

Theatre Designer • Artist • Educator • Researcher

773.490.3560 | Pitts74@gmail.com

Website: keithpittsart.com

Scenic Design Examples: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/828Ftp5F0yJMh/>

Instagram: @keith_e._pitts_art

PROFILE:

Interdisciplinary artist, theatre designer, educator, and researcher whose work explores creativity as a way of knowing. My practice bridges painting, scenography, qualitative inquiry, and arts education, examining how environments, narratives, and attention shape creative thought and human experience. I hold dual MFAs in Painting and Drawing and Theatre Design and am completing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at Western Michigan University with research centered on creativity and creative thinking.

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Creativity Studies • Arts-Based Research • Narrative Inquiry • Qualitative Research • Creative Thinking • Studio Pedagogy • Phenomenology • Scenography

EDUCATION:

Western Michigan University

Ph.D. Student, 2023-present

Curriculum and Instruction – Research Topic: Creativity and Creative Thinking

The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Master of Fine Arts, 2018-2021

Painting and Drawing

Northwestern University

Master of Fine Arts, 1998-2001,

Stage Design – Primary Costume Design/ Secondary Scenic Design

Sam Houston State University

Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1993-98

Major in Technical Theatre – Minor in Studio Art

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, Lecturer in Art 2022 – present

COURSES TAUGHT:

Academic Year:

- ART 1200 – Intro. To Art – Spring 2024
- ART 4840 – Senior Project II – Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023
- ART 4200 - 2D Contemporary Practice - Fall 2022

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- ART 1070 - Form and Surface – Fall 2026, Spring 2023, Spring 2022 and Fall 2022
- ART1040 – Object Drawing – Fall 2026, Spring 2026, Spring 2025, and Spring 2023

- ED 4300- Creativity in the Elementary Classroom – Summer 1 2026
- ED 2300 - The Nature of Creativity – Fall 2025, Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 1 2022

Hope College, Holland, MI Lecturer in Art 2022 – present

COURSES TAUGHT:

Academic Year:

- Stage Production - THEA 274 - Fall 2022
- Basic Painting - ART 113 - 01 and ART 113 - 02- Spring 2022

Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, Assistant Professor Theatre Arts: Set Design and Staging Coordinator - 2012- 2018

COURSES TAUGHT:

Academic Year:

- Freshman Studies – FRST 100 Fall 2014, Fall 2015
- Freshman Studies – FRST 101 Winter 2017, Winter 2018
- Introduction to Theatre - THAR 111 Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Winter 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017
- Introduction to Design for Theatre - THAR 231 Winter 2013, Spring 2013, Winter 2014, Spring 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- Stage Lighting - THAR 553 Winter 2013
- Set Design - THAR 555 Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- Advanced Design Studio – THAR 581 Winter 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

D TERM:

- Technical Drawing – DEC 222 D-Term 2016

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TUTORIALS:

- Scenic Painting – THAR 390, Spring 2016, Fall 2017
- Scenography – THAR 590, Spring 2016
- Dramatic Interpretation Harry Potter - THAR 590, Fall 2015
- Portfolio and Resume Building – THAR 390, Spring 2015
- Design Model Building – THAR 390 Fall 2014, Winter 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2018
- Character Psychology in Clothing – THAR 390 Spring 2014
- Stanislavsky Character Building – THAR 590 Winter 2014
- Scenic design - THAR 590, Fall 2012
- Figure Drawing – THAR 390 Spring 2018

DIRECTED STUDIES:

- Hand Drafting for Theatre – THAR 591, Winter 2016
- Hand Drafting for Theatre – THAR 391, Winter 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2017

INDEPENDENT STUDIES:

- Advanced Model Building - THAR 699, Winter 2016, Spring 2016
- The Advanced Blind Study – THAR 699, Spring 2016

DESIGN MENTOR:

SENIOR PROJECTS:

JR Vanko – Fred Gaines - Scenic Design - Winter 2012
Cloak Theatre
Director – Tim Troy

Jill Salisbury – Fred Gaines - Scenic Design - Winter 2014
Cloak Theatre
Director – Tim Troy

Emily Allen – The Liar – Co Scenic Design - Spring 2016
Stansbury Theatre
Director – Kathy Privatt

Yvonne Tessman – GINT - Scenic Design - Spring 2017
Stansbury Theatre
Director – Kathy Privatt

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ADVISEMENT:

4 years of academic advising experience

COMMITTEE:

2 years on the Assessment Committee

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL, Lecturer in Scenic Design- 2007–11

Courses Taught:

- Advanced Set Design (31-3610) Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011
- Set Design (31-2610) Spring 2011
- Scenic Model Making for Theatre (31-2511) Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011
- Introduction to Design for the Stage (31-1600) Fall 2010
- Drafting for Theatre (31-1510) Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010

ADVISEMENT:

10 students per semester on their academic progress.

