

Cliff Watson

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cliffwatson.com

Education

- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Poetics**, University of Washington, Bothell, WA Jun 2021
- Thesis: “6 foot pine”, a work of hybrid speculative fiction told through live theatre, narrative prose, concrete poetry, digital media, virtual and augmented reality; with accompanying poetics essay
 - Workshop topics included experimental writing, poetics, cultural change, processes of thought and memory, digital media (Unity/Adobe Photoshop/Premiere Pro), research papers, narrative, poetry, visual poetry, fiction and non-fiction (and somewhere in-between)
 - Awarded *UW Bothell Promising Scholars Fund Scholarship* 2020
 - Technical support on-site for **&Now Experimental Writing Conference** individual sessions 2019
 - **Co-curator and Host** for *Gamut* literary reading series 2020-2021
- Private voice training:** Erich Parce, Met baritone and stage director, Renton, WA 1992-present
- Business Administration Certificate**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 2017
- Workshop: The Visual Meeting – Tools to Document Ideas**, School of Visual Concepts, Seattle, WA 2017
- Workshop: Clowning – The Ludicrous You**, Joe DePaul, SANCA, Seattle, WA Jul 2014
- Master of Science in Applied Mathematics**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 1994
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics, *magna cum laude***, Brown University, Providence, RI 1992
- British GCE A-Levels:** geography, physics, maths (2 certificates), King George V School, Hong Kong 1988

Publications, presentations, and readings

Publications

- *Nokturno.fi*, international journal of digital and experimental poetry Dec 2021
 - [Storage closet](#) – selected as opening piece for issue, *Poetry in all kinds of places*
- Thesis: *6-foot pine: life and romance in the chondemic age* (<http://hdl.handle.net/1773/47285>) Jun 2021
 - Associated digital media:
 - [Storage closet](#) – a melding of prose, VR, AR, and voiceover.
 - [Unity 3D poetry renderer](#) – meshed with performative randomization
 - [BlastoconfZ89](#) – 3D poetry “game” concerning corporate hegemony.
- *Clamor* magazine – lyric essay [BLUEBERRIES AND CRAYFISH](#), ecological poem [Duck](#), and video reading of [Boffo: a found poem](#) Jun 10 2021
- *Essay Press / MFA Book Contest* Winner author interview – Preus: [The War Requiem](#) Oct 1 2021
- *Clamor* magazine – hybrid fiction-poetry *The New Life* and script-memoir [Shattered](#) Jun 10 2020
- *The Crow* magazine – poetics research paper: [Airtime](#), a technological-performative autobiography resolving poetics research quandaries via auditory artistic intervention Jun 2020

- Digital media work (public @ <https://cliffwatson.com/portfolio/>) includes
 - *Proof-of-concept experiments in AR, VR, and illustration using Unity with AR Foundation; Blender; and Adobe Dimension, Aero, and Fresco*
 - *Poe(m)eme* – motion-activated [AR reactive text](#) Feb 2022
 - *Mono-a-monologue* – a Zoom interior [monologue](#) with myself Jun 2020
 - *Wild boar*: a [documythtory](#) – video collage of invasive species and Norse mythology Apr 2020
 - *Didn't say banana* - a collage [tone poem](#) on orange Mar 2020
 - *3 ideas inspired by a language poet* – gifs, vispo, and poetics inspired by Lyn Hejinian Feb 2020
 - *Individuality* - a [neo-benshi](#) operatic paean to individuality Feb 2020
 - *Treelational Aesthetics* – *In search of arboreal reciprocity: what is the human-tree relational aesthetic?* – a sung improvised dialogue Oct 2019
 - Spoken-word author of [Dialogue about croquet in a library](#) for duo handstand circus act, *Acrobographies*, Cirrus Circus, School of Acrobatics & New Circus Arts 2017

Readings & Events

- Featured reader – assorted poetry, visual poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, scripts, lyrics, etc., for in-person and virtual events
 - Clamor 2021 launch party – guest author reader Jun 10, 2021
 - 165th SoulFood Poetry Night – guest reader Aug 20, 2020
 - Clamor 2020 launch party – guest author reader Jun 10, 2020
 - Gamut literary series – guest reader May 15, 2020
- Reader at various open mic and workshop events, both live and virtual, including:
 - Redmond Association of SPOkenword (RASP) monthly new-works reading events 2019-2021
 - Poets in the Park, open mic & workshops, Redmond Jul 20, 2019
 - Tim Applegate workshop *Writing poems and prose about work*, Booktree, Kirkland Feb 16, 2019

Editing, Teaching, and Working with students

- Freelance Editor - Content and Digital flow**, for webyarns.com Sep 2021-present
- Freelance editing in the online creative digital literary world
 - Review of content, including consistency of style, social relevance, grammar/punctuation, and clarity of message
 - Sensitively providing feedback while maintaining the artistic spirit/freedom of the creator
 - Testing technical aspects such as narrative flow, error management, and platform-specific behaviors
 - Leveraging my years of experience in creative cross-genre writing, specification development, software testing, and user-facing content development
- Peer Facilitator/GA (PT)**, MFA *Cultural Change and writing* seminar – UW Bothell Feb-Jun 2021
- Assisted with wrangling Zoom interactions for online *From the Convergence Zone* speaker series

- Assisted with pre-/post-event logistics including captioning videos for distribution and book launch communications.

