

## Erika Dickerson-Despenza

### Fellow

July, 2019 -- July, 2020

Erika Dickerson-Despenza is a Blk feminist poet-playwright, cultural worker, educator and grassroots organizer from Chicago, Illinois. She's the recipient of the 2019 Princess Grace Award in Playwriting and was a 2018 Relentless Award Semifinalist. Erika is a 2019 National Arts & Culture Delegate for the U.S. Water Alliance's One Water Summit. She's the 2019-2020 Tow Playwright-in-Residence at the Public Theater, a 2019 Writers' Gathering Jerusalem Writer-in-Residence, a 2019 New York Stage and Film Fellow-in-Residence, a 2019 New Harmony Project Writer-in-Residence, a 2018-2019 Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow and was The Lark's 2018 Van Lier New Voices Fellow. Erika is a 2019-2020 member of Ars Nova Play Group and a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre's Obie-winning Youngblood collective. Her work has been developed at The Lark, Vineyard Arts Project, New York Stage and Film, Public Theater, Victory Gardens Theater, Fault Line Theatre and Jackalope Theatre. Current plays in development include: *ocean's lip/ heavn's shore*, *took/tied*, *hung/split*, *shadow/land*, and *cullud wattah* (2019 Kilroys List; Public Theater, 2020). In addition to this water tetralogy, Erika is developing a 10-play Katrina Cycle, including *[hieroglyph]* (2019 Kilroys List), focused on the effects of Hurricane Katrina and its state-sanctioned man-made disaster.

### ND Activity

- [Princess Grace Award Fellowship](#) [1]

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