
TIM THISTLETON

LIGHTING DESIGNER

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Education

Master of Fine Arts in Design and Technology, Lighting Design- 2015

West Virginia University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Lighting Design

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatrical Production and Design, Technical Production-2010

Fredonia State University

Teaching Experience

PCPA, Pacific Conservatory Theatre

THEA 305 Materials, Tools and Tech 1 (2017-Present)

Topics taught have included: Conventional and intelligent lighting fixture maintenance and troubleshooting, proper hang/cable/focus methods and practices, roles and responsibilities in an electricians department, basic electricity and power formulas, and practical construction (including the use of LEDs and wireless dimming).

Moving Light Maintenance Master Class (2018)

A class offered to the 2-year Technical Conservatory students. Taught students how to properly maintain and safely troubleshoot Vari*Lite VL2000 wash fixtures. Also discussed other common types of moving lights and how the technology has changed over the years.

Introduction to Color Theory (2018)

Discussed the anatomy of the eye and why we perceive colors the way that we do. Took an in-depth look at the electromagnetic spectrum and where visible light falls. Talked about the differences between additive and subtractive color mixing and how color choices in light can be used to enhance the other facets of the design.

Vectorworks Master Class (2016)

A 2-day master class offered to the Pacific Conservatory Theatre's summer interns. The students were given a drawing assignment which requires the use of various basic tools before moving on to either a light plot or a 3d scenic rendering.

Teaching Experience Cont'd

West Virginia University

Fundamentals of Lighting (2012-2015)

An introductory course to the technology and practices associated with lighting design. Students learn basic design concepts, maintenance and troubleshooting, color theory, how to operate a lighting console, building practicals, and learning the progression of the technology that has led us to the instrumentation that we use today. There is a lab component in addition to the lecture that gives students practical experience in hang, cable, focus, strike and shop maintenance during the season.

Advanced 3D CAD (2015):

An advanced level class that focuses on the tools used to properly draft using 3D in Vectorworks-2015. Students are asked to create virtual renderings to properly showcase design ideas and concepts, including scenic and lighting designs.

CAD for the Theatre, co-teacher (2013):

Introduced students to drafting with Vectorworks. Using examples and classroom exercises students learn to draft ground plans, sections, elevations, construction drawings, and light plots. The class also included an introduction to drafting objects in 3D.

Guest Lectures and Workshops

TH210 Introduction to Theatre, Cal Poly, guest lecturer (2018)

Discussed the Lighting Design process from conceptual to realization, showing examples of design presentations and portfolio pictures of how the designs turned out.

Introduction to Color Theory, California State Thespian Festival (2016-17):

Introduced high school students to the basic concepts associated with color theory. Showed examples of how color choices in light can effect the other facets of design, including how subtle differences in gels can create major differences in the objects being lit.

Stagecraft I, WVU, guest lecturer (2015):

Gave students a presentation on the art of dance lighting design. Talked about how the process differs from other types of lighting design and how to properly collaborate with choreographers.

How To Hang and Focus a Light, West Virginia Thespian Festival (2014):

A class for high school and middle school technicians interested in the proper way to hang and focus a light. Discussed safety issues to be aware of and gave a demonstration of how to focus a light efficiently, before coaching the students through their own exercises.

Teaching Experience, Guest Lectures and Workshops Cont'd

Introduction to Lighting Design, West Virginia Thespian Festival (2014):

A presentation on the controllable properties and functions of lighting design. Discussed common problems specific to high school technicians and designers, and gave insight on how to achieve certain effects with very little inventory.

One Act Festival, West Virginia Thespian Festival (2014):

Helped guide the young lighting designers as each of their schools loaded in a unique one-act that they had brought to the festival. Taught students how to create a show on the ETC Ion.

Ion Programming, Bethel Park High School (2013)

Traveled to Bethel Park High School in Pennsylvania to teach students the benefits of having a touch screen for an ETC Ion. Tutorials included: Direct Selects, Magic Sheets, Color Picker, and other functions of the console enhanced by a touch screen.

