



KATHERINE STEPANEK

SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGNER



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EDUCATION

MFA in Theatre, Scenic Design Concentration

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

May 2021

BFA Double Major in Lighting Design and Scenic Design (Honors)

The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University, St. Louis, MO

May 2012

Desktop Publishing Diploma in Adobe Photoshop, InDesign & Illustration

International Academy of Computer Training, Dublin, Ireland

May 2018

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING

Webster University, Webster Groves, MO

Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts, Assistant Professor of Scenic Design

Instructor for the following undergraduate courses (12-15 credit hours per semester):

CONS 1010: Scenography*

CONS 2010: Rendering*

CONS 3010: Scene Design 1*

CONS 4010: Scene Design 2*

CONS 4010: Scene Design Seminar*

CONS 4010: Vectorworks for Scenic Design*

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO

Department of Theatre Arts, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts - Scenic and Lighting Design

Instructor for the following undergraduate courses (12-15 credit hours per semester):

THEA 104: Intro Light Tech*

THEA 117, 217, 317, 417: Play Production

THEA 118, 218, 318, 418: Play Production

THEA 119, 219, 319, 419: Technical Performance

THEA 120, 220, 320, 420: Technical Performance

THEA 202: Elements of Theatrical Design*

THEA 313: Rendering for Theatre*

THEA 322: Stage Management*

THEA 323: Theatre CAD*

THEA 343: Scene Design*

THEA 344: Lighting Design*

THEA 396: Topics - Children's Theatre* (co-taught with Jeremy Franklin)

THEA 495: Independent Study - Puppet Design and Engineering*

THEA 495: Independent Study - Element II Programming*

THEA 495: Independent Study - Drafting Light Plots*



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

University English Language Improvement Center

Guest Lecturer of Enhanced Instruction via Peace Corps*

Guest Lecturer of English Enhancement through Speaking via Peace Corps*

Maryville College, Maryville TN

Department of Fine Arts, Adjunct Instructor of Theatre

Instructor for the following undergraduate courses:

THT 2110: Stagecraft*

THT 2140: Lighting Design*

THT 2130: Fundamentals of Theatrical Design*

University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN

Department of Theatre, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Instructor of Record for the following undergraduate courses:

THEA 252: Fundamentals of Scene Design and Technology*

THEA 355: Scene Design I*

THEA 493: Scenic Design Independent Study*

Teaching Assistant for the following undergraduate courses:

THEA 252: Fundamentals of Scene Design and Technology

THEA 355: Scene Design I

THEA 430: Principles of Play Directing

THEA 464: Computer-Aided Drafting for the Theatre

THEA 493: Scenic Design Independent Study

**denotes curriculum that has been revised or authored*

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO

RealTalk: Mental Health Committee

Outreach Committee (Theatre Department)

Production Committee (Theatre Department)

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Peer Mentoring Steering Committee



