

# Neil Mills

Scenic Designer/Art Director

Pronouns: They/Them/He/Him/His

*Curriculum Vitae*

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## EDUCATION

### **Carnegie Mellon University - Pittsburgh, PA**

2013

Master of Fine Arts, Scenic Design

### **University of Denver - Denver, CO**

2010

Bachelor of Arts - Theatre, Anthropology (Double Major), International Studies (Minor)

- Phi Beta Kappa (Honor Society), Magna Cum Laude
- Honors in Scenic Design and Directing - Department of Theatre
- Member of Lambda Alpha - Anthropology Honors Society
- Social Justice Community - Member - 2010-2012

## TEACHING APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

### **Assistant Professor - University of Wisconsin-Madison - Madison, WI**

Fall 2020 - Present

- THE 130 - Fundamentals of Theatrical Design - Fall 2020
- THE 500 - Business of the Business - Spring 2021
- THE 372 - Set Design I - Fall 2021
- THE 699 - Directed Study - Spring 2021

### **Adjunct Professor - Kean University - Union, NJ**

2017-2018

- Scenic Design 1 - Fall 2017
- Intro to Performance Design - Spring 2018
- Guest Scenic Designer - *Pippin* - Spring 2018
- Scenic Design Advisor for student designers

## **Guest Designer - University of Denver - Denver, CO**

2019

- Guest Designer - *Tick...Tick...Boom!*
- Invited Speaker - 3D Computer Modeling Seminar / Life as a Designer

## **Guest Designer - Hunter College - New York, NY**

2015-2016

- Guest Designer - *A Doll's House*
- Invited Speaker - 3D Computer Modeling Seminar
- Design Lab Advisor

## **Teaching Assistant - Growing Theatre Community Outreach - Anne Mundell - Carnegie Mellon University - Pittsburgh, PA**

2012-2013

- Worked with 3rd grade class in an underprivileged school in Pittsburgh and taught the students theatre for a year. This culminated in a performance at Carnegie Mellon University at the end of the year.

## **Graduate Teaching Assistant - Carnegie Mellon University - Pittsburgh, PA**

2010-2013

- Teaching Assistant to Narelle Sissons, Professor of Scenic Design - 2012-2013
- Invited Speaker - 3D Computer Modeling Seminar for Undergraduate Students - 2012
- Teaching Assistant to Jon Ward, Properties Master - 2011-2013
- Teaching Assistant to Beth Zamborsky, Scenic Painting Professor - 2010-2012

## **COMMITTEES AND SERVICE**

### **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

2020-2021

- School of Education
  - Programs Committee
- Department of Theatre and Drama
  - Curriculum Committee
  - Scholarship Committee
  - Programming Committee
  - Production Committee
  - End of Year Banquet Committee

## **United Scenic Artists - USA 829**

2021-2022

- National Committee for Education

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### **United Scenic Artists Local - USA 829**

- Design Union for Theatre and Television - Member as a Scenic Designer - [www.usa829.org](http://www.usa829.org)

### **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions - IAAPA**

- Association for design professionals in the themed entertainment industry - Member through Themespace as an Experience Designer - [www.iaapa.org](http://www.iaapa.org)

### **United States Institute for Technical Theatre (USITT)**

- Association for design, production, and technology professionals in the entertainment industry. - [www.usitt.org](http://www.usitt.org)

## **SCENIC DESIGN : PART 1 - Themed Entertainment Design**

### **Themespace - Los Angeles, CA**

Experience Designer

July 2018 - July 2020

Experience designer for a variety of immersive experiences including: theme park attractions, pop up experiences, museums and more. Tasks include: working with clients on concept development through the creation of schematic phase CAD drawings, as well as creative/technical development, material selection, scheduling, and color elevations.

Recent projects include:

- The Secret Life of Pets - Dark Ride - Universal Studios Hollywood - Opened 2020 - Show/set design.
- Signature Brand Dark Ride - Universal Studios - Opening TBD - Blue sky conceptual design for signature brand themed dark ride. Proof of concept, sketching, created rough model animatics.
- Dodger Stadium - All Star Game Renovation - Lead show/set designer for parts of conceptual design/development phase.
- Lionsgate Entertainment City - Show/set designer in the design/development phase for this immersive two-story experience center in Times Square. The center includes dark rides and interactive attractions.

- The Steelers Experience - Kennywood - Pittsburgh, PA - Immersive attraction focused on the Pittsburgh Steelers - Opened 2019/2020
- Jurassic World the Ride - Universal Studios Hollywood - Opened 2019 (Graphic Design)

## **SCENIC DESIGN: PART 2 - Television and Film**

### **The Today Show - NBC Universal - New York, NY**

Art Director - Over 100 Episodes

2016-2018

- Production Designer: Ed Helbig
- Art Directors: April Bartlett, Laura Bacon Zarn, Patrick Rizzotti

### **Late Night with Seth Meyers - NBC Universal - New York, NY**

Art Director

2016-2017

- Production Designer: Ellen Waggett
- Art Director: Jo Winarski

### **Holiday Hangout with Andy Cohen - Sirius XM Radio - New York, NY**

Art Director

2016

- Art Directed the set for the online video stream of this program.