Assistant Career Advisor (PT), Career Services – University of Washington Bothell Sep 2019-Jun 2021

- Advised a diverse group of university students 1-on-1, in-person and virtually, to prepare them for their job search process.
- Mentor new career advisor employees
- Reviewed resumes/cover letters, conducted mock interviews, LinkedIn Learning, transitional skills project designer/implementer
- Interviewed professional candidates for full-time staff positions as a member of hiring panels
- Edited and updated departmental webpages using Kentico content management system (CMS)
- Developed a video caption editor in Python to help publish accessible career videos

Alumni interviewer for prospective students, Brown University 2014-present

Show Volunteer - Hands-on set design/building, ushering, etc., for youth circus shows at SANCA 2013-2017

Teaching Assistant , University of Washington Seattle 1993-1994

- TA for classes in Calculus and “Mathematics for business majors”
- Worked through problems with students 1-on-1 in office hours, led sections

Performance experience

Summary

Singer-Actor-Writer (Part-time), various opera, theatre, and choral companies 1988-present

- Perform lead and supporting roles in 30+ regional opera/musical theatre shows, e.g. *Papageno* (The Magic Flute), *Schaunard* (La Bohème), *The Senator* (Carol Oates/Duffy's Black Water), *Adam* (The Apple Tree), live radio show jazz standards/commercials, etc.
- Professional singer for Seattle Opera chorus (19 productions) and various paid choir positions/gigs
- Most recent work (pre-Covid) in professional choir, *Emerald Ensemble*, broadcast on KING-FM, Fall 2019

Details

2018-2021

Poetry/spoken-word readings & performances
Emerald Ensemble (professional choir)

RASP, Poetry in the Parks, Clamor journal video poetry
KING-FM broadcast, Seattle Opera Center
Inauguration of new broadcast studio
Seattle Sings Choral Festival

2010s

Skagit Opera [now: Pacific NW Opera]
Puget Sound Opera
Vashon Opera
Pontiac Bay Symphony Orchestra

Tosca: Sciarrone
Luisa Miller: Wurm
La Bohème: Schaunard
Old time radio show vocal soloist, sound effects,
live commercial reenactments
RASP, Poetry in the Parks, etc.
Mercer Island Congregational, Taiwanese Church,
Redmond senior center, etc.
Instrumental/vocal ensemble performances

Poetry spoken-word readings
Event/church soloist, holidays, special occasions

Three Cedars fundraiser chamber series (7 years)

2000s and before

Lake Chelan Bach Festival
Second Story Rep

Off-Center Opera

The Magic Flute: Sarastro
Side by Side by Sondheim
Anything Goes: Evelyn Oakleigh
Black Water (John Duffy contemporary opera):
The Senator and Dwayne
Susanna's Secret (Wolf-Ferrari): Count Gil
The *Magic Flute*: Papageno
La Cenerentola/Cinderella (Rossini): Don Magnifico
The Pirates of Penzance: Sergeant of Police
G & S Society 50th Anniversary Gala: Soloist
H.M.S. Pinafore: Dick Deadeye
Trial by Jury/ The Sorcerer: The Usher

Bellevue Opera

Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Skagit Opera [Pacific NW Opera]

Cornish College of the Arts

Seattle Symphony

VocalArts Northwest

Chamber Opera Northwest/Seattle Fringe Festival

Opera-by-the-Book

UW Dept. of Music Zarzuela

University of Washington Opera (1993 – 2004)

Seattle Opera Chorus (1996 – 2003)

Music Theatre Works/Seattle Fringe Festival

Village Theatre

Mountaineer Players

Civic Light Opera

New Savoy Opera

Brown University Music Theatre Workshop

The Pirates of Penzance: Sergeant of Police

La Bohème : Alcindoro

The Apple Tree (musical by Harnick/Bock): Adam

Amahl and the Night Visitors: shepherd soloist

French mélodie; Scenes: *Così fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *Lucia*

The Impresario (Mozart) reimagined: Blue Chips

Le Nozze di Figaro: Bartolo; Antonio

El Duo de la Africana: Perez; Policeman

The Magic Flute: Speaker/Armored Man

Four on the Sidewalk: musical/opera quartets

Mahagonny Songplay: Bobby

Gianni Schicchi: Guccio

H.M.S. Pinafore: Boatswain (Bill Bobstay)

