

Jessica Kuehnau Wardell Scenic and Costume Designer

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University	MFA Stage Design, 2007 Concentration in Scenic and Costume Design
University of Wisconsin - Madison	BA Theatre Arts, 1998 with Honors, focus on Design and Technology
University of Wisconsin – Madison	BS Studio Arts, 1998 With Honors, focus on Painting and Sculpture

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

North Park University, Chicago, IL 2005-2021

- Assistant Professor, Director of Production and Design
Theater Department, School of Music, Art, and Theatre. 2017-2021
Responsibilities include production management of the production season
Theatrical design and construction (scenic and costumes), Charge Scenic Artist
Annual budgeting, Curricular steering, Student Advising,
Student mentorship, Recruiting, and University service.
- Associate Faculty
Department of Communication Arts. 2008-2017
- Adjunct Faculty
Department of Communication Arts. 2005-2008
- Resident Scenic Designer, Costume Designer and Charge Artist 2005-2018
- Staff Technical Director 2005-2008

Courses:

Scenic Painting

An introduction to the theatrical art of Scenic Painting. Students study the basics of layout, color mixing, and painting techniques through demonstration and hands on projects that highlight each skill set from faux finishes to landscape to trompe l'oeil painting.

Scenic and Costume Design

An introduction to the art of theatrical Scenic and Costume Design exploring the various tools used by designers to create artistic representations of their ideas with a strong emphasis on text analysis, research, rendering, and model building.

Introduction to Design for the Stage

Approaching stage design as a visual art, this course explores the theory, methodology and artistic expression fundamental to each area of design for the stage—scenic, costume, lighting, and sound.

Theatre Production

This course explores technical aspects of theatre design and production through active participation in designing, building, painting, lighting, costuming and sound design, through in-class projects and as part of the main stage production season.

Storefront Practicum/ Winter One Acts

Students enrolled in this course select, cast, rehearse, and perform in the annual One Acts Festival as part of the main stage production season. The instructor mentors and guides the student directors, designers, and performers, but the pieces are entirely student conceived and executed.

Makeup Design

An introduction to the art of makeup design for the stage and screen. Lessons cover the proper tools, practical skills and techniques to apply both basic stage and specialty makeup to create illusion on stage. Students will develop original characters thru research, charts and realized designs.

Special Topics -Puppetry and Toy Theatre

Students put design and acting skills to use through puppetry and toy theatre construction and performance culminating in a public toy theatre festival.

Dramaturgy and Text Analysis

An introduction into how to analyze a play and how to write for the discipline of theatre. This course is a study of production dramaturgy: an exploration and application of the processes, research, and resources used by academics and theatre professionals.

The University of Chicago

2012-2017

- Director of Design, Theatre and Performance Studies.
Responsibilities include mentoring for student arts groups (theatre, dance, circus), Assisting UT productions, Scenic designer, Charge Scenic Artist, Paint Shop manager, Student Advising and Department Steering.
- Lecturer, Theatre and Performance Studies. **2021-2022**

Courses:

Introduction to Stage Design

Approaching design as a visual art, this course explores the theory, methodology, and artistic expression fundamental to each area of design for the stage. Scenic, costume, lighting and sound design are addressed through lecture and hands on artistic projects.

Scenic Design

An introduction to the art of theatrical Scenic Design exploring the various tools used by designers to create artistic representations of their ideas with a strong emphasis on text analysis, research, drawing and model building.

Costume Design

An introduction to the art of theatrical Costume Design. Lessons emphasize the process by which designers tell the story of the play through character analysis, research, artistic vision and imagination. We explore the various tools used by designers to create artistic

representations of their ideas with a strong emphasis on research, line drawing, and rendering techniques.

Scenic Painting

An introduction to the theatrical art of Scenic Painting

Puppetry and Toy Theatre

Performance based class exploring the skills needed to create a wide variety of puppetry styles with emphasis on storytelling.

