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Thomas Oldam
Visiting Assistant Professor
Theater and Dance

My research focuses on representations of violence on the British and Irish stage. I try to figure out what makes gruesome writers from Shakespeare to McDonagh so effective, and I think there are many interconnected reasons (aesthetic, psychological, sociological) why we love gore so much. Despite this, I don't watch a lot of horror/thrillers at the movies or on television. The big exception was the TV series *Hannibal*, because of Bryan Fuller's uniquely theatrical aesthetic. His *Pushing Daisies* was delightful; I haven't yet watched *American Gods*, but I hope to soon. I like TV that is bold and a little weird, like the *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* or the visually stunning *Legion*. As a dramaturg, however, I'm still a sucker for well-crafted writing. The best out there right now? *Better Call Saul*.

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