

# Holly Bree Nelson

hollynel@umich.edu • (586) 843-4965

## EDUCATION

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### University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ph.D. English Language and Literature (in progress)

Graduation | 2029

### Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

B.A. English | B.A. History | B.A. Medicine, Science, and the Humanities

Graduation | 2023

## EMPLOYMENT

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### Johns Hopkins University, Department of History, Baltimore, Maryland

2023-Present

Visiting Research Fellow – Keywords for Black Louisiana Lab

### Johns Hopkins University, Theatre Arts and Studies Program, Baltimore, Maryland

2020-Present

Program Assistant

### Johns Hopkins University, Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity, Baltimore, Maryland

2022-2023

Richard Macksey National Humanities Research Symposium Moderator

### The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Dearborn, Michigan

2019-2021

Guest Services Associate

## PRESENTATIONS

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### [Upcoming] “Absolving Matelda: Engaging with Ecofeminism in Dante Alighieri’s *Purgatorio*.”

Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference, October 2023

### [Upcoming] “Subversive Romance and Feminist Freedom in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.”

Michigan College English Association Conference, October 2023

### “Absolving Matelda: Engaging with Ecofeminism in Dante Alighieri’s *Purgatorio*.”

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, UK and Ireland, Biennial Conference, August 2023

### “Resistance, Radicalism, and Revelations: Black American Theatre and Performance from the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement (1921-1988).”

Johns Hopkins University URSCA Awardee Symposium, May 2023 (Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship Capstone Presentation, Advised by Professor John Astin, Department of Theatre Arts and Studies)

### [\[Winner of 2023 Arthur Kouguel Memorial Prize\]](#) “‘A Rare Standing Ovation’: Ballet Diplomacy, Russian Myth, and Black Transnationalism in the Dance Theatre of Harlem’s Soviet Union Tour (1988).”

History Honors Thesis Presentation, Johns Hopkins University, April 2023 (Advised by Dr. Minkah Makalani, Department of History)

**“The Gifted Consciousness: Reading Neurodivergence through Stephen Dedalus in James Joyce’s *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.”**

Medicine, Science, and the Humanities Honors Thesis Symposium, January 2023 (Advised by Dr. Leonardo Lisi, Department of Comparative Thought and Literature)

**[Invited] “Bloom’s Patriarchal Gaze: The Limitations on Female Agency in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*.”**

Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference, *Ulysses at 100 Roundtable*, November 2022

**“The Work We are Attempting to Do”: The Politics of Representation in *Shuffle Along* (1921).”**

Northeast Popular Culture Association Conference, October 2022

**“A Vital Cultural Ambassador to the World’: Dance Diplomacy and Civil Rights in Alvin Ailey’s 1970 Soviet Union Tour.”**

Richard Macksey National Humanities Research Symposium, April 2022

**“Transforming ‘Dreams’ into Realities: The Sea as Metaphor in Langston Hughes’s Oceanic Literature.”**

Johns Hopkins University DREAMS Symposium, April 2022

**[\[Winner of 2023 Michel-Rolph Trouillot Essay Prize\]](#) “A Dramatic Ethnography: The Ethnographic Method as Structure in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Spunk* (1935) and *De Turkey and de Law* (1930).”**

Johns Hopkins University DREAMS Symposium, October 2021

#### PUBLICATIONS

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**“A Vital Cultural Ambassador to the World’: Dance Diplomacy and Civil Rights in Alvin Ailey’s 1970 Soviet Union Tour.”**

[Macksey Journal](#), Johns Hopkins University, October 2022

**“The Fiction of ‘Shared Sisterhood’ between Indigenous and Settler Women in Anna Brownell Jameson’s *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada*.”**

*Inquiries Journal*, Northeastern University, April 2022

#### PUBLIC-FACING WORK

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**“To Be, or Not to Be (A Researcher)? A Portrait of a Humanities Student as a Woodrow Wilson Research Fellow”**

[Hopkins Insider](#), Johns Hopkins University, August 2023

**“The Wyman Family and Slavery Project: The Gross Family at the Homewood Villa.”**

[Hard Histories at Hopkins Newsletter](#), Johns Hopkins University, Department of History, February 2022

#### HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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**Rhodes Scholarship Finalist**

2022

Invited to reception and final interview for the Rhodes Scholarship, among the most competitive and prestigious postgraduate scholarships in the world.

**Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan**

2023

Full tuition and stipend for Ph.D. studies at the University of Michigan. Recognition of record of superior academic achievement and exemplification of the Michigan graduate community's foundational values of excellence and inclusion.

**Phi Beta Kappa**

2023

Recognition of academic excellence and breadth of curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences awarded to 5% of the Johns Hopkins University Class of 2023; Only the top 10% of the graduating class receives consideration.

**Michel-Rolph Trouillot Prize, Johns Hopkins University**

2023

Awarded by the Anthropology Department for Best Essay in Anthropology.

**Arthur Kougell Memorial Prize, Johns Hopkins University**

2023

Awarded by the History Department for Best Senior Thesis in History.

**Fulbright Semi-Finalist**

2023

Application for Fulbright Canada Graduate Studies Award in Literature promoted to final stage of review.

**Departmental Honors in English, Johns Hopkins University**

2023

Distinction for academic excellence in English coursework.

**Departmental Honors in History, Johns Hopkins University**

2023

Distinction for academic excellence in History coursework and successful completion of Senior Thesis.

**Departmental Honors in Medicine, Science and the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University**

2023

Distinction for academic excellence in Medicine, Science, and the Humanities coursework and successful completion of Senior Thesis.

**Milton B. Strizever Research Excellence Award**

2022

Named endowment awarded to the highest quality project in the 2023 Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship cohort at Johns Hopkins University.

**K. Michael and Natalie F. Jeffrey Memorial Scholarship**

2020-2023

\$8,000 per year for a select Johns Hopkins University humanities student representing the highest caliber of academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and the pursuit of personal interests.

**Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship**

2020-2023

\$10,000 in funding to study Black American Theatre and Performance from the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement; Largest undergraduate research award at Johns Hopkins University; Among the largest undergraduate research grants in the United States.

**Dean's List, Johns Hopkins University**

2019-2023

Semesterly distinction for GPA of 3.5 and above in 14 credits and above.

**International Baccalaureate Diploma**

2019

Successful completion of IB coursework and examinations; Scored in the top 5% of Candidates (42 points).

**Valedictorian, International Academy**

2019

Highest cumulative GPA at Michigan's #1 public high school.

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PERFORMING ARTS, LEADERSHIP, & SERVICE

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**American Studies Consortium, University of Michigan (Co-Coordinator)**

2023-Present

**Modern Dance Company, Johns Hopkins University (President, Dance Instructor, Choreographer)**

2019-2023

**Ballet Company, Johns Hopkins University (Production Manager, Choreographer)**

2021-2023

**English Club, Johns Hopkins University (President)**

2021-2023

**Arts and Innovation Program, Johns Hopkins University (Dance Class Demonstrator)**

2020-2023

**The John Astin Theatre, Johns Hopkins University (Actor, Production Crew)**

2020-2023

**Barnstormers Theatre, Johns Hopkins University (Actor, Student Director)**

2019-2023

**Theatre Arts and Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University (Musical Theatre Choreographer)**

2022

**Office of Orientation and First-Year Experience, Johns Hopkins University (First-Year Mentor)**

2020

**Hopkins Votes (Voting Registration Ambassador)**

2021-2023

**The Peabody Conservatory (Vocalist)**

2019-2022

LANGUAGES

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- English, Native/Bilingual Proficiency (State of Michigan Seal of Biliteracy)
- Spanish, Advanced Proficiency (State of Michigan Seal of Biliteracy)
- French, Advanced Proficiency
- STATA Programming Language