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL, Adjunct Faculty-2004–07

Courses Taught:

- Drafting for Theatre (31-1510) Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007
- Advanced Set Design (31-3610) Spring 2007

PARTICIPATION AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO:

FRESHMAN FOUNDATION COMMITTEE – Advising on the curriculum development for incoming students core classes.

University of Chicago Laboratory School, Chicago, IL,
Summer Lab Instructor - 2008 – 2011

Courses Taught:

- Sculpture - Summer 2008, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, Summer 2011
- Drawing - Summer 2008, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, Summer 2011

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Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Graduate student instructor
2000 – 2001

Courses Taught:

- Design Process: Set Design (241-1) Undergraduate Set Design, Spring 2001
- Design Process: Costume Design (241-2) Undergrad. Costume design, Fall 200

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Art 106 – Art Survey 2019-2021

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Graduate Teaching Assistant
1999 – 2000

- Design Process: Set Design (241-1) Undergraduate Set Design, Fall 1999 and Spring 2000

ART EXHIBITIONS:

2025 Group Exhibit, Surface, d'Art Center, Norfolk Virginia – INVITED NOT SHOWN

2024 Solo Exhibit, Endemic : 2022, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

2024 Group Exhibit, Faculty Show, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

2023 Group Exhibit, West Michigan Area Show – Kalamazoo Institute of Arts,
Kalamazoo, Michigan

2023 Group Exhibit, Blue Hour, Intersect Arts Center, St. Louis, Missouri

2022 Group Exhibit, ArtPrize, Endemic : 2022

Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2022 Group Exhibit, Leslie Loomis Vansen Continuum, UWM - KSE Gallery, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

2022 Group Exhibit, 10x10x10xTieton, Mighty Tieton Warehouse, Tieton, Washington

2022 Group Exhibit, West Michigan Area Show - Kalamazoo Institute of Arts,
Kalamazoo, Michigan

2022 Group Exhibit, An Ecology of Marks, Arts at Large, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2021 Group Exhibit, ART-HOP- November, Epic Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan

2021 Group Exhibit, MFA Thesis Show, INOVA Gallery at Kenilworth East
Square, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2021 Group Exhibit, Art in the Time of Corona, Dab Art, Virtual Exhibit

2021 Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2021 Group Exhibit, 48th
Annual Juried Show, Union Art Gallery, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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2020 Solo Exhibit, MFA Grad Review Installation, KSE 4th Floor Gallery,
Kenilworth East Square – Peck School of the Arts, University of Wisconsin -
Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2020 Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2020 Group Exhibit, 47th
Annual Juried Show, Union Art Gallery, University of Wisconsin –Milwaukee,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

COLLECTIONS:

INSTITUTIONS:

Blue Dot, 2022 - Intersect Arts Center permanent collection, St. Louis, MO

PRIVATE:

- Blue Diamond, 2023 – "The Reservoir", Sarah Bernhardt, St. Louis, MO
- Jeremy G. Shouldis collection, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2000-2020
- Charles David Ferguson collection, Chicago, IL, USA, 1998-2019
- Andrew Shouldis collection, Chicago, IL, USA, 2017-2020
- J. Salisbury collection, New York, NY, USA
- White Raven Wing, 2017 - Shane Kullberg collection, Austin, Texas 2020
- Dr. Summer Davis collection, Kalamazoo, MI, USA, 2021
- Jennifer Schafer collection, Houston, Texas, USA, 2024

TELEVISION:

2024: Kalamazoo Lively Arts, WGVU

RADIO:

2024: WMUK – Art Beat : The Power of Pause

2022: Creative Café, WKZO

PODCASTS:

2023: The Measured Pencil – Season 1, Ep. 8 -May 18, 2023

PUBLICATIONS:

2022: American Theatre Magazine: March Issue. Thinking Again: A New Play
Challenges Old Certainties

2012: Henhouse: How to Raise Your Own Chickens: The International Book for Chickens
and Their Lovers by Buddy Wakefield, pg. 78 , Anatomy.