FREELANCE SCENIC, LIGHTING, AND PROJECTION DESIGN

SCENIC DESIGN

<i>Tiny Beautiful Things</i>	Missy Moore	Thunder River Theatre	CO	2025
<i>Go Dog Go!</i>	Jeremy Kisling	Lexington Children's Theatre	KY	2025
<i>Elephant and Piggie</i>	Jenny Lavery	Magik Theatre	TX	2025
<i>Ride the Cyclone</i>	Jeremy Franklin	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2025
<i>Pete the Cat</i>	Janel Villatoro	Dallas Children's Theatre	TX	2025
<i>Amadeus</i>	Mo LaMee	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2024
<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i>	Kyle Gyondla	Northbrook Theatre	IL	2024
<i>Sleeping Beauty</i>	Jimmy Phillips	Main Street Theatre	TX	2024
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Anthony Runfola	Empire Theatre	TX	2024
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	Katie Denton	Northbrook Theatre	IL	2024
<i>Sleep in Safety</i>	Anna Simpson	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2024
<i>Working, a Musical</i>	Shannon Kirkpatrick	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2024
<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>	Gabriel Slusser	Lexington Children's Theatre	KY	2024
<i>Spongebob Jr</i>	Crockett Ward	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2024
<i>Rainbow Fish</i>	Shannon Kirkpatrick	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2024
<i>Baskerville; A Sherlock Holmes...</i>	Jenna Sulecki	Greenbrier Valley Theatre	WV	2024
<i>Welcome to West Virginia</i>	Jenna Sulecki	Greenbrier Valley Theatre	WV	2024
<i>SuperCat and Reptile Robot...</i>	Najah Ali	Birmingham Children's Theatre	AL	2024
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Anthony Runfola	Magik Theatre	TX	2024
<i>Three Sisters</i>	Margret Knapp	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2024
<i>Urinetown</i>	Mo LaMee	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2024
<i>Dragons Love Tacos</i>	David Van Cleave	Des Moines Playhouse	IA	2024
<i>Elephant and Piggy</i>	Janel Villatoro	Dallas Children's Theatre	TX	2024
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Jeremy Kisling	Lexington Children's Theatre	KY	2024
<i>Dracula, the Feminist Revenge</i>	Benjamin Reigel	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2023
<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Jimmy Phillips	Main Street Theatre	TX	2023
<i>The Reluctant Dragon (Premiere)</i>	Heather Branham	Lexington Children's Theatre	KY	2023
<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Drew Davidson	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2023
<i>101 Dalmations</i>	Shannon Kirkpatrick	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2023
<i>Spongebob, the Musical</i>	Steven Barth	Crane River Theatre	NE	2023
<i>Into the Woods Jr</i>	Crockett Ward	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2023
<i>Hollywood, Nebraska</i>	Kristy Meanor	Wetumpka Depot Players	AL	2023
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Nancy Schaeffer	Dallas Children's Theatre	TX	2023
<i>Hänsel und Gretel (Opera)</i>	James Marvel	University of Tennessee Opera Theatre	TN	2023
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Amelia Peterson	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2022
<i>Miracle on 34th Street</i>	Steven Barth	Crane River Theatre	NE	2022
<i>Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer</i>	Shannon Kirkpatrick	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2022
<i>Hollywood, Nebraska (Premiere)</i>	Reggie Law	Oak Ridge Playhouse	TN	2022
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Peter Dean	Des Moines Playhouse	IA	2022

* work in progress/^postponed due to COVID-19



SCENIC DESIGN (CONT.)

<i>Junie B Jones is Not a Crook</i>	Stephanie Quist	Oak Ridge Playhouse	TN	2022
<i>Xanadu</i>	CJ Bell	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2022
<i>Jungle Book Jr</i>	Erick Buckley	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2022
<i>Legally Blonde</i>	Erick Buckley	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2022
<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Reggie Law	Oak Ridge Playhouse	TN	2022
<i>The Hobbit</i>	Jeremy Kisling	Lexington Children's Theatre	KY	2022
<i>Disney's Descendants</i>	Erick Buckley	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2022
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Kate Buckley	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2021
<i>Seussical Jr.</i>	Erick Buckley	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2021
<i>Junie B. Jones, the Musical</i>	Erick Buckley	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2021
<i>The Marvelous Wonderettes</i>	Erick Buckley	Appalachian Center for the Arts	KY	2021
<i>Seussical the Musical^</i>	Vivian Snipes	Lexington Children's Theatre	KY	2021
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Stephanie Jacobson	Rose Theatre	NE	2021
<i>Sense and Sensibility^</i>	Casey Sams	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2021
<i>The Hacking of Nezar Scorge</i>	Patrick Lanczki	52nd New Horizon Productions	TN	2020
<i>Freaky Friday^</i>	Devri Chism	Hope Summer Repertory Theatre	MI	2020
<i>Stirring the Waters (Premiere)</i>	Eric Ruffin	NEWork Productions	DC	2020
<i>The Naked Mole Rat...</i>	Caulene Hudson	Rose Theatre	NE	2020
<i>Million Dollar Quartet</i>	Kate Buckley	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2019
<i>Exit Pursued by a Bear</i>	Casey Sams	Clarence Brown Lab Theatre	TN	2019
<i>Always, Patsy Cline</i>	Sarah Klocke	Highlands Playhouse	NC	2019
<i>Detroit '67</i>	Lisa Gaye-Dixon	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2019
<i>SHOOK</i>	LaTefia Bradley, <i>ch</i>	Clarice Smith Dance Theatre	MD	2017
<i>ambiguous gaps</i>	Jen Graham, <i>ch</i>	Clarice Smith Dance Theatre	MD	2017
<i>Dial "M" for Murder</i>	Josh Carroll	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Haunting of Hill House</i>	Jerry Morrison	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Carousel</i>	Tim Ocel	Webster Conservatory	MO	2011
<i>All My Sons</i>	Kevin Guthridge	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2011
<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Brandon Bruce	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2011
<i>Carmen</i>	Nathan Troupe	Opera Studio at Webster U	MO	2011
<i>The Insect Play</i>	Jef Awada	Webster Conservatory	MO	2010

