

# Michael Benson

10701 Cedar Post Lane • Spotsylvania, VA 22553 • (412) 735-4038  
mbthetd@gmail.com • www.mgbensondesigns.com

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## EDUCATION

2011	Master of Fine Arts	Theatre: Scene Design	Pennsylvania State University
1995	Bachelor of Arts	Speech Communication & Theatre	Baldwin-Wallace College
1995	Bachelor of Arts	Music	Baldwin-Wallace College

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017 - Present	<b>Assistant Professor</b> , Scene Design Department of Theatre & Dance University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA
Courses Taught	THEA 111 Introduction to Theatre THEA 113 Introduction to Theatre Design THEA 131 Theatre Production THEA 132 Theatre Production THEA 290 Scene Painting THEA 434 Scene Design THEA 482 Senior Project
2011 - 2017	<b>Assistant Professor</b> , Scene Design & Technology Department of Theatre & Dance University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO (Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor, Spring 2017)
Courses Taught	THEA 1600 Stagecraft THEA 1900 Theatre Practicum THEA 2400 Discovering Theatre (General Education course) THEA 2610 Design Fundamentals THEA 2630 Drafting for the Theatre THEA 3600 Scene Design THEA 4300 Professional Practice (Scene Design, Technical Direction, Properties, Scenic Art) THEA 4620 Period Research THEA 4910 Senior Showcase THEA 5000 Graduate Seminar
2009 - 2011	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> School of Theatre & Dance Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
Courses Taught	THEA 150 Introduction to Design

THEA 454 Period Research  
 THEA 458 Digital Imaging (Developed syllabus)

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Scene Design/Projection Design

- 2018 Scenic Designer, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Schwab Auditorium  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA
- 2018 Scenic Designer/Projections Designer, *Merrily We Roll Along*, Schwab Auditorium  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA
- 2017 Scenic Designer, *Fun Home*, Schwab Auditorium  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA
- 2017 Scenic Designer, *Camelot*, Schwab Auditorium  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA
- 2016 Scenic Designer, *My Fair Lady*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA
- 2015 Scenic Designer, *Ruddigore*, Freelander Theatre  
 Ohio Light Opera, Wooster, OH
- 2015 Scenic Designer, *Les Miserables*, Eisenhower Auditorium  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA June 2015
- 2015 Scenic Designer, *Brigadoon*, Freelander Theatre  
 Ohio Light Opera, Wooster, OH
- 2014 Scenic Designer, *A Little Night Music*, Off Center Theatre  
 Spinning Tree Theatre, Kansas City, MO
- 2013 Scenic Designer, *Scrooge: The Musical*, State Theatre  
 Fuse Productions, State College, PA,
- 2013 Scenic Designer, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Just Off Broadway Theatre  
 Spinning Tree Theatre, Kansas City, MO, November 2013
- 2013 Scenic Designer, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, American Heartland Theatre  
 American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City, MO
- 2012 Scenic Designer, *Beehive: The 60's Musical*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
 Penn State Centre Stage, State College, PA
- 2012 Scenic Designer, *As Long As We Both Shall Live*, American Heartland Theatre  
 American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City, MO, May 2012

- 2011 Scenic Designer, *Five Guys Named Moe*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
Pennsylvania Centre Stage, State College, PA
- 2010 Scenic Designer, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
The University Resident Theatre Company, University Park, PA
- 2010 Scenic Designer/Projection Designer, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Esber Recital Hall  
Penn State School of Music, University Park, PA
- 2008 Scenic Designer, *Singin' in the Rain*, Academy Theatre  
Empty Jug Productions, Meadville, PA
- 2005 - 2007 Resident Scenic Designer, The Richard E. Rauh Conservatory  
Pittsburgh, PA
- 2006 Scenic Designer, *The Sound Of Music*, Byham Theatre  
Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2004- 2005 Resident Scenic Designer, Double M Enterprises, LLC  
Winston-Salem, NC