Director/Designer Collaboration

This class tackles the pre-production period from initial concept meetings through design presentations for rehearsal. Students develop a vocabulary for expressing vision, explore collaborative communication techniques, and foster a creative environment for each member of the design/directing team.

Advanced Study Theatre: Scenic Design

This advanced study in scenic design for theater and performance focuses on extensive exploration of one playwright's work. Students design two theoretical productions and write one critical paper. Design presentations include research, color scenic models, and drafting.

Advanced Study Theatre: Rendering

This advanced study in rendering techniques for costume and scenic design. Students explore different art mediums used to create theatrical renderings from hand drawn to computer aided.

The Theatre School, DePaul University

2021-2022

- Lecturer, The Theatre School

Courses:

Technical Drawing I

An introduction to the art and technique of hand drafting for theatre and film. The first course in a three-course sequence, this quarter focuses on the basic drafting and layout skills needed to communicate design drawings to a technical shop. Mechanical drafting techniques and projection theories are practiced including drawing board geometry, scale and dimensioning and orthographic principles.

Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

2007-2012

Department of Communication and Theatre, Chicago, Illinois, 2007-2012

- Instructor
Responsibilities include student mentorship, student crew assignment and instruction, departmental steering.
- Resident Scenic Designer, Costume Designer, Charge Artist, Props designer

Courses:

Scenic Design

An introduction to the art of theatrical Scenic Design.

Costume Design

An introduction to the art of theatrical Costume Design

Scenic Painting

An introduction to the theatrical art of Scenic Painting

Stage Craft

This course covers the basics of the technical areas that contribute to the stage production. Course areas include: introduction to shop tools and theater processes, fundamentals of technical drawing, basic scenic painting, and introduction to stage lighting.

Introduction to Theatre

This course introduces students to theatre as an art form. Part lecture and part interactive exercises, the course explores varying aspects of theatre--history, text analysis, acting, directing, playwriting, design, and theatre attendance. The course culminates in small group projects where students produce their own ten-minute plays in a class room setting.

Practicum 2

This is a 200 level two credit hands on course where students help construct, paint and make props for the main stage theatrical season.

Practicum 3

This is a 300 level three credit course for advanced study in practical workings of backstage theatre

Northwestern University

- Instructor-Scenic Design
Department of Theatre Interpretation, Evanston, Illinois, 2004-2005
- Teaching Assistant
Department of Theatre Interpretation, Evanston, Illinois, 2002-2004

Courses:

Scenic Design

Design Process-Scenery is the undergraduate level introductory Scene Design course. This course will examine the functions of Scenic Design, the tools used by the designer, and the process a designer takes from initial reading of the script to the documentation of a design

Costume Design

Design Process-Costumes is the undergraduate level introductory costume design course. This course will examine the functions of costume design, the elements and principles of design, the tools used by the designer, and the process a designer takes from initial reading of the script to the documentation of a design.

Scenic Painting Lab

Practical undergraduate lab course focused on painting scenery for TIC Productions.

Scenery Construction Lab

Practical undergraduate lab course focused on constructing scenery for TIC Productions.

Prop Construction Lab

Practical undergraduate lab course focused on obtaining and constructing properties for TIC Productions.

Columbia College Chicago

2008-2011

- Guest Lecturer in Costume Design for Introduction to Design for the Stage
- Guest Lecturer in Scenic Design for Introduction to Design for the Stage

Goodman Theater Seminar (GTS)

2006

- Guest Lecturer in Scenic Design and Model Building

PROFESSIONAL SCENIC DESIGN and CHARGE SCENIC ARTIST

* denotes world premiere

Fever Originals (immersive experiences)*

<i>The Genie's Secret Bizarre</i>	Dir. Anderson Lawfer	Philadelphia, PA 2022
<i>The Mad Hatter's Gin And Tea Party</i>	Dir. Brian Curl	Touring prod. - Boston, MA 2022
<i>Sleepy Hollow Immersive Cocktail Experience</i>	Dir. Anderson Lawfer	Chicago, IL 2021 Touring prod. -Washington D.C., Altanta, GA 2022
<i>Little Mermaid Cocktail Experience</i>	Dir. Anderson Lawfer	Chicago, IL 2021 Touring prod.- Miami, FL Washington D.C., Charlotte, NC