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ARTIST TALKS :

2024: Guest Speaker. Creativity Class at Hope College.
Topic: Creative Thinking

2022: Guest Speaker. Professional Practices at Gwen Frostic School of Art,
Western Michigan University. Topic: Endemic : 2022

2022: Guest Speaker. ED **** at Western Michigan University.
Topic: Endemic : 2022

2022: Guest Speaker. ART **** at Western Michigan University.
Topic: Endemic : 2022

SELECTED PRESS and REVIEWS:

- 2022 MLive: Endemic: Mass Shootings 2022 Project by Keith Pitts
- 2019 GwendolynRice.com: My Best of the Year List for Madison Theater
by Gwendolyn Rice
- 2019 Isthmus: Bloody good fun "Evil Dead" harnesses the horror tropes to maximum
effect by GWENDOLYN RICE
- 2018 BroadwayWorld.com: PIPPIN Does Its Magic at the Skylight Music Theatre
by Kelsey Lawler
- 2018 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Skylight's 'Pippin' a musical tale of innocence that
ages well by Elaine Schmidt
- 2014 Chicago Tribune: Flower children of 'Hair' live in the real world this time
by Chris Jones
- 2014 Chicagoist: American Theater Company's Re-imagined 'Hair' by Melody Udell
- 2013 ChicagoTheatreReview: A Recipe for Following One's Dream by Colin Douglas
- 2013 Milwaukee Magazine: For Art's Sake by Paul Kosidowski
- 2012 Wall Street Journal: Angels and Demons by Terry Teachout
- 2011 Shepard Express: Jacques Brel At The Skylight Opening Night With The Skylight
Opera Theatre's JACQUES BREL
- 2011 Wall Street Journal: Smile as the bombs go off by Terry Teachout
- 2010 Newcity Stage Review: Frost/Nixon/ TimeLine Theatre by Nina Mentz
- 2009 TalkinBroadway.com: The Piano Lesson by John Olson
- 2009 Sheperad Express: Balance and Milwaukee Chambers Around the World in 80
Days by Sheperad Express Staff

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PROFESSIONAL SET DESIGN:

Chicago Commercial Collective, Chicago, Illinois

To Master the Art	dir. William Brown	September 2013
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Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

State of the Union	dir. M. Halberstam	September 2008
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Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, Illinois Arts Exchange Program:

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	dir. Ed Sobel	February 2007
The Chosen	dir. Ed. Sobel	October 2004

First Look Series – Steppenwolf Theatre

A Blameless Life	dir. Anna Shapiro	August 2005
Men of Tortuga	dir. Amy Morton	August 2005
The Sparrow Project	dir. Hallie Gordon	August 2005

Forward Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin

Clyde's	dir. Jake Penner	October 2023
The Mytilenian Debate	dir. Mark Hairston	February 2022
Fun Home	dir. J. Uphoff-Gray	November 2018
Mr. Burns	dir. Jennifer Uphoff-Gray	March 2016
The Other Place	dir. Brenda DeVita	January 2015
Good People	dir. Jennifer Uphoff-Gray	March 2013

Children's Theatre Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

Charlotte's Web	dir. Mike Lawler	October 2018
A Year with Frog and Toad	dir. Erica Berman	May 2017
Suessical	dir. Brian Cowing	February 2017
James and the Giant Peach	dir. Patrick Holland	October 2015

Writer's Theatre, Glencoe, Illinois

The Liar	dir. William Brown	May 2013
Heart Break House	dir. William Brown	April 2011
Old Glory	dir. William Brown	February 2009
As You Like It	dir. William Brown	February 2008
Savannah Disputations	dir. M. Halberstam	September 2007
Othello	dir. Michael Halberstam	May 2007
The Puppet Master of Lodz	dir. Jimmy McDermott	March 2007

