

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

Brief

Born of two cultures but raised in neither, I often write about tilted versions of our world inhabited by characters who don't quite fit in.

Extended

If home is truly where the heart is, then our bodies should always be spaces in which we feel welcome, safe, and free. However, the processes by which we are "othered" (colored, sexed, sexualized, and classed) can often lead to fracture of the self and/or leave our bodies feeling like hotel rooms -- spaces our souls pass through with no real claim and no true privacy. Or, worse still, our bodies become prisons -- spaces that restrict us from experiencing the fullest expression of ourselves. My writing is an exploration of this state of being and whether or not it is possible to break free. And, if one can't, how it feels to be an other among others.

A note about my influences: I would not exist as a writer, or function as a human being for that matter, without the work of Audre Lorde, Suzan-Lori Parks, Adrienne Kennedy, Suheir Hammad, and Lorraine Hansberry. And Cherríe Moraga, whose belief in the possibility of freedom for me is often the only reason I still believe in it for myself.

PHILANA IMADE OMOROTIONMWAN
philanao@gmail.com ▪ (225) 773-8952 ▪ philanaplays.weebly.com

BIO

Philana Imade Omorotionmwan (o-more-o-tune-wha) is writing to save her body and spirit from a world that seems hell-bent on destroying them.

Her plays include *Before Evening Comes*, *The Defiance of Dandelions*, *Fireflies*, and *Strong Face, or Misogynoir*. She appears on the 2019 Kilroys List, was a 2018-19 Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellow, and the recipient of Marin Theatre Company's 2018 David Calicchio Emerging American Playwright Prize. Her work has been developed and/or presented at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Brlnk New Works Festival, La MaMa Experiments Series, Geva Theatre Center, and Athena Project Festival. She has been a semifinalist for the Relentless Award, P73 Fellowship, and Many Voices Fellowship, as well as a two-time Heideman finalist, and a finalist for the Princess Grace Playwriting Fellowship, the Theatre503 Award, and the Playwrights Realm's Scratchpad Series. Her short plays have been commissioned and/or produced by Ensemble Studio Theatre, Pillsbury House + Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Source, Stay Awake! Theatre, Little Black Dress Ink, 20% Theatre Company Chicago, and Ohlone College. Her poems have been published in *New Delta Review* and *African American Review*.

Philana is the recipient of upcoming residencies at Djerassi and the Atlantic Center for the Arts and has received scholarships from the Fine Arts Work Center and Naropa University.

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Philana earned a BA in English at Stanford University, where she began writing plays under the mentorship of Cherríe Moraga and also dabbled in spoken word. She completed an MFA in Playwriting at OU in May 2018. She is at work on a television pilot about her experiences as a teacher in public charter schools. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

EDUCATION

Ohio University Athens, OH	Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting	2018
Stanford University Palo Alto, CA	Bachelor of Arts in English (Fiction)	

FELLOWSHIPS and RESIDENCIES

Atlantic Center for the Arts (upcoming)		2019
Djerassi Residency (upcoming)		2019
Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellowship		2018 – 2019
Tofte Lake Center Residency		2018

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

Kilroys List	The Kilroys	2019
Many Voices Fellowship Semifinalist	Playwrights' Center	2019
P73 Fellowship Semifinalist	Page 73	2019
David Calicchio Playwright Prize	Marin Theatre Company	2018
Theatre503 Award Finalist	Theatre503	2018
Relentless Award Semifinalist	American Playwriting Foundation	2017
Scratchpad Series Finalist	Playwrights Realm	2017
Princess Grace Finalist	New Dramatists	2017
Heideman Award Finalist	Actors Theatre of Louisville	2017
WomenWorks Finalist	University of Tulsa	2017
Heideman Award Finalist	Actors Theatre of Louisville	2016

FULL-LENGTH PLAY DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Before Evening Comes

- Reading, Geva Theatre Center FONT, directed by Jennifer L. Nelson, 2018.
- Reading, La MaMa Experiments Series, directed by Nehprii Amenii, 2017.
- Workshop, Br!nk New Play Festival, directed by Marti Gobel, 2016.
- Workshop, BAPF, directed by Jade King Carroll, 2016.

The Defiance of Dandelions

- Workshop Production, Ohio University, directed by Jeanette L. Buck, 2018.

Fireflies

- Workshop, The Playwrights' Center, directed by Shá Cage, 2019.
- Reading, Tantrum Theater, directed by Ben Stockman, 2017.
- Staged Reading, Ohio University, directed by Shelley Delaney, 2017.
- Reading, UC Berkeley TDPS New Play Series, directed by Miyoko Conley, 2017.

Strong Face

- Reading, New American Voices, Queens Theatre, 2019 (upcoming).
- Table Reading, The Playwrights' Center, directed by Faye Price, 2018.
- Concert Reading, Athena Project Festival, directed by Betty Hart, 2018.
- Reading, Seabury Quinn Jr. Playwrights' Festival, 2016.

What. That. Thing. It. Supposed To Be. OR The Story of Goldteelocks

- Workshop, The Playwrights' Center, directed by Shá Cage, 2019.

SHORT PLAY PRODUCTION HISTORY

“The Ancestors’ Breaths”	Ohlone College Playwrights Festival	2019
“Ascension”	Pillsbury House The Great Divide III: She Persists	2019
“The (Some) Body Shop”	Ohlone College Playwrights Festival	2018
“Color ED”	Stay Awake! Theatre Prism Festival	2017
“Mama Moon”	20% Theatre Company Chicago Snapshots	2017
“The Worst of All Evils”	Little Black Dress Ink ONSTAGE Festival	2017
“Black Boys Don’t Dance”	Estrogenius Festival	2011
“The Settlement”	EST Going to the River Festival	2011

PUBLICATIONS

“Brannon. Brumley. Bro.”	<i>My Motherf#!*^!#! College Life</i>	2017
“Cauchemar” and “Amputation”	<i>African American Review</i>	2013
“There Are Minerals in Rock” and “Cauchemar”	<i>Vision/Verse Anthology</i>	2013
“Black Boys Don’t Dance”	<i>The Book of Estrogenius 2011</i>	2013
“the things that yell within me” and “Inheritance”	<i>New Delta Review</i>	2009

TEACHING

Metaphor for the Stage, Instructor, Playwrights’ Center, 2019
Fundamentals of Play Analysis, Teaching Assistant, Ohio University, 2018
Playwriting Workshop, Teaching Artist, Stuart’s Opera House, 2017 and 2018
The Theatrical Experience, Teaching Assistant, Ohio University, 2017
Young Playwrights Festival, MFA Mentor, Horizon Theatre, 2017
Fundamentals of Play Analysis, Instructor, Ohio University, 2016
Viewing Performance, Instructor, Ohio University, 2015-2016

AFFILIATIONS

Playwrights’ Center Affiliated Writer, 2018 – Present
Dramatists Guild Member, 2015 – Present
PlaygroundSF Writers Pool, 2010 – 2011

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS

Naropa University	Summer Writing Program (Poetry)	Baraka Scholarship	2017
Kennedy Center	Playwriting Intensive		2011
Fine Arts Work Center	Summer Program (Poetry)	Walker Scholarship	2011
Naropa University	Summer Writing Program (Poetry)	Guest Student	2009