Drafting for the Stage, WVU, guest lecturer (2012):

Taught students how to hand draft a light plot. Included an in-class demonstration and a discussion of the standards and practices outlined by USITT, as well as some tips and tricks for first time hand drafters.

Stagecraft I, WVU, guest lecturer (2012):

Taught the introduction to lighting portion of the class. Discussed basic design concepts, technology, paperwork, and the job titles that exist in the realm of lighting.

Practical Experience

Lighting Design

PCPA, Pacific Conservatory Theatre:

Peter Pan, Barrie, Leigh, Charlap (2018)

Arcadia, Stoppard (2018)

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Durang (2018)

The Crucible, Miller (2018)

Fences, Wilson (2017)

Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical, Ludwig, Sham, Carroll (2017)

You Can't Take it With You, Kaufman and Hart (2017)

Gidion's Knot, Adams (2016)

Trying, Glass (2016)

Sense and Sensibility, Austen (2016)

The Glass Menagerie, Williams (2016)

Practical Experience, Lighting Design Cont'd

West Virginia University:

Dance Now! 2015, various pieces (2015)
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare (2014)
Dance Now! 2014, various pieces (2014)
Cabaret, Kander and Ebb (2013)
Dance Now!, various pieces (2013)
Blood Wedding, Lorca, Assistant (2012)

Tennessee Williams Theatre, Cabaret:

Still No Sondheim, Charles Lindbergh (2012)
Laurie Breakwell (2012)
Bobby In The Lobby, Bobby Nesbitt (2012)
Roslyn Kind (2011)
Key West Burlesque, various pieces (2011)
Johnny Rodgers (2011)
Suzie Spidell (2011)
Paul Cotton (2011)
Randy Roberts (2010)
Paradise Big Band (2010)
Cabaret Key West, various pieces (2010)

Tennessee Williams Theatre, Mainstage:

The Dance Factory presents Cars (2012)
Dance Works 10, Featuring Cinderella, The Coffee Mill Dance Studio (2012)
That's Entertainment 3, Randy Roberts (2012)
Fabuloso!, Key West Burlesque (2012)
The Midtown Men (2012)
Kiss Me Kate, Key West Pops (2012)
Noel Paul Stookey (2012)
Black, White, and Twinkle Lights, Key West Contemporary Dance (2011)
U.S. Naval Change of Command Ceremony (2011)
The Dance Factory Presents Finding Nemo (2011)
Dance Works 9, The Coffee Mill Dance Studio (2011)
The Callaway Sisters (2011)
That's Entertainment Too, Randy Roberts (2011)
The Irish Comedy Tour (2011)
The Temptations (2011)
Cloud Illusions, Key West Contemporary Dance (2011)
Key West Burlesque Holiday Extravaganza (2011)
The Key West Symphony (2010)

Fredonia State University:

Contrived Persona, Daniel Charon (2010)
Late Night Creep, Kyle Abraham (2010)

Practical Experience Cont'd

Master Electrician

PCPA, Pacific Conservatory Theatre:

Mamma Mia!, Johnson (2018)
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Durang (2018)
The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Menken, Schwartz (2018)
The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence, George (2018)
The Crucible, Miller (2018)
Freaky Friday, Carpenter, Kitt, Yorkey (2017)
Fences, Wilson (2017)
Twelfth Night, Shakespeare (2017)
Newsies, Fierstein, Menken, Feldman (2017)
Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical, Ludwig, Sham, Carroll (2017)
The Whipping Man, Lopez (2017)
You Can't Take it With You, Kaufman and Hart (2017)
Beauty and the Beast, Woolverton, Menken, Ashman, Rice (2016)
Gidion's Knot, Adams (2016)
Trying, Glass (2016)
In the Heights, Hudes, Miranda (2016)
Sense and Sensibility, Austen (2016)
Shrek The Musical, Lindsay-Abaire, Tesori (2016)
Richard III, Shakespeare (2016)
The Glass Menagerie, Williams (2016)
The Pirates of Penzance, Gilbert and Sullivan (2016)
Cinderella, Rodgers and Hammerstein (2016)

