

Curriculum Vitae
Gretchen L. Suárez-Peña
Member Dramatists Guild of America

Florida Atlantic University
Department of Theatre and Dance
Assistant Professor
Dramatic Literature, Stage and Screenwriting

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama (Aug 2022 - May 2024)
MFA, Dramatic Writing
Thesis Plays: Searching for Abuelo, Epiphany

University of Florida College of Engineering (Jan 2010 - Aug 2011)
ME, Environmental Engineering
Specialization: Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Engineering

University of South Florida College of Engineering (Aug 2005 - May 2009)
BS, Civil Engineering
USF Honors College, cum laude

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Florida Atlantic University (Boca Raton, FL)

Assistant Professor

2024-Present

Taught weekly lectures for dramatic literature courses. Designed and implemented changes in courses as well as redesigned the department curriculum in dramatic literature and history. Created a Minor in Dramatic Writing and Literature. Designed a new course in special topics: Introduction to Playwriting. Advised writing students in the department's inaugural film project. Participated in recruitment activities for the department at Florida Theatre Conference and Florida Thespian Competition.

Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)

Instructor of Record

2023

Designed the course Dramatic and Creative Writing for Engineers geared towards engineering students. Taught weekly class lectures, set deadlines for assignments, and performed all grading for the course. Evaluated by the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University earning a certificate from the program.

University of Phoenix (Online – Phoenix, AZ)

Course Facilitator

2012-2015

Organized class discussion, set deadlines for assignments, and performed all grading for the course People, Science, and the Environment.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Private and Public Sector Employment – Civil Engineer

Engineer-in-Training (EIT) and Professional Engineer (PE)

2004-2023

Designed infrastructure for the transportation engineering industry, mostly centered around drainage and environmental issues. Wrote over 100 technical reports and memorandums for submission to municipal and permitting agencies, and clients.

SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

"2052" - Concord Theatricals – Theater Masters' Take Ten Volume 10 (2025)

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

Regional/Local

William Daniel Mills Theatre Company Playwriting Master Class Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays along with a discussion on how new works are brought from page to stage and the overall submission process for new development opportunities	Orlando, FL 2024 & 2022
Florida Theatre Conference Structure, Submissions, and Staging Workshop on structuring and formatting plays for submissions to developing opportunities and the general trajectory of a plays first draft to its first production.	Winter Haven, FL 2024
Conch Shell Production Writing Submissions Workshop submission tracking and how to find play development opportunities.	Queens, NY 2024
Veterans Arts Ensemble at The Straz Center Playwriting Workshop Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays.	Tampa, FL 2023
Lakeland Community Theatre Summer Program Playwriting Workshop Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays.	Lakeland, FL 2022
Central Florida Vocal Arts Summer Program Playwriting Workshop Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays.	Orlando, FL 2022
University of Central Florida Project Spotlight Playwriting Workshop Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays.	Orlando, FL 2022
Garden Theatre Playwriting Workshop Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays and transitioning personal stories to stage plays.	Winter Garden, FL 2020
District 14 Florida Thespian Festival Playwriting Master Class Presentation on the structure and character development of new plays along with a discussion on how new works are brought from page to stage and the overall submission process for new development opportunities	Wesley Chapel, FL 2018