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LIGHTING DESIGN

<i>Ride the Cyclone</i>	Jeremy Franklin	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2025
<i>Elephant and Piggie</i>	Jenny Lavery	Magik Theatre	TX	2025
<i>Amadeus</i>	Mo LaMee	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2024
<i>Fall into Dance</i>	Kathy Diehl	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2024
<i>Urinetown</i>	Mo LaMee	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2024
<i>Don't Let the Pigeon Drive...</i>	Anthony Runfola	Magik Theatre	TX	2024
<i>Danceworks</i>	Kathy Diehl	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2023
<i>Dracula</i>	Benjamin Reigel	Colorado Mesa University	CO	2023
<i>Children of a Lesser God^</i>	Richard Costes	Hope Summer Repertory Theatre	MI	2021
<i>Lifespan of a Fact^</i>	Angie McIver	North Carolina Stage	NC	2020
<i>Always, Patsy Cline</i>	Sarah Klocke	Highlands Playhouse	NC	2019
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Bill Patti	Highlands Playhouse	NC	2019
<i>Buddy...</i>	Marshall Carby	Highlands Playhouse	NC	2019
<i>Love Letters</i>	Ben Martin	Summit Theatre Group	MO	2014
<i>Dial "M" for Murder</i>	Josh Carroll	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Haunting of Hill House</i>	Jerry Morrison	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Rounding Third</i>	Kody Jones	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Clue: The Musical</i>	Jerry Morrison	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Romeo & Juliet Jr.</i>	Tab Burton	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Zombies of Greene County</i>	Kevin Guthridge	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Moon Over Buffalo</i>	Kevin Guthridge	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2012
<i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i>	Paul Barnes	Webster Conservatory	MO	2012
<i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>	David Toulson	Opera Studio at Webster U	MO	2012
<i>The Receptionist</i>	Kaitlyn McIntyre	Webster Conservatory	MO	2011
<i>The Fantasticks</i>	Brandon Bruce	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2011
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Kevin Guthridge	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2011
<i>Ring of Fire</i>	Eric Thibodeaux	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2011
<i>Picasso at the Lapin Agile</i>	Missy Thompson	Shawnee Theatre	IN	2011
<i>Almost, Maine</i>	John McCluggage	Conservatory at Webster U	MO	2011
<i>A Journey From Fables Dance</i>	Bekah Voigt	Webster Conservatory	MO	2010
<i>Romeo and Juliet Jr.</i>	Ben Martin	Tiny Titan Theatre Tykes	MO	2008
<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	Ben Martin	West Side Stage	MO	2008
<i>The Jellybean Conspiracy</i>	Ben Martin	West Side Stage	MO	2008
<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	Ben Martin	West Side Stage	MO	2007
<i>Violet</i>	Ben Martin	West Side Stage	MO	2007
<i>Grapes of Wrath</i>	Ben Martin	West Side Stage	MO	2006

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PROJECTION DESIGN

<i>Dragons Love Tacos</i>	David Van Cleave	Des Moines Playhouse	IA	2024
<i>Hairspray</i>	Terry Weber	The WordPlayers	TN	2023
<i>Wizard of Oz</i>	Lisa Nelson	Knox West Theatre Dept	TN	2023
<i>Hairspray</i>	Lisa Nelson	Knox West Theatre Dept	TN	2022
<i>The Fantasticks</i>	Leann Dickson	The WordPlayers	TN	2021
<i>Footloose</i> [^]	Terry Weber	The WordPlayers	TN	2020
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Sharon Ott	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2020
<i>Exit Pursued by a Bear</i>	Casey Sams	Clarence Brown Lab Theatre	TN	2019