**Scenic Art**

- 2011 Paint Shop Supervisor/Charge Artist, Penn State Centre Stage  
State College, PA
- 2010 – 2011 Paint Shop Supervisor, University Resident Theatre Company  
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- 2009 – 2010 Scenic Artist, University Resident Theatre Company  
Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- 2005 – 2007 Scenic Painter, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre  
Pittsburgh, PA
- 2004 – 2005 Scenic Charge Artist, Double M Enterprises, LLC  
Winston-Salem, NC
- 2002 – 2004 Scenic Painter, Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus  
Parma, OH
- 1998 – 2000 Scenic Painter, John Carroll University  
Cleveland Heights, OH

**Technical Direction/Carpentry**

- 2005 – 2007     Technical Director, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre  
Pittsburgh, PA
- 2004 – 2005     Technical Director/Owner, Double M Enterprises, LLC  
Winston-Salem, NC
- 2003-2004     Interim Technical Director, Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus  
Parma, OH
- 2002 – 2003     Assistant Technical Director, Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus  
Parma, Ohio
- 2002             Master Carpenter, Shakespeare and Company  
Lenox, MA
- 2001-2002     Technical Director, Northern Stage  
White River Junction, VT
- 2000 – 2001     Stage Technician, De La Guarda  
Las Vegas, NV
- 2000 – 2001     Stage Carpenter, Desert Entertainment  
Las Vegas, NV
- 1998 – 2000     Technical Director, John Carroll University  
Cleveland Heights, OH
- 1995 – 2001     Carpenter, Cleveland Opera  
Cleveland, OH

**Audio/Visual**

- 2007 – 2008     Audio Visual Technician, Three Rivers Entertainment  
Pittsburgh, PA
- 2000 – 2001     Audio Technician, Cleveland Playhouse  
Cleveland, OH
- 1998             Sound Operator, Porthouse Theatre  
Kent, OH
- 1997 – 1998     Sound Engineer, Hanna Cabaret  
Cleveland, OH
- 1996             Resident Sound Designer, Berea Summer Theatre  
Berea, OH

1995 Resident Sound Designer, Berea Summer Theatre  
Berea, OH

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## ACADEMIC DESIGN

2019 Associate Sound Designer, *Fun Home*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2019 Scenic Designer, *The Compleat Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2019 Scenic Designer, *The Country Wife*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2018 Scenic Designer, *Merrily We Roll Along*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2018 Scenic Designer, *The Amish Project*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2018 Scenic Designer, *Medea*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2017 Scenic Designer, *Little Shop of Horrors*, Klein Theatre  
University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

2016 Scenic Designer, *The Toxic Avenger*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

2016 Scenic Designer/Projection Designer, *The Secret Garden*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

2015 Scenic Designer, *Chicago*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

2014 Scenic Designer, *The Wedding Singer*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

2014 Scenic Designer, *Julius Caesar*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

2014 Scenic Designer/Projection Designer, *Kindertransport*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

2013 Scenic Designer, *The Shape of Things*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

- 2013 Scenic Designer, *The Pirates of Penzance*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
- 2013 Scenic Designer, *Street Scene*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
- 2012 Scenic Designer, *Blue Window*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
- 2012 Scenic Designer, *The Tempest*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
- 2012 Scenic Designer, *How I Learned To Drive*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO
- 2011 Scenic Designer, *Almost, Maine*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
- 2011 Scenic Designer, *Oklahoma!*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
- 2010 Scenic Designer, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
The University Resident Theatre Company, University Park, PA
- 2010 Scenic Designer/Projection Designer, *Palmer Park*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
The University Resident Theatre Company, University Park, PA

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## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

"Dark Money: Careers in Theatre Production and Design."

Kansas State Thespian Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2017

"Behind the Curtain: Encouraging Careers in Theatre Technology and Design."

Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, 2014 Conference, Lake of the Ozarks, MO, September 2014

"Advanced Vectorworks Model Creation and Rendering for the Scene Designer."

