

RaeEllen C. Walker

Scenic Designer ❖ Scenic Artist ❖ Lighting Designer

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Education

Master of Fine Arts: Scenic Design

May 2014

Western Illinois University

MFA Final Project, scenic design for the university's production of *Oklahoma!* With suggestive realism and a transforming set, we were able to transition between scenes quickly and without distraction from the story. The style also lent itself to showcasing the beauty and significance of the land these people lived and worked on.

MFA Comprehensive Exam, an essay exam consisting of nine analytical questions based on a selection of twenty-eight plays deemed highly important to theater history.

Selected Courses:

Scenic Design, 6 semesters (David Patrick,
William Musser)

Lighting Design, 2 semesters (Tim Kupka)

Costume Design, 2 semesters (Ray Gabica)

Visual Concepts for Production (Tim Kupka,
Egla Hassan)

Décor, Architectural Design History (David Patrick)

Scenic Painting Techniques (William Musser)

Theatrical Rendering (Ray Gabica, William Musser)

Techniques in Watercolor, 2 semesters (Julie
Mahoney)

Contemporary Art History (Keith Holz)

Bachelor of Arts: Technical Theatre and Design

May 2010

Coe College

Teaching Experience

Western Illinois University

Introduction to Theatre (THEA 110)

Spring 2014

A self-designed course in which I developed a syllabus for non-major students interested in learning more about the theatre arts. Within the first half of the semester we spent time learning and discussing an introduction to theatre history, theatrical design and world theatre. The second half of the semester was dedicated to learning play analysis and using *Six Characters in Search of an Author* as a guide and reference.

Graduate Assistant:

Introduction to Theatre (THEA 110)

Fall 2013

As an assistant to Professor Jason A. Conner; I attended each class, assisted with lectures and graded papers and exams. Conner's class was an introduction to theatrical production, play analysis and playwriting.

Design for Performance (THEA 250)

Fall 2012

Team-taught by professors Tim Kupka and Ray Gabica, *Design for Performance* is a class provided to the students in the Department of Theater and Dance Bachelor of Arts program. The syllabus combines an extensive introduction to; the elements of design, lighting design, scenic design and costume design. As a graduate assistant to the class I attended each class, taught a week of lecture in scenic design and graded design projects and exams. I also made myself available to the students outside of class for assistance in completing the design projects.

Scene Shop Assistant

Fall 2011 – Spring 2014

Worked as a carpenter and build-team leader for all main-stage productions. The position required a proficiency in using; power tools, pneumatic tools, various metal or wood cutting tools and the use of and understanding of a variety of materials. I frequently would lead teams of students for build assignments given by the technical director. This included me reading technical drawings, assigning jobs to students, teaching students basic tool use, organizing materials and enforcing proper safety habits. As the scenic graduate assistant, I was 3rd in command under the Master Carpenter and Technical Director; this meant that at certain times I was also in charge of over-seeing the shop and responsible for the days tasks. Other responsibilities, based on the needs of the productions, included scenic designer, charge artist, scenic artist, properties master and properties assistant.

Truman State University

Stage Lighting

Spring 2015

This was an introduction class for theatrical lighting technicians and designers. The class provided the students an opportunity to learn about minor electrical work, different forms of lighting instruments, how to hang and focus instruments, qualities and functions of light used within design and how to properly design a light plot. Projects within the class allowed for the students to observe how light can affect any given subject and what you can do to control the given surroundings.

Stage Craft

Spring 2015

Stage Craft is a two-part class, which incorporates lecture and hands on learning. Once per week a lecture was held for learning about the basics to technical theater and working in a scene shop. The remaining days of the week were dedicated to learning hands on techniques in building and assembling set pieces for the department's theatrical productions. On the build days, selected interns and scholarship workers accompanied the students of the class. By the end of the semester the students are expected to know how to use multiple forms of tools, powered, hand or fixed, and be able to properly determine the materials which would best make any given project.

Augustana College

Lighting and Sound Design

Winter Term 2018

This is an introductory course on the design concepts and principles of lighting and sound for the theatre. The student should leave the class with a better understanding of the purpose of lighting and sound design as well as the standard techniques to achieve quality works on stage. We will be utilizing script analysis, successful examples and texts on design to help the student feel confident they can design their own show.

Each design element of a production requires a technician to build it; this class learns the basics of how to work in the technical side of theatre. Course topics include: Scenic, Lighting, Costumes, Hair/Make-up, Sound, Props, Stage Management and Special Effects. We combined textbook learning with real-life application in the various shops for the department. The final project for the class required them to pick a topic area discussed in class and create a realized representation of that aspect of theatre.

Professional Experience

Technician Intern 2009

The Ensemble Studio Theatre, Manhattan, NY

As an intern my responsibilities included helping with load-in for incoming shows, transitioning spaces in between productions, running sound or light boards as needed and assisting with office duties. Load-ins consisted of communicating with the production's technical liaison to help install the tour set as well as paint and construction. There were three different spaces owned by EST and depending on the schedule, which changed daily, I would be in charge of transporting appropriate chairs and platforms from space to space.

Lighting Technician 2010

On the Square Productions, Queens, NY

Assisted the lighting designer with set up and focus for an outdoor production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. My responsibilities also included being the light board operator using a Leprecon two-scene preset system.

Freelance Technician 2010-2011

The Brick Theatre, Brooklyn, NY

Was hired to assist traveling productions with lighting design, backstage crew assistance and load-ins. During their festival season I would be sound and light board operator as needed. As a member of "The Brick" team I also worked FOH, box office, and as a swing technician.

Scenic Designer/Scenic Artist 2013

Festival 56, Princeton, IL

The summer's season consisted of seven shows in seven weeks. I was responsible for the scenic design of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Full Monty*. My position also included being one of two scenic artists for the festival's season. -I also assisted with costume build and props construction.