**MPAACT (Ma'at Production of Association of Afrikan Centered Theatre), Artistic Associate
Chicago, IL**

* <i>Jabari Dreams of Freedom</i>	Dir. Daniel Carlton	regional tour closing at New Victory Theatre, NY, 2022 2 nd tour launching Jan 2023
* <i>Red Summer; a musical</i>	Dir. Andrea Dymond	Governors State University, 2022
* <i>Pulled Punches</i>	Dir. Lauren Wells	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2022
* <i>Spoken Word Crowns</i>	Dir. Lauren L.L. Lundy	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2020
* <i>Feral</i>	Dir. Chuck Smith	Governor State University, 2019
* <i>Upstate</i>	Dir. Carla Stillwell	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2016
* <i>Quark</i>	Dir. Carla Stillwell	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2016
* <i>Warm on the Coolin' Board</i>	Dir. Chuck Smith	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2014
* <i>Speaking in Tongues,</i>	Dir. Reginald Lawerence	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2013
	Dir. Andrea Dymond	GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2011

The Chronicles of Babel

**The Ghost of Atwood*

**Ten Square*

**Trouble the Water*

**Panther Burn*

Dir. Andrea Dymond

Dir. Mignon M. Nance

Dir. Mignon M. Nance

Dir. Andrea Dymond

GreenHouse Theatre Center, 2011

Pegasus Players, 2010

VG Studio, 2007

VG Studio, 2006

Adventure Stage Chicago, Chicago, IL

Six Stories Tall (national tour) Dir. Tom Arvetis

**Reprise* Dir. Sarah Rose Graber

The Giver

Dir. Brian Bell

And a Child Shall Lead

Dir. Tom Arvetis

**The Blue House*

Dir. Tom Arvetis

Eye of the Storm

Dir. Kimberly Senior

Shakespeare Stealer

Dir. Matthew Reeder

Founding Ensemble Member

National tour, 2017

Adventure Stage Chicago/The National

Theatre of Scotland, 2016

Vittum Theatre, 2011

Vittum Theatre, 2010

Vittum Theatre, 2008

Vittum Theatre, 2007

Vittum Theatre, 2006

Oak Park Festival Theatre Company, Oak Park, IL

You Can't Take It With You Dir. Jason Gerace

The African Theater Dir. Ron OJ Parson

Company Presents Richard III

Austin Gardens, 2018

Austin Gardens, 2018

Griffin Theatre, Chicago, IL

Company

Dir. Jonathan Berry

Journey's End

Dir. Jonathan Berry

Time and the Conways

Dir. Jonathan Berry

Theatre 773, 2010

Theatre Building, 2008

Theatre Building, 2005

Other Producing Organizations

Strangers, Babies

Dir. Brad Akin

Steep Theatre, 2014

**When Good Broccoli*

Dir. Carla Stillwell

DuSable Museum of African

Goes Bad (a musical)

