Yesterday*; Selected to Participate in the American College Theatre Festival, Region VIII Competition of Scenes, February 2001
- Site Coordinator for the California Humanities Association's Forum, April 2001, San Jose State University
- Coordinator for the California Educational Theatre Association Conference, October 2000
- Panel Member, "Selecting a Graduate School for Theatre Arts Majors", Black Theatre Network, Conference, August 1999
- Symposium Member, "The Ed Bullins Retrospective: Ed Bullins and His Influence on Current Black Theatre, March 1999, NY
- Organized and Moderated Arts Education Legislation Day, March 1999
- Keynote Speaker Legislative Speech, California Educational Theatre Association Conference, March 1999
- Keynote Speaker, Black Theatre Network Conference, July 1998
- Moderated Panel, "Building Bridges Between Secondary Theatre Study and University Training", Educational Theatre Association/California Educational Theatre Association Conference, August 1998
- Presented Paper, "Mentoring Future Teachers", ETA/CETA Conference, August 1998,
- Presented Paper, "The Historical Plays of Ed Bullins", Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August 1995
- Chaired Forum Presentation, "Ed Bullins - Live and Uncensored" ATHE Conference, August 1995

Chaired Performance Presentation/Discussion, *Can I Speak For You, Brother?*, ATHE Conference, August 1995

Chaired Black Theatre Network's Young Scholars Competition, Black Theatre Network Conference, July 1995

Panel, "Concerns and Strategies Developed in the Field of Arts Education", Young Audiences Arts-In-Education Institute, August 1994

Paper, "The Power of Drama at Historically Black Colleges", ATHE Conference, July 1994

Lecture/Demonstration, "The Arts can Lead the Way to Cultural Pluralism", California Humanities Association Conference, April 1994

Reader, "Activating a Feminist Bibliography:", CETA Conference, March 1994

Co-Chaired Lecture/Demonstration, "How to Create and Sell College Courses for the 1990s California Educational Theatre Association Conference, March 1994

Co-Chaired, "Can Theatre be Made Legitimate (Parts I & II), American Theatre College Festival, Region VIII, February 1994

Adjudicator for the American College Theatre Festival, Region VIII, February 1994

Panel Member, "Creative Arts Program", Teaching and Learning Institute Conference, October, 1993

Chaired Panel, "African American Theatre from World War I to 1950: Women and Feminism", Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August 1993

Panel Member, "On Actor Training: A Review of Culture and Gender in Classroom", ATHE Conference, 1993



Facilitator for Southern California Educational Theatre Associations Multicultural Theatre Colloquium, October 1992  
Member of Task Force for Regional American Theatre College Festival, February 1992  
Panel Member, "Developing a Basic Multicultural Theatre Class", ATHE Conference, August 1992  
Panel Member, "Colloquium on Cultural Pluralism in Pedagogy and Production: Black Theatre in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ATHE Conference, August 1992  
Panel Member, "Getting on the Diversity Track", California Educational Theatre Association Conference, March 1992  
Paper, "Incorporating African American Theatre into Theatre Classes, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, August 1991  
Program Coordinator for the Black Theatre Network Conference in Atlanta, August 1990  
Coordinated Educational Programs for the National Black Arts Festival, August 1990  
Paper, "Black Dramatic Literature, Critics, and Theatre Companies of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: The 1940s and 50s, The National Black Theatre Festival, August 1989  
Moderator, "The Effects of Non-Racial Casting on Black Theatre Today, National Black Theatre Festival, August 1989

### **OTHER SCHOLARLY, CREATIVE, OR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

Appointed by Mayor Willie Brown, Jr. (San Francisco) to the San Francisco Art Commission, May 2001-2006  
Appointed as a Screener for Rockefeller Fellowships in Black Performing Arts and the Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2000-2001  
Member of Focus Group, California Humanities Association, February 2000  
Presenter at California Assembly of Local Arts Agencies' 1999 Pre-Conference and Convocation, San Diego 1999  
Moderator for Symposium, "Eternal Hope: What is the Role of Black Artists in Fighting For Peace, Freedom and Social Justice", Afro-Solo Theatre Festival, August 1998  
Panelist, "Reaching Landings, Turning Corners and Sometimes Going into the Dark: How Black Theatre Reflects Black Culture", Afro-Solo Festival, August 1996  
Served on the State Superintendent of Education's Arts Education Task Force, 1997  
Participated in the CSU Faculty Summer School of the Arts, at Long Beach, 1997  
Lectured at BAYCAP Institute of the California Arts Project, August 1996  
Presented a series of Lectures on Arts Education at the Grace M. Davis High School In Stockton, CA, May 1996  
Represented State Theatre Educators at the Planning Sessions of the 1996 Revision of the State Visual and Performing Art Framework Symposiums, 1996  
Participated in the Fifth National African American Read-In Chain at Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School, February 1994  
Listed in *Black Authors and Published Writers Directory*, 1993  
Member of the Governing Board of the American College Theatre Festival, Region VIII, 1992  
Reader of New Scripts for the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisco, 1989-1991

### **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Received the Black Legends of Silicon Valley Award in Art/Theatre/Music  
February, 2017

Received the Woman of the Year in Education Award from the National Coalition of  
Women of Silicon Valley, February, 2014

Received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Missouri College  
Of Arts & Sciences, February, 2008

Received Outstanding Professor Award, San Jose State University, 2007

Received College Lottery Grant to take 5 students to the National Black Theatre  
Festival in Winston-Salem, NC (Student Dijorn Moss was selected to have his  
play, *Mothers in the Struggle*) read at the Festival, 2006

Received College Lottery Grant to assist 4 students attend the CSU Summer Arts  
Program in Fresno, CA, 2005

2003 Educator of the Year Award, National Council of Negro Women,  
November, 2003

Received the SJSU Award for Research on College Teaching and Learning (a  
Collaborative work with the 1999-2000 Teacher/Scholars), May 2002

Inducted into the American Theatre College of Fellows at the Kennedy Center in  
Washington, D.C., April 2002

Received the Living Legend Award from the National Black Theatre Festival, Winston-  
Salem, NC, July 2001

Received the Dean's Exceptional Professional Achievement Award from the College  
Of Humanities and the Arts, May 2001

Received Outstanding Arts Educator Award, California Arts Council, March 2001

Featured in July/August 2000 Edition of *Black Masks Magazine*

Inducted into the Educational Theatre Association Hall of Fame, August 2000

Listed in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*, 2000

Listed in *Marquis Who's Who in the World*, 2000

Outstanding Achievement Award in Arts Education, Afro-Solo Festival, 1999

Selected as a Teacher/Scholar by SJSU Center for Faculty Development & Support,  
1999-2000

Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award, San Jose State University, The Research Forum,  
April 7, 1999

Excellence in Theatre Education Award, Presented by the Kennedy Center's American  
College Theatre Festival, Region VIII, 1999

Award a SJSU Lottery Fund Grant, 1998-99

Presidential Award from the California Educational Theatre Association, 1998

Honored by Lincoln University and Included in their Alumni Women in Development  
Seminar, March 1994

Inducted into the Consortium of Doctors, a National Organization for Women of Color  
Who hold Doctorate Degrees, 1993

Awarded Life Membership in the Black Theatre Network, 1992

Received Special Mentor Award from San Jose City College, 1991

Received San Jose State Faculty Development Grant, 1990

Participated in West African Heritage Seminar in Theatre, 1976

Outstanding Instructor Award, Lincoln University Senior Class, 1977

