

# Dr. Candi Dugas

CREATIVE. COMPETENT. CONCERNED.



## PROFILE + CONTACT

New York Times award-winning writer, agile program/project manager specializing in crisis mode | financial, leadership + social impact developer | collaborator, stakeholder communicator + synthesizer of needs + solutions, achieving top results on time (*or early*), within budget (*or below*).

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## OVERVIEW

### PUBLICATIONS

- Growing e-book catalogue covering meditation, AI (*drafting*), improving relationships + more.
- *Beauty: a centering guide for you* - CreateSpace Press, 2016
- *Who Told You That You Were Naked? Black Women Reclaiming Sexual & Spiritual Goodness* - CreateSpace Press, 2012
- *Bootlicked to Balanced: Healing the Mind, Freeing the Spirit* - Xlibris Press, 2009

### LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

#### Lead Creative + President

*candi dugas collective* | 2007 - Present

Scale + develop ops/programs by collaborating with artists, wellness practitioners + social impact agents.

#### Pastor of Worship & Arts

*Grace United Methodist Church* | 2018 - 2019

Revitalize by curating content at the intersection of faith and arts to support + catalyze the community.

#### Founding VP, Operations

*The Center for Working Families, Inc.* | 2005 - 2008

Build organizational infrastructure for families to develop financial success in underserved community.

### ACADEMIC HISTORY

#### Columbia Theological Seminary

*Doctor of Ministry, Christian Spirituality, with honors*

#### Gammon Seminary/Interdenominational Theological Center

*Master of Divinity, Homiletics and Worship, Biblical Studies/Hebrew Bible; with honors*

#### University of Florida

*Bachelor of Science, Public Relations, Communication Studies, with honors*

### REFERENCES

Available upon request. (*Testimonials*)

### ASSOCIATIONS

- Dramatists Guild
- Working Title Playwrights
- National Black Arts Festival
- Alternate ROOTS
- Out of Hand Theatre
- Push Push Theatre
- Morehouse School of Medicine  
Fatherhood Initiative
- Suzi Bass Awards
- Church Within a Church Movement
- United Way of Metro ATL VIP

## Productions

### *Next Narrative Monologue Competition*

*True Colors Theatre; Atlanta, GA*

March 2023 + April 2022

Commissioning work from 50 Black playwrights that reflect the rich diversity of the Black community. NNMC serves high school students in 10+ participating regions. Students progress through three rounds of competition with the top two winners from each region competing in the National Finals, with an all-expense paid trip to NYC including workshops with theatre professionals, performance at the Apollo Theater, tickets to a Broadway show, and cash prizes.

*Executive Producer: True Colors Theatre. Producer: candi dugas collective. ([Learn](#) more.)*

### *Community Conversations Engaging All Voices to Heal from Atlanta's Missing/Murdered Children*

*Hush Harbor Lab; Atlanta, GA - via Zoom, Global*

April - May 2022

An immersive theatrical production of *Cassie's Ballad* by Addae Moon, that focuses on community/collective healing. The three, virtual conversations highlight the roles that race, class, and sexual orientation played in the investigation and outcomes of the case. *Executive Producers: Hush Harbor Lab + Found Stages. Conversations Producer: candi dugas collective. ([Learn](#) more.)*

### *"My Side of the Story: The Black Father Shares His Truth"*

*Morehouse School of Medicine Fathers Matter ATL + Compassion Con/Grant Park; Atlanta, GA*

May 2022

Short theatrical presentations devised from actual Black fatherhood experiences to engage fathers in transforming social and legal spaces to become father-friendly - and to connect fathers with needed resources, Broadway Brunch style. *Executive Producers: Morehouse School of Medicine, Compassion Con. Producer/Dramaturg: candi dugas collective/candi dugas. Playwrights: Dr. Carlton Molette, Sandra Hodge-Hampton. Director: David Koté. ([Learn](#) more.)*