Technical Direction

West Virginia University:

Mother Courage and Her Children, Brecht (2015)
Henry IV, Parts I and II, Shakespeare, Assistant (2014)

Fredonia State University:

Charlotte's Web, Robinette (2009)
La Boheme, Puccini, Assistant (2009)
A Christmas Carol, Dickens (2008)

Related Employment

PCPA, Pacific Conservatory Theatre- Resident Lighting Designer/Master Electrician/Faculty, 2015-Present:

Design the lights for several mainstage shows each school year. Mentor the students as they learn how to be professional theatrical electricians. During their time in the light shop, students will learn how to: properly hang, cable, and focus a plot, build and wire hand and scenic practicals, maintain an array of lighting instruments, and learn how to program a lighting console. Lecture on a variety of topics including color theory, basic electricity and moving light maintenance. Continue to design lights for the company during the summer, working very closely with our professional interns to produce 5 shows in repertory.

West Virginia University- Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2012-2015:

Responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the lighting inventory and the light shop. Was the professor on record for at least one class a semester, sometimes multiple, and supervised 20 hours of lab a week where the students were responsible for the load in and strike of every main stage show. Was in charge of the technical aspects for many university events including lab theatre performances, School of Music concerts and a staged reading directed by Christopher Sarandon.

PCPA- Master Electrician, Summer 2014:

Supervised a crew of 12 electricians for all shows that were being performed in the Marian Theatre in Santa Maria, Ca. Planned all circuit runs for specials that were added to the rep plot. Built practicals as needed. Created changeover plans to send each show to a second theatre offsite while also loading in our next show.

IATSE Local 578- Over-hire/ Programmer, 2013-2015:

Worked several local calls as either a programmer or crew head for acts such as The Blue Man Group and Darius Rucker.

Tennessee Williams Theatre- Lighting Director, 2010-2012:

Served as the lighting designer for any show in the space that did not travel with one. Advanced all of the national tours that performed on our stage. Supervised the local crew during all load-ins. Designed the lights for numerous types of dance productions from children's recitals, to modern, ballet and burlesque. Also maintained all lighting equipment as well as presenting packages for upgrades.

Orchesis Dance Company- Technical Representative, 2009-2010

Was the technical representative for SUNY Fredonia's student run dance organization. Facilitated all technical aspects of two major shows a year. Over two years with the company we purchased and cut marley floor for each of the three theatre spaces on campus, brought in several professional guest choreographers for master classes, and greatly improved our technical inventory.

Rockefeller Arts Center, Fredonia, New York- Assistant Technical Director, 2009-2010:

Assisted with the load in of numerous touring shows. Acted as stage manager and technical liaison for local artists using the venue.

Related Employment Cont'd

Bay Street Theatre- Carpenter, Summer 2009:

Part of a three-person crew responsible for the construction and load in of the sets for a three-show season, as well as the set for the theatre's gala event.

Bay Street Theatre- Electrician, Summer 2008:

Part of a two-person crew that hung, cabled and focused everything for a three-show season. Running duties included programming for one show, stage crew for the second, and follow spot operator for the final show. Also ran the light board for several touring acts that were performing in the theatre.

Organization Memberships

United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) member 2007-present

PCPA USITT Student Chapter, Faculty Advisor 2016-present

Professional Development

American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED Program (2014)

Barbizon Light Expo (2014)

SAFD Theatrical Firearms Safety Certificate (2013)

Bill Sapsis Rigging Safety Seminar (2009)

Master Classes Attended:

Tony Walton (2008)

Charles Busch (2008)

Kathy Fabian (2008)

USITT Conferences Attended:

Cincinnati (2009)

Kansas City (2010)

Milwaukee (2013)- Helped coordinate Light Lab

Cincinnati (2015)- Helped coordinate Light Lab

St. Louis (2017)- Light Lab/Special Events Master Electrician

Fort Lauderdale (2018) Main Stage Master Electrician