ASSISTANT SCENIC, LIGHTING, AND PROJECTION DESIGN

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGN

<i>Cholera Era</i> [^]	Owen Boss	ANU Productions	Dublin	2021
<i>Book of Will</i> [^]	Joe Tilford	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2020
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Ron Keller	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2020
<i>Candide</i>	Michael Ganio	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2018
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>	Dan Conway	Orlando Shakes	FL	2016
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Dan Conway	Orlando Shakes	FL	2016
<i>The Kentucky Cycle</i>	Jason Coale	Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre	MO	2013
<i>Talley's Folly</i>	Jason Coale	New Jewish Theatre	MO	2013
<i>Miss Lonelyhearts</i>	Dunsi Dai	Mustardseed Theatre	MO	2011
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	Dunsi Dai	Variety Theatre	MO	2011
<i>Pericles</i>	Dunsi Dai	The Black Rep of St Louis	MO	2010
<i>Art</i>	Dunsi Dai	The Black Rep of St Louis	MO	2010
<i>Winter's Tale</i>	Caitlyn Ayer	Webster Conservatory	MO	2009

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGN

<i>Render/Edit</i>	Brandi Martin	Clarice Smith Dance Theatre	MD	2016
<i>Full Circle</i>	Brandi Martin	Clarice Smith Dance Theatre	MD	2016
<i>Invisible Hand</i>	Ann Wrightson	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2012
<i>Sunday in the Park...</i>	John Lassiter	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2012
<i>The Adventures of Tom...</i>	Adam Greene	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2011
<i>Beehive</i>	Mary Jo Dondijo	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2011
<i>The Year of Magical...</i>	Ryan Koharchick	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2011
<i>Fall of Heaven</i>	Michael Lincoln	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2011
<i>Over the Tavern</i>	Dennis Parichy	Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	MO	2010
<i>On the Razzle</i>	Alex Snodgrass	Webster Conservatory	MO	2010
<i>Winter's Tale</i>	Kaitlyn Breen	Webster Conservatory	MO	2009
<i>Cabaret</i>	Alex Snodgrass	Webster Conservatory	MO	2009

ASSISTANT PROJECTION DESIGN

<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Dan Conway	Orlando Shakes	FL	2016
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OTHER THEATRICAL POSITIONS

<i>Book of Will</i> [^]	Assistant Director	Kate Buckley, <i>dir</i>	Clarence Brown Theatre	TN	2020
<i>Avengers: Endgame</i>	Art Dept Intern	Jann Engel, <i>art dir</i>	Marvel Cinematic Universe	GA	2017
<i>Avengers: Infinity War</i>	Art Dept Intern	Jann Engel, <i>art dir</i>	Marvel Cinematic Universe	GA	2017

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PRODUCTION STAFF CREDITS

Colorado Mesa University	Production Manager for TYA Season	2024
University of Tennessee Opera	Production Manager	2021-2023
University of Tennessee Opera	Technical Director	2021-2023
Crane River Theatre	Technical Director	2023
Clarence Brown Theatre	Props Artisan	2018-2023
Clarence Brown Theatre	Scenic and Paints Overhire	2018-2022
Oak Ridge Playhouse	Scenic Painter for <i>Junie B Jones</i>	2022
Columbus Symphony	Props Designer for <i>Boheme</i>	2022
Hope Summer Repertory Theatre	Props Designer	Summer Season 2020-2021
Highlands Playhouse	Resident Master Electrician	Summer Season 2019
Shawnee	Resident Master Electrician	2011-2012
Jason Coale Scenic Designs	Assistant Scenic Designer	Summer Season 2012
Dunsi Dai Designs	Assistant Scenic Designer	2008-2012
Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	Asst. Master Electrician + ALD	2010-2012
Jack Aldrich Theatre	Lead Technician	Summer Season 2010
Repertory Theatre of St. Louis	Electrician	2008-2010