### *"That Day"*

*Broadway Brunch | Broadway Brunch & Bistro™ - Grace Church; Atlanta, GA*

September 2019

That day they became three instead of four friends who'd been together since forever. Nita's unexpected death catalyzes more than grief when Julia, DeeAnne, and Letitia gather at Nita's house to pack up her things the morning of Nita's funeral. "That Day" explores grief within the context of women's friendships. *Exec. Producer: Grace Church. Producer: candi dugas. Playwright + Director: candi dugas. [NOTE: Broadway Brunch & Bistro™, LLC produces theatre-based community experiences for social impact. Top four re attendance: "Father-Son Campout," The Modern Prometheus, "eye of the storm," {also presented during B Street Theatre's (Sacramento, CA) 2021 New Play Brunch}, and a cappella - all by local ATL playwrights, 2018-2019 pilot season. ([Learn](#) more.)*

### *Jubalani: A Concert of Remembering and Rejoicing!*

*Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; Evanston, IL*

October 2016

Organized and managed creative, technical, educational, and administrative teams to produce the launch weekend and celebratory concert for Garrett's new Center for Music and Worship in the Black Church Experience. Jubalani featured dozens of artists: musicians, vocalists, and dancers. *Exec. Producer/Director: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson; Producer: dr candi dugas. ([Learn](#) more.)*

## "Serenade to Sisters I + II"

Spelman College; Atlanta, GA (1994), Imperial Theater; Augusta, GA (1995/1996)

Co-authored a four-scene skit depicting themes: "Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself;"

"You Can Get a New Man, But You Can't Get a New Life;" "No Glove, No Love."

An annual celebration by the GA Women Preventing AIDS, focusing on educating Black women about AIDS. *Actors included Dawnn Lewis ("Hangin' with Mr. Cooper" and "A Different World"). Producers: GWPA and Roy Communications. Playwrights: Valetta Anderson and candi dugas. Director: Andrea Frye.*

## Staged Readings

### Wild + Free

*Working Title Playwrights; Zoom, Global*

*March 2022*

*Dad's Garage; Atlanta, GA*

*December 2017 ([Watch](#) highlights from the staged reading. [Visit](#) its Facebook page.)*

**2021 Winner, Ethel Woolson Lab, Working Title Playwrights, Atlanta, GA; 2021 Semi-finalist, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Playwrights Foundation, San Francisco, CA**

Seeking renewed life within relationship triangles and the deep roots of white supremacy take Sydney Augustin by surprise. Will she find her way back to being open + untethered? *Executive Producers: Working Title Playwrights/candi dugas collective. Playwright: candi dugas. Directors: Mia Kristin Smith/Suehyla E. Young. Dramaturgs: Rebekah Suellau/Daphne Mintz. Sponsored project of FracturedAtlas.org.*

### A Complicated Hope

*Theatrical Outfit; Zoom, Global*

*February 2022*

An intricately compelling story about grief and finding family where it exists over time. Michael's death alters his family forever. Through their yearning to heal, they all discover a new family of their own. *Executive Producer: Theatrical Outfit (The Graham Martin Unexpected Play Festival) + Working Title Playwrights. Playwright: John E. Mabey. Dramaturg: candi dugas. Dir.: Damian Lockhart.*

### "Black sUn"

*Out of Hand Theatre; Zoom, Global*

*November 2020*

**New York Times Best Theatre 2020** (as part of the *Equitable Dinner Series*). A journey of Black motherhood watching over her son in three movements - birth, childhood + death, at the hands of police brutality/gun violence. *Executive Producer: Out of Hand Theatre. Playwright: candi dugas. Composer: Jhonna Johnson-Page. Director: Lee Osorio.*

