

Lauren Ayn Lusk

Scenic Designer and Educator

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Education

Master of Fine Arts: Scenic Design, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Graduated May 2014

Secondary Emphasis: Theater Generalist

Thesis Project: Scenic Design for the musical *Guys & Dolls*

Bachelor of Arts: Drama, Cum Laude, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
Graduated May 2010

Areas of Concentration: Scenic Design, Stage Management, and Directing

Honors Thesis Project: Scenic Design for the comedy *Bleacher Bums*

Additional Education

ETC EOS Console Training, Levels 1-4, Fall 2023, Online and In-person, New York City, NY

ASL 1 Course, Fall 2017, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Little Rock, AR

Essential Skills for Secondary Educators with Dana Taylor & Nancy Curtis, USITT Conference 2017
Six-hour long workshop focusing on lesson planning, education standards, and tips/tricks for teaching Stagecraft.

Basic American Sign Language Course, Fall Semester 2014, Midland College, Midland, TX

Photoshop with Rafael Jaen, April 2012, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Two day workshop focusing on Adobe Photoshop techniques for creating digital costume renderings.

Teaching Experience

Hendrix College, Conway, AR

Fall 2022-Current, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts-Design & Technology, Tenure-track

As an Assistant Professor at Hendrix, I teach a 3:3 course load, two of which alternate each year between courses such as Scenery & Lighting, Fundamentals of Design, Production Design, Computer Aided Drafting, and Stage & Props Management. The third load is my design work, as the primary Scenic, Lighting, and Sound Designer for all Hendrix Players productions as well as overseeing of our scene shop in the construction of the productions as the Technical Director. In the scene shop I oversee 4 work study students as well as students earning lab or Practicum hours for the Scenery & Lighting and Practicum courses. I am also the faculty technical theater mentor for all drama majors and student volunteers during Hendrix Players productions, the Senior Seminar course, and outside of Hendrix opportunities.

The Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Little Rock, AR

Summer 2022 Technical Theater Educator for Contemporary Collaborative Theatre, a 1 week intensive
Students worked with myself and two other industry experts to go on a journey from play to performance using the fundamentals of preparing a monologue or scene, mask-making, puppetry, lights, sound, and scenery. We created a showcase, that presented at the end of the week, highlighting the collaborative play experience.



Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School, Little Rock, AR

Fall 2018-Spring 2022, Stagecraft 1-3 Teacher, Auditorium Manager and Thespian Troupe Director
The Parkview Drama Department produces about 10 different productions and/or theater activities a year. As Stagecraft teacher it was my job to teach and mentor up to 100 students ranging from 10th-12th grades to be able to design, build, and crew the various productions and other auditorium events. I also helped train and mentor students for Tech Challenge and design competitions at the 2019-2021 state Thespian Festivals and I was the Thespian Troupe director for the 2021-22 school year.

Arkansas Governor's School, Hendrix College, Conway, AR

Summer 2017 & 2018, Assistant Director of Drama

The Arkansas Governor's School was a six-week summer residential program for gifted and talented students who were upcoming high school seniors. Out of the 400 students selected from across the state 25 were Drama students. Although my teaching partner focused mostly on acting and directing with the students I taught them the elements of design and principles of composition as well as some theater history using pop culture references as a way to engage students. Our final projects were devised works that the students wrote, acted, directed, choreographed, designed and built themselves with our guidance.

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Fall 2013-Spring 2014 T.A. for T125: Intro to Theatrical Production

T125 is a semester long undergraduate course split into two 8-week portions; the first 8 weeks is an introduction to stagecraft and the second is an introduction to theatrical design with a different instructor for each portion. I was the instructor of the Intro to Theatrical Design portion. I updated previously used lectures, developed new assignments, met with students and administered grades. I taught all of the lectures under the supervision of the Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, Reuben J. Lucas.

Fall 2011-Spring 2014 Graduate Assistant in the Scenic Studio

The Scenic Studio produces scenery and technical support for 9 productions during the school year. As a Graduate Assistant in the studio I provided instruction and guidance to undergraduate employees as well as students fulfilling their lab hours for the T125 course mentioned above.