## **SCENIC DESIGN: PART 3 - Theatre - Professional Credits**

***Priscilla Queen of the Desert***, Directed by Jeremiah Gile, Stage Q (Madison, WI), 2022

***The Time Machine***, Directed by Justin Baldrige, New York Musical Festival, 2017

***A Dog Story***, Directed by Justin Baldrige, Davenport Theatre (Off-Broadway), 2016

***Dot***, Directed by Saheem Ali, Detroit Public Theatre, 2016

***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change***, Directed by Jennifer Werner, Sharon Playhouse, 2016

***Guess Who's Coming to Dinner***, Directed by Kathryn Markey, St. Michael's Playhouse, 2016

***Captive Audience***, Directed by Garrett Zuercher, New York Deaf Theatre, 2015

***My Fair Lady***, Directed by Richard Stafford, Sharon Playhouse, 2015

***True Love***, Directed by John Simpkins, Sharon Playhouse, 2015

***The Happy Family***, Directed by Anna Bamberger, Theatre Row (Off- Broadway), 2015

***Absolution***, Directed by Anna Bamberger, St. Lukes (Off-Broadway), 2014

***O. Rex***, Directed by Gia Forakis, Gia Forakis and Company at The Alchemical, 2014

***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***, Directed by Marlee Koenigsburg, New York Deaf Theatre, 2014

***Fatelessness***, Directed by Gia Forakis, Gia Forakis and Company at HERE Arts, 2014

***The Signal Season of Dummy Hoy***, Directed by Marlee Koenigsburg, New York Deaf Theatre, 2014

***Transit***, Directed by Sarah Rasmussen, Chautauqua Theatre Company, 2013

***Dark Radio***, Directed by Mike Donahue, Chautauqua Theatre Company, 2013

#### **SCENIC DESIGN: PART 4 - Theatre - Guest Design / Academic Credits**

***Stop/Kiss***, Directed by Anne Penner, The University of Denver, 2022

***Bonnets (Or How Ladies of Good Breeding are Induced to Murder)***, Directed by Pam Sterling, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021

***Rashomon***, Directed by David Furumoto., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021

***Sonnets for an Old Century***, Directed by Mark H., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021

***Killer Joe***, Directed by Ashley Lauren Hamilton, The University of Denver, 2020

***Tick...Tick...Boom!***, Directed by Ashley Lauren Hamilton, The University of Denver, 2019

***Pippin***, Directed by Ernest Wiggins, Kean University - Union, NJ, 2018

***Sensitive Guys***, Directed by Rebecca Wright, Arcadia University, 2018

***Lysistrata***, Directed by Meghan Brodie, Ursinus College, 2018

***Hair***, Directed by Domenick Scudera, Ursinus College, 2017

**Stop Kiss**, Directed by Meghan Brodie, Ursinus College, 2017

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Directed by Domenick Scudera, Ursinus College, 2016

**Reefer Madness**, Directed by Cary Libkin, University of Southern Maine, 2016

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**, Directed by Meghan Brodie, Ursinus College, 2016

**Eurydice**, Directed by Meghan Brodie, Ursinus College, 2015

**A Doll's House**, Directed by Antonio Suarez, Hunter College, 2015

**Dream Girl**, Directed by Domenick Scudera, Ursinus College, 2014

**The Picture of Dorian Gray**, Directed by Domenick Scudera, Ursinus College, 2015

### **SCENIC DESIGN: PART 5 - Theatre - Selected Assistant/Associate Design**

\*Indicates Associate Design

**Samara**, Designer: Louisa Thompson, A.R.T, 2016

**The Rep at Juilliard**, Designer: Narelle Sissions, Juilliard School of Drama, 2016

**Song From the Uproar\***, Designer: Zane Pihlstrom, Redcat at the LA Opera, 2015

**Unfiltered\***, Designer: Jason Simms, Ensemble Studio Theatre - NYC, 2016

**The Frogs**, Designer: Scott Tedmon-Jones, Juilliard School of Drama, 2014

**Titanic in Concert**, Designer: Narelle Sissions, Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Center, 2014

**Our Town/Ruby Sunrise**, Designer: Jason Simms, Juilliard School of Drama, 2013

**The Watson Intelligence**, Designer: Louisa Thompson, Playwrights Horizons, 2013

**4000 Miles**, Designer: Jason Simms, Philadelphia Theatre Company, 2013

**The Comedy of Errors**, Designer: Tom Buderwitz, Chautauqua Theatre Company, 2013

**Clybourne Park**, Designer: Jason Simms, Chautauqua Theatre Company, 2013

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**, Designer: Lee Savage, Chautauqua Theatre Company, 2013