### Far Away from Home: A Musical

*candi dugas collective; Streamyard/YouTube, Global*

*September - December 2020*

**Funding by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners + National Black Arts, Atlanta, GA, USA**

Gary, a handsomely young, sensitive, chain-smoking DJ who can fix anything ends up preferring time alone instead of constantly feeling like he does not quite measure up. But then he meets Sassy, and he's less and less able to maintain the distance that protected him. Will Gary choose himself or Sassy - or is it even a choice at all? *Bookwriter: candi dugas. Co-composers/Lyricists: CC Sunchild and Christian Magby. Director: David Koté. Dramaturg: Addae Moon. Sponsored project of FracturedAtlas.org.*

## Films

### *Desire's Kiss*

Flight Films | a candi dugas production; Atlanta, GA

Concept Trailers, launched August 2016 ([Watch](#) the latest trailer.)

**Best Feature Screenplay - The Urban MediaMakers Film Festival 2013,**

**Atlanta, GA.** *Logline:* A young Christian woman, sexy beyond her years, comes of age in the hands of an older lover, despite objections from her family, her faith - and her fears.

Inspired by "Song of Songs," *Desire's Kiss* celebrates feminine, cis-hetero sexuality, changing conversations around the integration of sexuality and spirituality. *Director: Julie Skzypek.*

*Writer/Executive Producer: candi dugas. Music: CC Sunchild.*

### "How to Get Away with Murder: He Lives!"

Impact DCD Short Films | Impact Church; East Point, GA

Easter Season, 2016 ([Watch](#) the film.)

Co-wrote a contemporized take on Jesus' resurrection, inspired by the hit TV show, "How to Get Away with Murder." *Director: Robert John Connor. Writers: candi dugas, Candi Cylar, Raisa Hunter, Candice Wynn. Producer: Impact Church.*

## MANAGEMENT HISTORY

### Lead Creative + President

candi dugas collective, Atlanta, GA | 2007 - Present

Harness the unique + effective power of the arts to help heal, root in spirituality + build freedom (*equity + inclusion*) for social impact in community. Produce + market rich, socially relevant, curated content to change lives, and spark tangible + meaningful action while developing financial resources to help support community organizations, local artists, and producers/providers of food.

- 78 collaborations, 10 full-length scripts for stage + screen, 9 skits, 4 short plays, 4 books
- Ethel Woolson Lab Recipient and Bay Area Playwrights' Festival Semi-finalist for Wild & Free (2021).
- Achieved New York Times award-winning writer status with Out of Hand Theatre - Best Theatre of 2020.
- Increased overall engagement 83.4%, post link clicks 30.1%, and impressions 28.1% across 4 social media platforms for a national nonprofit marcom client (2020).
- Best Screenplay for Desire's Kiss, Urban Mediamakers Film Festival (2013).
- Secured \$42K State of Georgia grant for a Metro Atlanta after-school program (2013).

### Nonprofit client highlighted achievements:

- Increased centering well-being of staff while repositioning their mission to the center of the work.
- Ambitious financial development to diversify funding, scale programming, and restructure operations to optimize all resources.
- Yielded 30% increase over planned funding from a major funder following the program officer's deep resonance with + appreciation of cdc insights.
- Retained \$20K in funding from a major funder after a necessary operational pivot, a pivot the funder named as possibly groundbreaking and a model for other organizations in the state.
- Unprecedented 59% survey completion rate from catalyzing immediate community engagement with a call to action (*moving from advocacy to action*), inviting responses for the community's number one concern to "fix tomorrow" - top 3 concerns: (*gun/teen*) violence, police brutality, quality of education (*pre-K - 12*).

## Pastor of Worship & Arts

*Grace United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA | 2018 – 2019*

Integrate meaningful + significant intersections of topics of faith, life, and theatrical themes to support community members' inner growth aspirations while strategically growing Sunday morning worship attendance toward increased membership goals at a church where those metrics were consistently declining.