Peninsula Players, Fish Creek, Wisconsin

A Trick of the Light	dir. Tom Mula	June 2019
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The Mystery of Erma Vepp Lombardi	dir. Greg Vinkler	August 2014
The Fox on the Fairway	dir. Greg Vinkler	September 2013
Making God Laugh	dir. Linda Parsons	August 2011
Panic	dir. Tom Mula	August 2011
Wait Until Dark	dir. Kristine Tatcher	June 2011
Little Shop of Horrors	dir. Joe Foust	September 2010
Angel Street	dir. Shawn Stengel	August 2009
Noises Off	dir. Tom Mula	August 2007
Master Class	dir. Joe Foust	June 2007
Deathtrap	dir. Peter Amster	July 2006
Into the Woods	dir. Joe Foust	June 2006
Soufflé Surprise	dir. Todd Schmidt	September 2004
Fools	dir. Greg Vinkler	August 2004
Broadway Bound	dir. Karin Sheridan	August 2004
The Taffetas	dir. David New	June 2004
Proof	dir. Mark Lococco	September 2003
Caught in the Net	dir. Todd Schmidt	August 2003
A Man for All Seasons	dir. Joe Foust	July 2003
The Odd Couple	dir. M. Halberstam	June 2003
The Foreigner	dir. Greg Vinkler	June 2003
Shady Business	dir. Todd Schmidt	September 2002
Last Night of Ballyhoo	dir. Amy McKenzie	August 2002
Musical Comedy Murders of 1940	dir. Kate Buckley	July 2002
	dir. Greg Vinkler	June 2002
Victory Gardens, Chicago, Illinois		
Blue Door	dir. Andrea Dymond	January 2009
The Defiant Muse	dir. Andrea Dymond	September 2007
The Cradle of Man	dir. Sandy Shiner	March 2006
Skylight Opera Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin		
Jacques Brel...	dir. by Ray Jivoff	January 2011
Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin		
Pippin	dir. Ray Jivoff	September 2018
First Stage Children's Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin		
My Son Pinocchio	dir. Jeff Frank	November 2010
The Court Theatre, Chicago, Illinois		
The Piano Lesson	dir. Ron Parsons	May 2009

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Canamac Productions, Chicago, Illinois

The Botanic Garden	dir. Olympia Dukakis	February 2008
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Apple Tree Theatre, Highland Park, Illinois

Vincent in Brixton	dir. Kurt Johns	February 2005
Jammin' with Pops	dir. Chuck Smith	December 2004

Drury Lane, Oakbrook, Illinois

Curtains	dir. William Brown	April 2009
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American Theatre Company, Chicago, Illinois

Hair	dir. PJ Paparelli	April 2014
Hedwig and the Angry Inch	dir. PJ Paparelli	April 2009
Top Dog UnderDog	dir. Derrick Sanders	January 2009
True West	dir. PJ Paparelli	January 2009
Speech and Debate	dir. PJ Paparelli	April 2008
Heritage	dir. Ed Sobel	April 2006
Orpheus Descending	dir. Damon Kiely	October 2005
American Dead	dir. Ed Sobel	February 2004
Two Rooms	dir. Brian Russell	February 2003
The Trip to Bountiful	dir. Sarah Whitney	April 2002
A Lie of the Mind	dir. Brian Russell	October 2001
Endgame	dir. Nick Rudell	September 2000

Chambers Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Strange Snow	dir. Michael Wright	February 2019
Slow Girl	dir. Michael Wright	February 2016
Art	dir. Tyler Marchant	August 2013
Heroes	dir. Michael Wright	November 2011
Around the World in 80 Days	dir. Patrick Holland	August 2009
Crime and Punishment	dir. Patrick holland	February 2008

Northlight Theatre, Skokie, Illinois

Season's Greetings	dir. B.J. Jones	November 2011
She Stoops to Conquer	dir. William Brown	March 2007

A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago, Illinois

Weapon of Mass Impact	dir. by Ed Sobel	October 2007
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The Next Theatre, Evanston, Illinois

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After the Revolution	dir. Kimberly Senior	April 2012
Maple and Vine	dir. Damon Kiley	October 2011
The Piano Teacher	dir. Lisa Portes	October 2010
Defiance	dir. Jason Loewith	November 2007
Helen	dir. Andrea Dymond	September 2006
Accidental Death of An Anarchist	dir. Linda Gillum	April 2005

Timeline Theatre, Chicago, Illinois

To Master the Art	dir. William Brown	October 2010
Frost/ Nixon	dir. Lou Countey	August 2010
When She Danced	dir. Nick Bowling	October 2009
Weekend	dir. Damon Kiely	August 2008
Harmless	dir. Ed Sobel	January 2007

Capital City Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin

On the Town	dir. Josh Walden	May 2019
Violet	dir. Stephen Amato	June 2015

Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Richard III	dir. Rhett Luedtke	November 2026
Hijabis	dir. Rhett Luedtke	October 2024
By the Way, Meet Vera Stark	dir. Rhett Luedtke	April 2024
John Proctor is the Villain	dir. Bianca Ciungan	February 2024
The Addams Family	dir. Rhett Luedtke	November 2023
Alabaster	dir. Daina Robins	October 2023
The Revolutionists	dir. Daina Robins	February 2023
Silent Sky	dir. Rhett Luedtke	November 2022
A Winter's Tale	dir. Daina Robins	October 2022

Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin

Love and Information	dir. Kathy Privatt	May 2018
Le Comte Ory	dir. Copeland Woodruff	March 2018
The Burial at Thebes	dir. Tim Troy	October 2018
Fred Gaines Festival	dir. Tim Troy	February 2017
Man of No Importance	dir. Tim Troy	October 2016
The Liar	dir. Kathy Privatt	May 2016
The Beggar's Opera	dir. Copeland Woodruff	February 2016
The Test and Sganarelle	dir. Tim Troy	October 2015
The Rimmers of Eldrich	dir. Kathy Privatt	May 2015
Fred Gaines Festival	dir. Tim Troy	February 2015

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God Spell	dir. Tim Troy	October 2014
Street Scene – Opera	dir. Tim Troy	March 2014
Street Scene	dir. Kathy Privatt	February 2014
The Sweetest Swing in Baseball	dir. Tim Troy	October 2013
The Plough and the Stars	dir. Tim Troy	May 2013
Ted-X Lawrence University		May 2013
The Drowsy Chaperon	dir. Kathy Privatt	October 2012
Show Your Faces	dir. Kathy Privatt	May 2012

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

La Traviata	dir. David Ronis	February 2023
Heathers	dir. Jake Penner	April 2022
Julius Caesar	dir. Mark Hairston	February 2020
Evil Dead the Musical	dir. Jace Nichols	August 2019
Stupid Fucking Bird	dir. Patricia Boyette	October 2016

University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, Whitewater, Wisconsin

Claybourne Park	dir. Jim Butchart	December 2014
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Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

The Rocky Horror Show	dir. Greg Graham	October 2015
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Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Lombardi	dir. Greg Vinkler	February 2019
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Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

An Ideal Husband	dir. William Casey	April 2010
Landscape of the Body	dir. Susan Padveen	October 2008

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

A Dybuk	dir. David Winitzsky	May 2004
WAA MU	dir. Dominick Missimi	May 2003
Picnic	dir. Anjalee Deshpande	March 2000

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois

“Harrison, Texas”	dir. Mark Lewis	April 2003
Rosenstrasse	dir. Michael Stoffer	February 2002

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PROFESSIONAL COSTUME DESIGN:

Hope Collage, Holland, Michigan

Richard III

dir. Rhett Luedtke

November 2026

Peninsula Players Theatre, Fish Creek, Wisconsin

A Murder is Announced

dir. Joe Foust

July 2019

Drury Lane Oak Brook, Oak Brook Illinois

And Then There Were None

dir. Michael Halberstam

August 2006

Writers Theatre, Glencoe, Illinois

The Chosen

dir. Shade Murry

April 2004

Apple Tree Theatre, Highland Park, Illinois

Jammin' with Pops

dir. Chuck Smith

October 2004

American Theatre Company, Chicago, Illinois

Two Rooms

dir. Brian Russell

February 2003

A Lie of the Mind

dir. Brian Russell

October 2001

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Our Country is Good

dir. David Wisniewski

April 2003

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Spring Awakening

dir. Greg Graham

November 2012

Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin

Fred Gaines Festival

dir. Tim Troy

February 2015

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HONORS AND AWARDS:

2022-2023	KADI: Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative Grant
2018-2021	UWM Chancellor's Graduate Student Award
2018-2021	UWM Peck School of the Arts – Fredrick R. Layton Fellowship Award
2016	Named a 2016 Best Theatre Designer in Milwaukee
2011	JOSEPH JEFFERSON AWARD NOMINATION FOR BEST SCENIC DESIGN for Heart Break House, 4/2011
2009	JOSEPH JEFFERSON AWARD NOMINATION FOR BEST SCENIC DESIGN for Weekend, 8/2008
2007	JOSEPH JEFFERSON AWARD NOMINATION FOR BEST SCENIC DESIGN for The Defiant Muse, 9/2007
2005	JOSEPH JEFFERSON AWARD NOMINATION FOR BEST SCENIC DESIGN for Vincent in Brixton, 2/ 2005
2005	AFTER DARK AWARD FOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN for Orpheus Descending, 10, 2005

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

U.S.A.A. Local 829 since 2009 - 2025

S.O.F.K.A.G. Member 2018 - 2020

AMERICAN THEATRE COMPANY MEMBER 2001 - 2009