

Cate Heiner

M.A. in Literary and Cultural
Studies, 2018

Dramaturg and Community
Outreach



Why did you choose the LCS M.A. program at CMU?

Part of what is so great about the LCS program at CMU is that students are provided with opportunities, mentors, and experiences to prepare them for work in academia. One thing that may not be as apparent is that this work can also be extended into other fields and other practices. There are a lot of skills that students can develop in the LCS program that can be transferred to other kinds of careers and experiences

How did your time at CMU prepare you for what's next?

I had technically never studied in an English program, and I was eager to see how literary analysis could provide me with new insights in theatre and drama. These goals did shift a little while I participated in the program, mostly because they got more specific. My experience in the program helped me articulate the kind of scholar I wanted to be and the kind of research I wanted to pursue. I feel like I have a much stronger foundation in literary analysis and theory because of the program at CMU, and I hope that I can continue building on my experience through my work in theatre.

What are you working on right now?

In terms of my academic work, my biggest project is PhD applications, which on its own is very exciting to imagine where my research paths might take me. In my theatrical experience, I've been very lucky to work as a dramaturg with three of the major theatre companies in Salt Lake City this year, and those productions have shaped a lot of my current research.