- 300 unique new attendees (some repeating) + 89 new community leaders, artists + guest speakers over just 9 months.
- Increased attendance consistently by 50+% with new programming I designed + curated in just 9 months.
- Secured a \$5K district grant to help support this immediately successful, innovative, new programming.
- Cultivated creative/design, talent, technical, and administrative teams to implement programming designs.
- Connected multiple sectors in the spirit of community with new programming: education, grassroots, business, etc. organizations/groups.

## Founding Vice President-Operations

*The Center for Working Families, Inc., Atlanta, GA | 2005 – 2008*

(Re)Build a community resource for generational, financial sustainability in a community with a rich legacy of Black success thwarted by municipal progress and anti-Black/anti-poor policies. Strategically designed + implemented the full scope of operations, including management of the multi-million dollar budget, evaluation, and organizational sustainability.

- \$1.2M highly aesthetic office space renovation (10,000 sf) to boost human worth + transform social support environments.
- Facilitated 2 major operational shifts: accounting system migration + creation of marketing collaborative (pioneering in the years prior to the gig economy).
- Managed staff of up to 10 people, employees and contractors, deft handling of highly sensitive HR issues.

## Administrative/Arts/Communications Director

*Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA | 2000 – 2005*

Directed + supported several initiatives (communications, dance, drama, and overall department) for the community's (10,000+ membership) growth + development.

- Managed staff of up to 30 people, employees and volunteers.
- Trained and coordinated Worship & Arts Pastor's support team of 12 volunteers.
- Stewarded \$.5M budget.
- Led programming design/implementation, long-range planning, ministry visioning, and writing/publishing weekly/monthly bulletins, newsletters, and other publications.

## Writing the Artist Statement from Within

*Producing as a Virtual Class*

[Launching November 2023]

The artist's statement is not our resumes or CVs; its purpose is to convey the essence of the person behind the work. Therefore, it calls to the being within the frame, the intangible parts of ourselves that the world calls art. This multiple-weeklong class helps artists connect inwardly and then express what they discover in a tangible, exhaustive form from which they can draw to various submission requirements.

## Self-producing for the Stage

*Producing as a Virtual Class*

[In development]

A beginner's class for theatre artists whose primary career is not producing and are looking for alternative/additional pathways for putting their work out in the world.

## Parents/Youth Roundtable: Navigating Social Crises with Judge Penny Brown Reynolds

*Virtual Event produced by Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential*

June 2020

Panelist, contributing spiritual insight and guidance to young people and their parents to help them survive + thrive during challenging times, specifically COVID-19 and persisting racial injustice.

## Edge-Leaders Conference

*Centerform, Atlanta, GA*

January 2020

Panelist for Texas clergy of the United Methodist Church who identify as pioneers, learning how to acquire/sustain confidence in their visions and how to shift with changing times.

## Teen Love, Sex, & Dating Summit for Parents

*Fellowship of Love Church, Fayetteville, GA*

February 2018

"Journeying with Our Children" - Using personal experiences with my daughter as a backdrop, sharing with parents positive and practical approaches and strategies for navigating today's culture with their teens as they become all that G~d designed them to be.

## RECENT CONFERENCES, CLASSES + WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHTS

- Undoing Racism, People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, *March 2023*
- Institute for Equity Activism, *January - May 2022*
- Spiritual Writing for the Stage, Rebekah Suellau, *August-September 2021*
- How to Start a Podcast, Artist Relief Project, *May 2021*
- Blueprint for Ending White Supremacist Violence, Center for American Progress, *April 2021*
- Art as Activism Webinars, VolunteerMatch, *April 2021*
- 7 Steps to Creating a Profitable Online Course, Teachable, *March 2021*
- Citizen CNN, *February 2021 - Present*
- Digital Rights Webinar, Dramatists Guild, *February 2021*
- Art of Storytelling: Pitch to Page, Atlanta Film Society, *February 2021*

## LEARN MORE:

**Artist Statement | Artist Portfolio** visit [website](https://www.candidugas.com) (bottom of homepage - [candidugas.com](https://www.candidugas.com)).