## **SCENIC DESIGN: PART 5 - Theatre - Studio Assistant**

Mimi Lien, David Barber, Ellen Waggett, Jo Winarski, Michael Schweikardt, Jason Simms, Seth Reiser, Patrick Rizzotti, Preston Bailey Design, Scott Tedmon-Jones, Narelle Sissons, Lee Savage, Louisa Thompson, Ken Goldstein

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

Vectorworks 2019, AutoCAD, Revit, Basic Rhino, Sketchup, Lumion, SU Podium, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Computer Modeling and Rendering, Expert in Scenic Painting, Soldering, Model Construction, Theatrical Photography, Budgeting and Project Bidding, Graphic Design, Large Format Printing, Mac/PC Operating Systems, Comfortable Communicating with Scene Shops - Build Through Installation, Basic Costume Design, Basic Sound Design, Basic Lighting Design

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES**

### **Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence Fellowship - University of Wisconsin-Madison**

January 2021-December 2021

- Training focused on teaching pedagogy and best practices in the classroom
- Taught by Chris Castro - MTLE

### **Revit Skills**

December 2018 - August 2019

- Taught by Al Gomez (NBC Universal) and Joseph Toramanian at Themespace

### **The Art Department in TV & Film - USA 829**

May 2016

- Panel to discuss the language and practices of the Art Director in the Film and TV workplace
- Panelists (Art Directors): Alison Ford, CJ Simpson, Clay Brown

### **3D Vectorworks for Scenic Designers - USA 829**

May 2016

- Taught by Evan Alexander (Scenic Designer)

## **RELEVANT COURSEWORK - Theatre / Design / Anthropology**

### **Carnegie Mellon University - Design**

- Scenic Design - 3 years - Instructors: Dick Block, Narelle Sissions, Anne Mundell
- Scenic Painting - 3 years - Instructor: Beth Zamborksy
- Properties Design and Construction- 3 years - Instructor: Jon Ward
- History of Architecture and Decor - 3 years - Instructor: Dick Block
- Theatrical Drawing and Rendering - 3 years - Instructors: Anne Mundell, Susan Tsu, Beth Zamborsky
- Theatre Criticism - 2 years - Instructors: Dr. Wendy Aarons, Dr. Michael Chemers

### **University of Denver - Theatre/Design**

- Scenic Design - 3 years - Instructors: William Temple Davis, Shannon Lynn McKinney
- Lighting Design - 2 years - Instructor: Shannon Lynn McKinney
- Costume Design - 2 years - Instructor: Laurie LaMere Klapperich
- Sound Design - 1 year - Instructor: Matthew Morgan
- Theatre History and Criticism - 2 years - Instructor: Dr. Kim Axline-Morgan
- Playwriting and Dramaturgy - 2 years - Instructor: Allison Horsley
- Directing - 4 years - Rick Barbour, Dr. Kim Axline-Morgan
- Acting - 4 years - Rick Barbour, Anthony Hubert, Dr. Kim Axline-Morgan

### **University of Denver - Anthropology**

- Archaeology Methods + Theory - 2 years - Instructors: Dr. Larry Conyers, Dr. Bonnie Clark
- Cultural Anthropology - 2 years - Instructor: Dr. Tracey Ehlers
- Anthropology and Development - 2 years - Instructor: Dr. Tracey Ehlers
- Museum Studies - 2 years - Instructor: Dr. Christina Kreps
- Biological Anthropology - 2 years - Instructor: Dr. Dean Saitta

## **MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONAL WORK**

### **LaGuardia Community College - Queens, NY**

2013-2018

- *Modern Language Lab Coordinator - ELA Department*

## **Lighting Electrician - Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities - Arvada, CO**

2006-2010 - Summer Seasons

- Amphitheatre and Children's Blackbox Summer Seasons, 2007-2010
- *Miss Saigon, Big River*, 2009
- *Les Miserables, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, 2008
- *Moonlight and Magnolias, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, 2007

## **AWARDS**

### **Broadway World Awards - New Jersey - 2018**

- Winner - Best College Production - *Pippin*

### **New York Music Festival Awards - 2017**

- Nominee - Outstanding Overall Design - *The Time Machine*
- Lauren Mills (Scenic Design), Don Cieslik (Projection Design), Jamie Roderick (Lighting Design), Patrick LaChance (Sound Design), Vanessa Leuck (Costume Design)

### **Scenic Design Fellowship - Chautauqua Theatre Company - 2013**

## REFERENCES

Shannon McKinney

Assistant Professor of Lighting Design - University of Denver - Denver, CO

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Holly Logue

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Dr. Meghan Brodie

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