American History, 2013

Living Large

Dir. Ann Filmer

16th Street Theatre, 2013

**Hunger*

Dir. Rob Kauzlaric

LifeLine Theatre, 2012

New Electric Ballroom

Dir. Robin Witt

A Red Orchid Theatre, 2011

Orange Flower Water

Dir. Jessica Hutchinson

BackStage Theatre Company, 2010

These Shining Lives

Dir. Rachel Walshe

Rivendell Theatre, 2009

Singing in the Rain

Dir. Sean Harris

SAF West Hartford, CT, 2009

**Dracula*

Dir. Blake Montgomery

The Building Stage, 2008

Josephine Tonight

Dir. Steve Scott

The Theatre Building, 2006

Darling of the Day

Dir. Michael Montel

Light Opera Works, 2005

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGN

Esperanza Rising

Dir: Henry Godinez

Chicago Children's Theatre, 2008

Macbeth

Dir. David H. Bell

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, 2007

Pain and the Itch

Dir. Anna D. Shapiro

Steppenwolf Theatre, 2005

Comedy of Errors

Dir. David H. Bell

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, 2005

PROFESSIONAL COSTUME DESIGN

Adventure Stage Chicago

La Ofrenda

Dir. Ana Velazquez

ASC, 2019

Akeelah and the Bee

Dir. Daryl Brooks

ASC, 2018

Six Stories Tall (national tour)

Dir. Tom Arvetis

National tour, 2017

**Reprise*

Dir. Sarah Rose Graber

ASC/The National Theatre
of Scotland, 2016

New Kid

Dir. Julie Ritchey

ASC/NPU, 2015

**Worthy*

Dir. Sarah Rose Graber

ASC, 2015

**Spark*

Dir. Tom Arvetis

ASC, 2014

Six Stories Tall (remount)

Dir. Tom Arvetis

ASC at The Auditorium Theatre, 2013

Six Stories Tall

Dir. Tom Arvetis

ASC, 2012

**Katrina: The Girl Who*

Dir. Tom Arvetis

ASC, 2009

Wanted Her Name Back

The Search for Odysseus

Dir. Nic Dimond

Vittum Theatre, 2007

Still Life with Iris

Dir. Matt Reeder

Vittum Theatre, 2006

**I Dream in Blues*

Dir. Tom Arvetis

Vittum Theatre, 2006

Steep Theatre Company

Lela and Co.

Dir. Robin Witt

Steep Theatre, 2017

Brilliant Adventures

Dir. Robin Witt

Steep Theatre, 2015

Love and Money

Dir. Robin Witt

Steep Theatre, 2011

Parlour Song

Dir. Robin Witt

Steep Theatre, 2009

Lifeline Theatre Company Children's Series

**Somebody Loves you,*

Dir. Anne Boyd

Lifeline Theatre, 2011

Mr. Hatch

**Half Magic*

Dir. Frances Limoncelli

Lifeline Theatre, 2007

The Velveteen Rabbit

Dir. Amanda Link

Lifeline Theatre, 2014

The Stinky Cheese Man

Dir. Rick Barletta

Lifeline Theatre, 2007

Stuart Little

Dir. Sandy Synder

Lifeline Theatre, 2005

Stage Center Theatre

A Man's World

Dir: Ann Hartagen

Stage Center Theatre, 2012

Twelfth Night

Dir. Anna Antaramian

Stage Center Theatre, 2011

Hay fever

Dir. Anna Antaramian

Stage Center Theatre, 2010

My Sister Eileen

Dir. Anna Antaramian

Stage Center Theatre, 2010

Other Producing Organizations

Noises Off

Dir. Scott Wienstein

Windy City Playhouse, 2019

Burning Bluebeard

Dir. Halena Kays

The Ruffians, 2015

Endgame

Dir. Halena Kays

Hypocrites, 2015

**Lawd the CVS is Burning*

Dir. Carla Stillwell

The Greenhouse Theatre, 2015

<i>Juliet: A Dialogue about Love</i>	Dir: Robin Witt	Sacred Playground Theatre Project/ Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2013
<i>Three Days of Rain</i>	Dir. Matt Reeder	Backstage Theatre Company, 2011
<i>On An Average Day</i>	Dir. Matt Reeder	Backstage Theatre Company, 2009
<i>A Perfect Wedding</i>	Dir. Joanie Schultz	Circle Theatre, 2009
<i>Jitney</i>	Dir. Jonathan Wilson	Pegasus Players, 2007
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Dir. Matt Reeder	Metropolis PAC, 2007