Lead Decorative Product Specialist July 2014—January 2015

Sherwin Williams, Cedar Rapids, IA

I worked for Sherwin Williams as their in-store and on-site color and design consultant. Mostly I worked with residential DIY customers to create cohesive design choices for their remodeling projects. I was also a key holder and took on small managerial responsibilities.

Guest Artist/Designer

October 2014

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA

The department of theatre arts at Randolph College hired me to design the set and lights for their production of *Mother Courage and her Children*. I designed the show from my home in Cedar Rapids, IA and was flown in for two weeks to help finish the design elements before the show opened. Once there I assisted the technical director in making build and design choices and managed a team of students for electrical work including light-hang, focus and dimmer and circuit re-patching.

Technical Director/Lighting and Scenic Professor

Spring Semester 2015

Truman State University

The Department of Arts and Letters at Truman State University hired me to fill in for a faculty member who was on medical leave. While there, I functioned as technical director for *Translations* directed by Randy Bame, and *She Kills Monsters* directed by David Charles Goyette for which I was also lighting designer. My responsibilities also included teaching Stage Lighting and Stage Craft, both introductory level courses.

Make-up Design and Application

Summer 2015

Revival Theater Company

I worked with director Brian Glick to develop an Avant-Garde style design for his company's production of *Pippin*. Each ensemble character had their own unique "clown" look to add to the fantastical nature of the show.

Lighting Designer

October 2017

Turning The Wheel

Artistic director, Alana Shaw, reached out to me, as I was a local lighting designer in the Cedar Rapids, IA area. Her touring production of *Stardust and Water* was invited to Mount Mercy College as a two-night event and they needed to hire someone to come into the space and design the lights, uniquely for this performance.

Teaching Artist in Residence

August 2018 – May 2019

Augustana College

I was hired to teach technical theatre and design for the Department of Theatre Arts at Augustana College. My other job requirements were designing the lighting and scenic elements for the mainstage productions and advising students with design questions. As there is not a sound designer for the department, I also assisted with production sound design as needed. The position also required that I help represent the college at local or national theatre conferences.

Significant Production Work with Augustana College

(Scenic and Lighting Design)

2018-2019 Season

The Frog and The Princes – Jackie McCall

The Crucible – Jennifer Popple

Songs For Survival/Brundibar – Michelle Crouch

The 3 Musketeers – Jeff Coussens

Seussical – Dino Hayz

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying – Shelley Cooper

Significant Production Work with Western Illinois University

2013-2014 Season

Bat Boy – Scenic Designer
Suicide in Bflat – Technical Director
Talking With – Technical Director
Snowbound – Scenic Designer/Technical Director
Xanadu – Technical Director
An Evening with Chekhov – Artistic Director/Technical Director
Shakespeare's R + J – Technical Director
Dutchman – Technical Director
Elephant's Child – Scenic/Costume Designer
Oklahoma! – Scenic Designer

2012-2013 Season

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow was Enuf – Technical Director
Mary's Wedding – Technical Director
On the Open Road – Scenic Designer
When You Coming Back Red Ryder? – Scenic/Lighting Designer/Technical Director
The Blind – Lighting Designer/Technical Director
Never Swim Alone – Technical Director
Next Fall – Scenic Designer/Technical Director
Laughing Wild – Technical Director
Electra – Scenic Designer
Orpheus Descending – Scenic Designer/Technical Director
Joyful Noise – Stage Manager/Technical Director/Assistant Lighting Designer
Scar Tissue – Technical Director
Visitor From Forrest Hills – Technical Director

2011-2012 Season

Seafarer – Assistant Scenic Designer
God of Carnage – Scenic Designer
Master Herald and the Boys – Assistant Technical Director
Mauritius – Scenic Designer
Boom – Assistant Technical Director
Fat Men in Skirts – Assistant Technical Director
Heidi Chronicles – Technical Director
Rock 'N' Roll – Scenic Designer

Significant Production Work with Coe College

2009-2010 Season

Three Days of Rain – Assistant Stage Manager/Properties Assistant
She would if She Could – Lighting Designer
Company – Properties Designer/Assistant Production Stage Manager

Additional Production Work

Carpentry at Western Illinois Univeristy

2013-2014 – *Oklahoma!*

Betty's Summer Vacation(Also Assistant Properties Designer)

Gift of The Gorgon

Noises Off

Bat Boy: The Musical

2012-2013 – *Anything Goes*

I Hate Hamlet

Electra

Smokey Joe's Café

On the Open Road

Guernica

2011-2012 – *Rock 'N' Roll*

Hair

Henry VI

She Loves Me

The Seafarer

Arabian Nights

Awards and Affiliations

- ✦ *KCACTF*, Winner of 'Excellence in Scenic Design' for *Bat Boy: The Musical* (2014)
- ✦ Member of United States Institute of Theatrical Technology 2010- Present
- ✦ Attended USITT Conventions:
 - Kansas City (2010)
 - Milwaukee (2013)

Related Skills and Abilities

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| ✦ Vectorworks | ✦ Woodworking tools | ✦ Hanging and focusing lighting instruments |
| ✦ Lightwright | ✦ Metalworking tools | ✦ Care for lighting instruments and basic electrical skills |
| ✦ Photoshop | ✦ Basic understanding of rigging | ✦ Drivers License |
| ✦ Sketchbook Pro | ✦ Basic understanding of single and double purchase fly system | ✦ Experience driving: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Flatbed trucks○ Box trucks○ Manual transmission |
| ✦ Microsoft Office <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Word○ PowerPoint○ Excel○ Publisher | ✦ General programming knowledge of most ETC light boards | |

References

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