Fidelio, *Parsifal*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Billy Budd*,

Tosca, *Falstaff*, *Der Freischütz*, *Boris Godunov*, *Lakmé*,

Il Barbiere di Siviglia, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Faust*, *Vanessa*,

Die Fledermaus, *La Bohème*, *Il Trovatore*, *Turandot*

Götterdämmerung

Starry Night: Fury

On the Town: Workman I

(“I feel like I’m not out of bed yet”) / Policeman

Sacagawea: Sgt. Patrick (new works series)

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers: Benjamin

The Pirates of Penzance: Sergeant understudy

The Sorcerer: Sir Marmaduke Poindextre

Scenes: *The Gondoliers*, *Così Fan Tutti*

(Don Alfonso), *West Side Story*, *A Chorus Line*

Recital, Church and choral performances for special occasions and regular services.

Soloist for Handel’s *Messiah*, Stravinsky Mass, Mozart *Missa Brevis*, contemporary pieces, etc.

Soloist at Eastshore Unitarian Church, Mercer Island Congregational Church, et al.

Marionette Puppeteer

Willow Branch Puppet Theater - *The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*

Clay Martin’s Puppet Theater - title role in *Faust*

Ensemble Singing

Emerald Ensemble (professional choir)

The Dickens Carolers

Seattle Symphony Chorale

University of Washington Chorale

The Higher Keys of Brown University (small group jazz and pop a cappella)

Brown University Chorus

Eastshore Unitarian Church Choir

Mercer Island Congregational Church choir (swing bass section leader)

University Temple United Methodist Church choir

Technology experience

Recent tools/platforms focus (2019+): Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Premiere, Fresco, Dimension, After Effects, Aero), Unity platform and AR Foundation/Unity Cloud Build for augmented and virtual reality experiments

Product / Beta / Quality Manager, Gemio (Loop Devices, Inc.), Seattle, WA 2016-2017
Released version 1 of the fun new Bluetooth friendship band and iOS/Android apps from startup Gemio

- Managed the release quality of a v1 consumer product, including the beta program
- Developed, managed, and communicated project management solutions
- Wrote specifications and visual projects to facilitate idea generation meetings
- Owned and documented user scenarios from initial brainstorm to specification development
- Wrote web/in-package user-facing documentation, optimized customer support process in Zendesk

Technologies: Google Docs, MS Office, MS Project, ZenHub, GitHub, Smartsheet, Excel, Zendesk, VS Code, Python3

Software Engineer, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond WA 1995-2016

Senior Software Engineer

Excel Desktop, Excel Services, Excel Web App

- Developed code and security updates for multiple Windows versions of Excel
- Drove the education of 30+ member team on Excel Web App file input/output testing, collaborating on needs and coordinating cross-product initiatives
- Tested product features via automation development and black/gray-box analysis of attributes

Technologies: C++, C#, VSO, Excel, standard Microsoft dev tools

Software Development Engineer in Test

SharePoint Enterprise Content Management

- Cross-Team Driver for 30+ member team on SharePoint backup and restore
- Work Management driver: Designed the system and education plan, then trained and supported team members
- Feature Test Ownership for SharePoint Content Discovery and Navigation

Technologies: SharePoint administration, C#, VS, MS Project Server

Scheduling Engine Test Lead, Product Strategy Team

Microsoft Project Business Unit

Supported Microsoft Project Client and Server through 7 major releases as a **Strategy Team** member, the **Scheduling Engine Test Lead**, and **SDET**. Some accomplishments:

- Integration Test Driver – Developed, communicated, and managed the 4-year process of education, 1-on-1 brainstorming, testing and collateral collection for a 45-person team
- People Leadership – Managed 7-person teams for 7 years, providing product and career guidance. Managed larger virtual teams across pillars for server-side scheduling development
- Hiring Process – Conducted 100's of interviews of college and industry candidates over 15 years

- 1-on-1 Mentoring – Supported team members' daily concerns on testing methodology, process, prioritization, documentation, healthy team interaction and project management how-to
- Customer Voice – Supported individuals' queries at conferences/meetings 1-on-1
- Large Process Driver – Drove the overall test process for a 40-person test organization, including design, adoption, team negotiation, implementation of work tracking, document review process, and work estimation system
- Product Acquisition – Successfully evaluated technology and personnel on-site for acquisition from eLabor.com. Subsequently, was a key source of support for new team members
- Creative Technology Solutions – Introduced the team to a Data Driven Testing model and a SQL Data Mining clustering methodology for customer database analysis

Technologies: MS Project client/server management/scheduling, MS Office, C#, SQL DM, VB, VBA