* denotes world premiere

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGN

<i>Hecuba</i>	Dir. Patrick Mason	Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, 2006
<i>Fences</i>	Dir. Ron OJ Pearson	Court Theatre, 2006
* <i>Cave with Man</i>	Dir. Nathan Allen	House Theatre, 2004
<i>Antigone</i>	Dir. Julieanne Ehre	Greasy Joan Theatre, 2004

ACADEMIC DESIGN EXPERIENCE

North Park University

Design and Scenic Charge

<i>Midnight in the Oasis</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2020	puppet design
<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Dir: Joseph Schubauch, 2019	costume design
<i>Tender, Rough, Rough, Tender</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2018	scenic & costume design
* <i>North Star</i>	Dir: Jess Hutchinson, 2018	scenic design
* <i>Bleak</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2017	scenic & costume design
<i>Proof</i>	Dir. Jessica Hutchinson, 2017	costume design
<i>As You Like It</i>	Dir. Jessica Hutchinson, 2016	costume design
* <i>Kung Fu Suburbia</i>	Dir. Chad Eric Bergman, 2015	costume design
<i>Cul-de-Sacrifice (a musical)</i>		
<i>Roustabout</i>	Dir. Joseph Schubauch, 2014	costume design
<i>Ghosts and Zombies</i>	Dir. Chad Eric Bergman, 2014	costume design
<i>Book of Days</i>	Dir, Brad Akin, 2013	costume design
<i>Duchess of Mafli</i>	Dir. Chad Eric Bergman, 2013	costume design
* <i>To Damascus (an adaptation)</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2012	scenic & costume design
<i>Hideous Prodigy</i>	Dir: Jessica Hutchinson, 2011	scenic design
* <i>Lilith</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2011	scenic design
<i>The Saint Plays</i>	Dir: Oona Kersey, 2010	scenic design
* <i>Legitimate Geniuses</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2010	scenic design
<i>Wrens</i>	Dir Robin Witt, 2009	scenic design
<i>Three Sisters</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2009	scenic design
* <i>Stain</i>	Dir: Jenny Montgomery, 2009	scenic design
<i>Archangels Don't Play Pinball</i>	Dir: Robert Hostetter, 2008	scenic design
<i>Arcadia</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2007	scenic design
* <i>Kung Fu Suburbia (a musical)</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2007	scenic design
<i>Full Circle</i>	Dir: Jonathan Berry, 2006	scenic design
<i>Kiwi Black</i>	Dir: Reginald Lawrence, 2006	scenic design
<i>King Lear</i>	Dir: Chad Eric Bergman, 2005	scenic design

University of Chicago –**Scenic Design and Charge Artist**

<i>*This Is How It Goes(a musical)</i>	Dir. Billy Bungeroth in collaboration with Second City, 2015
<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	Dir. Audrey Francis, 2014
<i>*Buried in Bughouse Square</i>	Dir. Halena Kays in collaboration with the Neo-Futurists, 2014
<i>House of Yes</i>	Dir. Audrey Francis, 2013
<i>*Rewilding Genius</i>	Dir. Evan Linder in collaboration with New Colony Theatre, 2013

Northeastern Illinois University-**Scenic Design and Charge Artist**

<i>A Man's World</i>	Dir: Ann Hartagen, 2012
<i>Fuddy Meers</i>	Dir: Dan Wirth, 2012
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2011
<i>Odd Couple</i>	Dir: Lisa Cantwell, 2011
<i>You Can't Take It With You</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2011
<i>As you Like It</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2011
<i>Bleacher Bums</i>	Dir: Chris Leonard, 2011
<i>Emma's Child</i>	Dir: Rodney Higginbotham, 2011
<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2010
<i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i>	Dir: Lisa Cantwell, 2010
<i>My Sister Eileen</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2010
<i>Tale of Two Cities</i>	Dir: Chris Leonard, 2010
<i>Vaudeville, America!</i>	Dir: Rodney Higginbotham, 2010
<i>Lucky Stiff</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2009
<i>An Inspector Calls</i>	Dir: Dan Wirth, 2009
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2009
<i>Lettice and Lovage</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2009
<i>The Illusion</i>	Dir: Chris Leonard, 2009
<i>Electra</i>	Dir: Rodney Higginbotham, 2008
<i>Charlie's Aunt</i>	Dir: Dan Wirth, 2008
<i>Stage Door</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2008
<i>Arcadia</i>	Dir: Anna Antaramian, 2008
<i>Private Eyes</i>	Dir: Bill McIntosh, 2008
<i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i>	Dir: Dan Wirth, 2007
<i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i>	Dir: Rodney Higginbotham, 2007