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

National

Production/Show	Title	Year	Producing Organization
C'est La Vie	Playwright	2026	Madison Public Theatre – Madison, WI
Sometimes Love	Playwright/Bookwriter	2024	Village Theatre – Issaquah, Washington
Searching for Abuelo	Playwright/Director/Actor	2024	SheATL at 7 Stages – Atlanta, Georgia
Moonwalker	Playwright	2024	Union College – Schenectady, New York
Searching for Abuelo	Playwright/Actor	2024	Downtown Urban Arts Festival – NYC
2052	Playwright	2024	Theater Masters-Theater Row – NYC
2052	Playwright	2024	KCACTF – Pittsburgh, PA
Searching for Abuelo	Playwright/Actor	2023	The Tank – NYC
Searching for Abuelo	Playwright/Actor	2023	Conch Shell Productions – NYC
The Arithmetic of Memory	Playwright	2023	KCATF – Washington, DC
The Arithmetic of Memory	Playwright	2023	KCATF – West Chester, PA
The Arithmetic of Memory	Playwright	2023	Beaumont School – Cleveland, OH
Sometimes Love	Book Writer	2023	Open Jar Studios – New York City
C'est la Vie	Playwright	2023	Department of Theatre and Dance University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
Wingman	Playwright	2023	KCATF – West Chester, PA
Practically Perfect	Playwright	2023	Chelsea Rep Lab – NYC
The Saga of Peaches and the Black King	Playwright	2022	Latinx Playwright Circle - NYC
The Saga of Peaches and the Black King	Playwright	2022	Conch Shell Productions - NYC
The Wind is Me	Playwright	2021	Firecracker Productions – Houston, TX
Moonwalker	Playwright	2021	Conch Shell Productions – NYC
The Arithmetic of Memory	Playwright	2021	The West Side Show Room – Rockford, IL
Across the Atlantic	Playwright	2020	TheatreMakers Studio - NYC
The Arithmetic of Memory	Playwright	2020	Conch Shell Productions – NYC
Dry Spell	Playwright	2020	The Hive Collective – Provo, UT
The Child Groom	Playwright	2020	New Masculinities Festival – NYC
Dry Spell	Playwright	2018	30 by Ninety Theatre – Mandeville, LA

Regional/Local

Production	Title	Year	Producing Organization
Dreams Come True part of Why: An Actor Preparing	Playwright/Director/Actor	2026	Arts Garage
Tartufo in Tampa	Playwright	2025	Florida Atlantic University
Epiphany	Playwright	2025	Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL
Epiphany	Playwright	2025	Florida Atlantic University
Conversations in Bed	Playwright	2025	Carrollwood Players – Tampa, Florida
Searching for Abuelo	Playwright/Director/Actor	2023	Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL
Searching for Abuelo	Playwright/Director/Actor	2023	Voices of Women Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL
Across the Atlantic	Playwright	2023	Straz BIPOC Play Reading Series- Tampa, FL
Watchwomen	Playwright	2023	Carrollwood Players – Tampa, FL
Practically Perfect	Playwright	2023	Winegrass High School – Wesley Chapel, FL
Melina: A Steampunk Musical Tragedy	Playwright/Director	2022	Central Florida Vocal Arts – Orlando, FL
Conversations in the Car	Playwright	2022	Just Write! Lakeland – Lakeland, FL
Shadowed Arrangement	Playwright/Director	2022	Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL

Production	Title	Year	Producing Organization
Wingman	Playwright	2022	New Generation Theatrical – Orlando, FL
Across the Atlantic	Playwright	2021	Stetson University – Deland, FL
Elective Amnesia	Playwright/Director	2021	Voices of Women Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL
Sugar and Spice: The Sugar Babies Musical	Playwright/Director	2021	Orlando Fringe Winter Mini Fest – Orlando, FL
Wingman	Playwright	2021	Polk State College – Winter Haven, FL
Shadowed Arrangement	Playwright	2021	Femuscripts – Broward County, FL
Practically Perfect	Playwright	2021	Carrollwood Players – Tampa, FL
Love Letters	Playwright	2021	Breakthrough Theatre – Orlando, FL
Clean and Bright	Playwright	2021	Polk State College – Winter Haven, FL
The Arithmetic of Memory	Playwright	2021	Voices of Women Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL
Across the Atlantic	Playwright	2020	Outcast Theatre Collective – Tampa, FL
Trafficked	Playwright/Director/Sound Design	2020	Just Write! Lakeland – Lakeland, FL
Melina: A Steampunk Musical Tragedy	Playwright/Director	2020	Carrollwood Cultural Center – Tampa, FL
Tea Town	Playwright	2020	Seaside Players – Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, FL
The Child Groom	Playwright	2020	Orlando Fringe First Friday – Orlando, FL
Martha and Mary	Playwright/Director	2019	George Jenkins High School – Lakeland, FL
Conversations in Bed	Playwright/Director	2019	Polk County History Center – Bartow, FL
Conversations in Bed	Playwright	2019	Powerstories Theatre – Tampa, FL
C'est La Vie	Playwright/Director	2019	Shevolution Festival – Tampa, FL
Trafficked	Playwright	2019	Be Original Festival – Orlando, FL
Conversations in Bed	Playwright/Director	2018	Plant City Entertainment – Plant City, FL
Conversations in the Car	Playwright/Director	2018	Tampa Bay Theatre Festival at Stageworks – Tampa, FL
Conversations in the Car	Playwright/Director/Actor	2018	Shevolution Festival – Tampa, FL
Dry Spell	Playwright/Director/Actor	2018	Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL
Conversations in Bed	Playwright/Director	2018	Tampa Bay Theatre Festival at Carrollwood Players – Tampa, FL

