Playwrights and Creative Teams (PACT) Call for Panels
Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference
Detroit, Michigan
July 28-31, 2022

RE: ATHE

ATHE 2022 plans to be held in person in Detroit, Michigan, July 28-31, 2022. This year’s conference theme is “Rehearsing the Possible: Practicing Reparative Creativity.” As stated on the ATHE website, this theme builds upon that of the 2021 conference by inviting participants “to deepen engagements with questions that Detroit urges us to address. How will we abolish institutional, embedded racist structures? As we seek to reimagine, rebuild, and rise up, what are some new arrangements of the possible that we might pursue? In Worldmaking, Dorinne Kondo asserts that ‘reparative creativity offers possibilities to work through effects of affective and structural violence,’ reminding us that the ‘reparative is a critical, political, and artistic practice.’ Engaging this line of thinking, we query: How will we engage our practices to harness the power of theatre for social justice?” More information about this year’s theme can be found at: https://www.athe.org/page/22conf_theme.

The Playwrights and Creative Teams (PACT) Focus Group invites proposals for individual papers/presentations and for panels that respond to ATHE’s theme, as well as those that address expanding possibilities in the field of new play development. Proposed papers, presentations, and panels might address or incorporate these questions:

--How can new play development work as a form of reparative creativity?
--How can new play development serve as an act of resistance?
--How can we rehearse new possibilities when working in new play development?
--How can we use new play development to reframe issues and thereby encourage collaboration and conversation in this historic moment?
--How can we re-invigorate live theatre when we are now reliant on digital technologies?
--How can new play development challenge institutional bias in the academy?
--What are some new arrangements in the ways in which new plays are written, workshopped, and produced that might challenge institutional biases?

This year, ATHE is allowing for individual paper or presentation submissions, as well as complete panel submissions. We welcome submissions in the form that works best for you.

Individual paper or presentation submissions will be grouped into suggested panels by PACT Conference Planner (Janna Segal) and Focus Group Representative (Hank Willenbrink). The individual papers or presentations should be roughly 15-20 minutes in length. The deadline for
Individual paper/presentation submissions is November 1, 2021. To submit a proposal for an individual paper/presentation, go to:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cS1PuAHLz-L26Tekcm3kCeJtKvq1AYi-vLLEJLSfbo/viewform?edit_requested=true.

Submissions for complete panels are due by December 3, 2021. Complete panel proposals should include the names of all session participants. Proposals for panels can be submitted via the ATHE online form at http://www.athe.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Janna Segal, the PACT Conference Planner, at athepact@gmail.com.

Individual Paper/Presentation Submission Guidelines.

To submit a proposal for a 15-20 minute paper or presentation, fill out all the information on the google form by no later than November 1, 2021:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cS1PuAHLz-L26Tekcm3kCeJtKvq1AYi-vLLEJLSfbo/viewform?edit_requested=true. Individual paper/presentation proposals will be curated by PACT’s Conference Planner and Focus Group Representative. They will work to group related papers/presentations together to form complete panels and to put you in touch with each other. These panels will then need to be submitted by a Session Coordinator via the ATHE Proposal Form (see “Panel Submission Guidelines”).

Panel Submission Guidelines

ATHE’s panel submissions portal will be available on the ATHE website by November 8 and remain open until December 3, 2021. Current information about panel submissions can be found at the ATHE website at

Typically, submissions for complete panels via the ATHE portal require a session title, a brief description of the session, and a full abstract (300-word limit). Unless your panel is multidisciplinary in scope, the session coordinator should select “Single Focus Group Session” and choose Playwrights and Creative Teams (PACT) as their focus group sponsor. If the session coordinator is submitting a multidisciplinary panel (MD), they should contact the Conference Planners for both of the targeted Focus Groups before submission. Session Coordinators should expect to hear whether proposals have been accepted by mid-February 2022.

A Few Things to Consider for ATHE 2022:

Participants will not be able to request specific days for presentations at this year’s conference. If you need technology, make sure to request it when you submit a panel proposal.