North Central College**Scenic Design and Charge Artist**

<i>The Elephant's Graveyard</i>	Dir: Kelly Howe, 2011
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Northwestern University-**Scenic Design and Charge Artist**

<i>Juvenilia</i>	Dir. Anna D. Shapiro, 2005
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Dir. Cindy Gold, 2004
<i>Closer</i>	Dir. Matt Mazerouski, 2004
<i>Six Characters in</i> <i>Search of an Author</i>	Dir. Bud Beyer, 2003

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

Charge Scenic Artist

Timeline Theatre Company	Des. Arnel Sancianco Des. Sydney Lynne Des. Caitlyn McLeod Des. Ryan Emens	<i>The Chinese Lady</i> <i>Campaigns, INC.</i> <i>Trouble in the Mind</i> <i>Boulevard of Bold Dreams</i>
North Park University	Des: Jessica Wardell	2005-2021
University of Chicago	Des: Jessica Wardell	2011-2017
Northeastern Illinois University	Des: Jessica Wardell	2006-2012
MPAACT	Des: Reggie Lawrence	<i>Tad in the City</i> , 2010 <i>Blaxploitation 2</i> , 2007 <i>Keep A Song In Your Soul:</i> <i>The Black Roots of Vaudeville</i> <i>The Merry Widow</i> , 2005 <i>Candide</i> , 2004 <i>Falsettos</i> , 2004 <i>Popsicle</i> , 2004 <i>NBA Jock Jams</i> , 2003 <i>Discovery Kids Series</i> , 2001 <i>Woodloch Resort</i> , 2000 <i>Peter Pan</i> , 2000 <i>Secret Garden</i> , 2000
Light Opera Works	Des: Tom Burch	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> , 2000 <i>Glimmerglass</i> , 2000 <i>Both Barrels</i> , 1999 <i>R&J the Musical</i> , 1999 <i>Victor/Victoria</i> , 2000
Northwestern University	Des: Tom Burch	
McElroy Scenic Cheney Designs	Des: Sean McElroy Des: Mark Cheney	
Syracuse Stage	Des. Holly Luedtke	
Goodspeed Opera House	Des: Jim Youman Des: Will Barclay Des: Kenneth Foy	
Maine State Music Theatre,	Assistant Charge	

Scenic Artist

Goodspeed Opera House	Charge, Diane Fargo Des. John Lee Beatty Des. Davie Gordon Des. James Noone Des. Howard Jones	<i>Man of La Mancha</i> , 2002 <i>A Little Night Music</i> , 2001 <i>On the 20th Century</i> , 2000 <i>No, No, Nannette</i> , 1999
Hartford Stage TheatreWorks	Des. Ric Hernandez Des. Troy Hourie	<i>Seascape</i> , 2001 <i>Art</i> , 2001 <i>Three Days of Rain</i> , 2000
Cobalt Studios Downtown Cabaret Theatre Bellagio Casino, LA York Theatre, NY	Des. J. Branson Charge: Chris Botta Charge, Daine Fargo Des. Jim Morgan	<i>Music Man</i> , 2001 <i>Dames at Sea</i> , 2000 <i>Venice Prod Launch</i> , 1999 <i>Exactly Like You</i> , 1999

Faux Finishing/Mural Art

Simes Studios Inc.	Owners: Jorge and Cindy Simes,	
Residential Interior painting, Murals, Custom finishes and Plasters;	Chicago, IL	