GRANTS

Internal

Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program (\$200K)	2026
Internal Nomination – External Award Pending	
National Endowment for the Humanities - Humanities Initiatives at Colleges/Universities (\$150K)	2025
Pending	

External

Creative Capital Award/State of the Art Prize (\$50k)	2025
Pending	
The Democracy Cycle – Perelman Performing Arts Center (\$60k)	2025
Not awarded	

COURSES TAUGHT AT FAU

Theatre History I	2024-present
Drama on Screen and Stage	2024-present
Theatre History II	2025-present

20 th Century World Drama	2025-present
Classical World Drama	2025-present

NEW COURSES TAUGHT AT FAU

Special Topics in Theatre: Introduction to Playwriting

SUPERVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Advising Activities

Theatre Studies Majors	2024-present
Theatre Minors	2024-present

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Department/School Service

University Honors Council	2025-present
Season Selection Committee	2025-present
Film Project Writing Facilitator	2024-present
University Faculty Senate - Department Observer	2024-present
Voice and Speech Assistant Professor Search Committee	2024-2026
Summer Season Selection Committee	2024-2025
FAU Early Career Academy	2024-2025

Professional Development

Association of College and University Educators Certificate in Effective Teaching Practices	2025
Inspiring Inquiry and Lifelong Learning in Online Courses	
Designing Lear-Centered Courses	
Promoting Active Learning	
Creating a Productive Learning Environment	
Classics in Color Cohort – Dramatic Question Theatre – New York	2025
Advisory Board – Conch Shell Productions – Queens, New York	2024
Script Review – National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O’Neil Theatre Center	2024
Script Adjudicator – State Florida Thespian District Festivals	2018-2024

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Best Staged-Reading Play – 2025 Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL (“*Epiphany*”)
- Official Selection – SheATL Festival – Atlanta, GA (“*Searching for Abuelo*”)
- Semi-Finalist – Writer’s Lab Athena Film Festival (“*For Such a Time*”)
- Finalist – Theatre Master’s Program – NYC (“*2052*”)
- 3rd Place 2024 Alfred P. Sloan Script Competition – Carnegie Mellon University (“*For Such a Time*”)
- Best Full-Length Play – 2023 Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL (“*Searching for Abuelo*”)
- 1st Place Play – Voices of Women Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL (“*Searching for Abuelo*”)
- Semi-finalist – South Texas Latinx New Play Festival (“*The Saga of Peaches and the Black King*”)
- Finalist – Core Apprenticeship Program – Playwright’s Center – Minneapolis, MN
- 1st Place National Gary Garrison Ten-Minute Play Award and Region 2 Gary Garrison Award Finalist – Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival – Washington DC (“*The Arithmetic of Memory*”)
- Region 2 John Cauble Award – Finalist (“*Wingman*”)
- Official Selection – 2020 Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival – Atlanta, GA (“*Melina: The Steampunk Musical Tragedy*”)
- Best Play – Table Read Category – 2019 Be Original Festival – Orlando, FL (“*Trafficked*”)
- Best Full-Length Play – 2018 Tampa Bay Theatre Festival – Tampa, FL (“*Conversations in the Car*”)
- 1st Place – Night of One Acts at the 30 by Ninety Theatre – Mandeville, LA (“*Dry Spell*”)