KCACTF Region 5, Festival 46, Lincoln, NE, January 2014

"The Lesson of the Three Dancing Sumo Wrestlers: An Investigation of Structure, Design, and Historical Research."

Kansas State Thespians Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2014

"What the Heck is a NURB and Why Should I Care? Advanced Vectorworks Modeling for the Scene Designer."

KCACTF Region 5 Festival 45, Lincoln, NE, January 2013

"The Lesson of the Three Dancing Sumo Wrestlers: An Investigation of Structure, Design, and Historical Research."

Kansas State Thespians Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2013

"No Money? No Problem! Free and Inexpensive Software for the Young Designer."

Kansas State Thespians Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2013

"The Lesson of the Three Dancing Sumo Wrestlers: An Investigation of Structure, Design, and Historical Research."

Missouri State Thespians Conference, Missouri State University, January 2012

"Showcase of Current Collaborative Projects: Video Screening and Discussion."

Symposium on Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2010

"The Nature of Technical Direction."

THEA 150, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2010

"The Role of the Scenic Designer and His/Her Process."

THEA 150, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2010

"Love's Labor Lost: Balancing Graduate School and Family."

USITT National Conference, Cincinnati, OH, Spring 2009

"You Can Do It!: Five Basic Scene Painting Techniques for High School Drama."

Wadsworth High School Thespians, Wadsworth, OH, Spring 2008

"Sound Reinforcement for the Theatre."

Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus, Parma, OH, February 2004

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## **UNIVERSITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Theatre and Dance

University of Mary Washington, 2018-2019

Member, Season Selection Committee, Department of Theatre and Dance

University of Mary Washington, 2019

Member, Season Selection Committee, Department of Theatre and Dance

University of Mary Washington, 2018

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Theatre & Dance

University of Central Missouri, 2016

Judge, Arts and Humanities, "Scholars Symposium and Creative Achievement Day"

University of Central Missouri, 2016

Moderator, Arts Panel, "Scholars Symposium and Creative Achievement Day"  
University of Central Missouri, 2015

Advisor, USITT Student Chapter  
University of Central Missouri, 2015 - 2017

Member, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Faculty Advising Committee  
University of Central Missouri, 2013-2015  
Chair, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology Curriculum Committee  
Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Central Missouri, 2013-2014

Member, Faculty Senate Committee on Policies and Procedures  
University of Central Missouri, 2013-2016

Advisor, UCM Players  
University of Central Missouri, 2013-2017

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Theatre & Dance  
University of Central Missouri, 2014

Member, Selection Committee for Meredith Harmon Sauer Distinguished Endowed Professorship  
University of Central Missouri, 2013

Member, Hendricks Hall Rejuvenation Committee  
University of Central Missouri, 2013-2017

Member, Auditorium Safety Committee  
University of Central Missouri, 2012-2017

Member, School of Theatre Student Advisory Council  
Pennsylvania State University 2009 - 2011

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## GRANTS

Central Technology Grant, University of Central Missouri, \$2500, Fall 2014

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

Inspire Integrity Award  
National Society of Collegiate Scholars, February 2019

New Faculty Achievement Award  
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Central Missouri, April 2014

Award for Outstanding Scenic Design, *The Shape of Things*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2014



Golden Handtruck Award, *Blue Window*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2013

Award for Outstanding Artistic Collaboration, *How I Learned to Drive*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2013

Award for Design Collaboration, *The Tempest*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2013

Creative Achievement Award  
College of Art & Architecture, Pennsylvania State University, April 2011

Anne Gibson Award for Professional Development in Theatre Design and Technology  
School of Theatre, Pennsylvania State University, April 2011

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## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)  
United States Institute of Technology (USITT)

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## RELATED SKILLS

Vectorworks®  
Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook,  
Power Point)  
Soundforge  
Cinema 4D

Adobe Creative Suite  
Sony Vegas  
Q-Lab  
Mac and Windows OS proficient