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Peace Corps Ethiopia Virtual English Teacher at Wolaita Sodo University	Ethiopia	2024
Restaurant/Bar Designer for MilkBoy ArtHouse	MD	2016
Art Gallery/Bar Designer for MilkBoy ArtHouse	MD	2016
Concert Venue Designer for MilkBoy ArtHouse	MD	2016
After School Art Teacher (Ages 5-12)	NYC	2015-2018
Peace Corps Ethiopia English Teacher	Ethiopia	2014
Assistant Designer for Redesign/Renovation of the New Theatre Restaurant	KS	2013
Head of Youth Activities and Instructor at Lost Creek Ranch	WY	2013-2015
Substitute Teacher at the Independence School District	MO	2014-2015

PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

- Epic Worlds and Stories: Design Workshop at Missouri State Thespian Festival 2025
This hands-on workshop focused on the power of concept creation and collaboration in theatrical design. Participants worked together to develop unique narratives and immersive worlds, learning how to transform ideas into visual and thematic concepts. Through teamwork and shared creativity, students explored the importance of collaboration in shaping a cohesive design vision.
- Marketing Workshops for *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive* with Thunder River Theatre 2024
Led a creative marketing campaign for POTUS, where I integrated women's self-defense classes as a unique promotional event for the show. The campaign highlighted the themes of empowerment and resilience in the play by offering attendees hands-on self-defense training, creating an engaging and memorable experience that connected the show's message with real-world relevance.
- Design Concepts Workshop at the Western Colorado High School Performing Arts Festival 2023
*Facilitated a creative workshop on narrative crafting and collaborative world-building, inspired by *Legends of Rock, Paper, Scissors*. Guided participants in developing theatrical design concepts to unleash their storytelling potential.*
- LightCraft at the Western Colorado High School Performing Arts Festival 2023
Led a hands-on workshop exploring storytelling through colors, angles, and live mixing in lighting design. Guided students in discovering creative potential with exercises in using light to evoke emotions, supported by experienced undergraduate lighting design assistants.
- Intro to Projection Design at Knoxville School District 2022
Conducted a workshop for high school students, introducing them to projection design for theatre. Covered foundational techniques, equipment essentials, and storytelling through projections. Included a hands-on session with QLab, demonstrating how to cue and control images and video for live performances.
- Intro to Lighting Design at Knoxville School District 2021
Presented a workshop for high school students at Knoxville School District, covering fundamentals of theatrical lighting design. Topics included lighting equipment, color theory, and using light to enhance mood and storytelling on stage, with hands-on exercises to reinforce key concepts.
- Intro to Film Design for Graduating Theatre Students at the University of Tennessee
Led a workshop for theatre students transitioning into film design, sharing insights from my experience working with the Art Department in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Focused on the differences between theatre and film design, including the unique challenges of visual storytelling, set design, and collaboration on film sets, offering students a practical understanding of adapting their theatrical skills to the film industry.

HONORS/AWARDS

Fulbright Scholar Semi-Finalist (<i>The Creative Resistance: Combating prejudices through the use of the theatrical and visual arts</i>)	2021
SETC Scenic Design Award by Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc. - First Place <i>The Hobbit</i>	2021
Robert Porterfield Graduate Scholarship	2021
SETC Scenic Design Award by Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc. - First Place <i>Million Dollar Quartet</i>	2020
SETC Projection Design Award by Broadway Media Distribution - Second Place <i>Blithe Spirit</i>	2020
SETC Scenic Design Award by Sculptural Arts Coating, Inc. - First Place <i>Detroit '67</i>	2019
SETC Ready-to-Design Award with the Rose Theatre in Omaha, NE	2019
Shipley-Swann Fellowship Recipient at the University of Tennessee	2019
Stowers Scholarship in Theater at the University of Tennessee	2019
Ralph Frost Scholarship for Theatrical Excellence at the University of Tennessee	2018
Graduated cum laude from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University	2012
Peter Sargent Award for Outstanding Lighting Design	2012
Blue Star Award for Lighting Design for <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	2008