



KATHERINE STEPANEK

EDUCATOR & DESIGNER

Passionate teacher with experience developing and implementing diverse curriculums covering wide range of subjects. Highly skilled at motivating students through positive encouragement and reinforcement of concepts via interactive classroom instruction and observation. Competent at performing independently or as member of teaching team. Well-versed in classroom and online technologies.

EXPERIENCE

August 2024 - Current

Assistant Professor of Scenic Design

Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University, St Louis, MO

- Lead and oversaw the Scenic Design curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive and industry-relevant education for students in a conservatory setting.
- Developed and implemented project-based coursework emphasizing conceptual development, technical execution, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Mentored and guided students through hands-on production experience, fostering professional skills in scenic design, drafting, rendering, and model-making.

August 2023 - Current

Assistant Professor of Scenic and Lighting Design

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO

- Developed and delivered a comprehensive Scenic and Lighting Design curriculum, covering fundamental principles, advanced techniques, and current industry trends.
- Guided students in the conceptualization and execution of designs for various theatrical productions, fostering creativity and technical proficiency.
- Instructed Stage Management courses, emphasizing organizational skills, communication strategies, and problem-solving techniques.

Feb 2024 - Current

Guest Lecturer of Enhanced Instruction via Peace Corps

Wolaita Sodo University, Wolaita Sodo, South Regional State, Ethiopia

- Developed and designed training courses aimed at improving English language instruction and coursework for instructors at Wolayita Sodo University's English Language Improvement Center (ELIC).
- Provided guidance and support to master's students in developing strategies to promote English language usage and engagement among students in the classroom, fostering an immersive English learning environment.
- Assessed the performance and progress of participants, providing feedback and guidance to ensure effective implementation of newly acquired skills in English language instruction.

+1 (816) 863-6242

stepanekdesign@gmail.com

www.stepanekdesign.com

SKILLS

Concept Development

Organization and Time Management

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

Attention to Detail

Task Oriented

Design & Technology Integration

Group Instruction

Curriculum Development

Presentation Materials Preparation

Interdepartmental Project Coordination

HARD SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite

Google Suite

Microsoft Office Suite

Photo Editing

Graphics Development

Video Editing

Virtual 3D Modeling

Vectorworks Drafting

Google SketchUp

Inventory Catalogues

Mailchimp and Subscriber Databases

Valid MO Driver's License



EDUCATION

Graduation: 2021

Master of Fine Arts, Scenic Design Emphasis

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Graduation: 2018

Desktop Publishing Diploma: Photoshop, InDesign & Illustration

International Academy of Computer Training, Dublin

Graduation: 2012

Bachelors of Fine Arts, Lighting and Scenic Design Emphasis

Webster University, St Louis, MO

ACHIEVEMENTS

Fulbright Finalist

2021

*The Creative Resistance: Combating prejudices
through the use of the theatrical and visual arts*

Personal Training &

Yoga Instructor Certification

2021

International Sports Sciences Association

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages , International Teacher Certificate

2014

TESOLS - Toronto

EXPERIENCE, CONT.

Jan 2022 - June 2023

Adjunct Professor of Design

Maryville College, Maryville, TN

- Developed and implemented Theatrical Design curriculum for improved learning and student performance
- Transitioned course material and applied technological options for online and course-related software for Design and Technology
- Developed curriculum standards, lesson plans and syllabi

Aug 2018 - August 2023

Props Artisan

Clarence Brown Theatre, Knoxville, TN

- Responsible for construction, acquisition, and innovative creation of props used in over 45 productions
- Applied knowledge of production to create high-quality image files for use in digital and traditional printing methods
- Used Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to create images and layouts for multiple projects.

May 2008 - Current

Theatrical Designer

Freelance, Grand Junction, CO

- Produced detailed drafts and scale work-ups showcasing scenic and property demands on over 25 productions.
- Collected details about unique features and constraints of each space, as well as potential themes and budget limitations to complete optimal designs.
- Worked with technical teams to effectively incorporate lighting, sound and other features.
- Used Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, SketchUp, V-Ray, and Vectorworks to create computer-generated two- and three-dimensional visuals for effective presentation.

Aug 2018 - Aug 2021

Graduate Teacher's Assistant

University Of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

- Teacher of Record for classes of up to 15 students in Theatrical Design and Technology.
- Taught small groups of students focused on specific parts of coursework.
- Checked assignments, proctored tests and provided grades according to university standards.
- Identified negative trends such as groups of students missing key concepts and worked with professors to resolve concerns.



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