Scenic Design Experience

		Director	
2024	<i>Chicago</i> <i>Twelfth Night or What You Will*</i>	Mark A. Burbank Daryl Phillipy	Actor's Theatre of Little Rock Hendrix College
2023	<i>The Scarlet Letter*</i> <i>Black Broadway</i> <i>The Handmaid's Tale, the opera</i> <i>Cabaret</i> <i>The Hope Hypothesis*</i>	Ann Muse Jenise Cook Jenna Elser Carrie Colton William Ragsdale	Hendrix College GLOW Lyric Theatre GLOW Lyric Theatre GLOW Lyric Theatre Hendrix College
2022	<i>Elephant & Piggie's "We're in a Play"*</i> <i>This Property is Condemned*</i> <i>Matilda the Musical*</i> <i>Elliot: A Soldier's Fugue</i>	Antonio Horne Brigitte Rogers Lawrence Smith Spencer Sutterfield	Hendrix College Hendrix College U of A-Little Rock Parkview Magnet

*indicates shows with roles as Scenic Designer and Technical Director



2021	<i>All in the Timing*</i> <i>The SpongeBob Musical*</i>	Wyatt Hamilton Justin Pike	Parkview Magnet The Studio Theatre
2018	<i>Hansel & Gretel's Gingerbread Games</i> <i>Stone Soup</i> <i>Three Days of Rain</i>	Katie Campbell Keith Smith Chris Fritzes	AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater University of Central Arkansas
2017	<i>The Taming of the Shrew, tour*</i>	Chad Bradford	Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre

Resident Scenic Designer & Charge Artist, Midland Community Theatre

2017	<i>School of Rock</i> <i>SM: Summer of '69</i> <i>The Awesome 80s Prom</i> <i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i> <i>Murder on the Nile</i> <i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame, reg. premiere</i>	Bill Williams Don Woodward Tim Jebson Bill Williams Jane Moore Tim Jebson	Davis Theatre Yucca Theatre Junior League of Midland Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre
2016	<i>Southern Hospitality</i> <i>Pinocchio</i> <i>Sweeney Todd</i> <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i> <i>SM: Master Munchie Maker</i> <i>Good Morning Howard</i> <i>La Cage aux Folles</i> <i>Harriet the Spy</i> <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> <i>Disney's The Little Mermaid</i>	Jane Moore Bill Williams Tim Jebson Bill Williams Don Woodward Jason Kelliher Carl Beery Moore Bill Williams Ben Spencer Tim Jebson	Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre Yucca Theatre Mabee Theatre Yucca Theatre Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre
2015	<i>Peter Pan</i> <i>Becky's New Car</i> <i>Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i> <i>Nunsense</i> <i>All Shook Up</i> <i>SM: Masked Mummies in Midtropolis</i> <i>Fixing Up</i> <i>West Side Story</i> <i>The Little Princess</i> <i>The Addams Family: the musical</i>	Tim Jebson Jim Carver Bill Williams Jane Moore Bill Williams Cody Tumlin Pam Keel Tim Jebson Bill Williams Tim Jebson	Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre Yucca Theatre Mabee Theatre Yucca Theatre Davis Theatre Davis Theatre
2014	<i>A Christmas Story</i> <i>War of the Worlds</i> <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> <i>Leading Ladies</i> <i>Urinetown</i>	Tim Jebson Bill Williams Steve Reynolds Pam Keel Carl Beery Moore	Davis Theatre Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre Davis Theatre Mabee Theatre

Scenic Designer

2014	<i>Godspell</i> <i>Guys & Dolls</i>	George Pinney Lee Cromwell	Indiana Festival Theatre Indiana University
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2013	<i>Cat On A Hot Tin Roof</i> <i>Legally Blonde: the Musical</i>	Marti Maraden Kate Janson	Indiana University BigFork Summer Playhouse
2012	<i>Richard III</i> <i>Damn Yankees</i> <i>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>	Gavin Cameron-Webb Dennis McKeen Nancy Lipshultz	Indiana University BigFork Summer Playhouse Indiana University
2009	<i>Bleacher Bums</i>	Kate Frank	Nadine Baum Studios
2008	<i>The Arkansaw Bear*</i>	A.J. Spiridigliozzi	AR Shakespeare Theatre

Assistant Scenic Designer

2010	<i>The 25th Annual P. County Spelling Bee</i>	Michael J. Riha	University of Arkansas
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Scenic Art Experience

2018	<i>Stone Soup</i> <i>Junie B. Jones</i> <i>Humpty Dumpty, tour</i>	Lauren Ayn Lusk Jim Lyden Keith Smith	AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater
2017	<i>Mother Goose Christmas</i> <i>Jack Frost, tour</i> <i>Giggle Giggle Quack</i>	Jim Lyden Erin Larkin MA Hare	AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater
2013	<i>Sunday in the Park with George</i>	Dan Tracy	Indiana University
2011	<i>The Three Musketeers</i> <i>The Music Man</i> <i>Ah! Wilderness</i> <i>Comedy of Errors</i>	Tim Barbiaux Fred M. Duer Fred M. Duer Fred M. Duer	Indiana University Indiana Festival Theatre Indiana Festival Theatre Indiana Festival Theatre
2010	<i>Footloose</i>	Michael J. Riha	Alma Performing Arts Center

Scenic Designer

Properties/Puppetry Experience

2018	<i>Stone Soup</i> <i>Dorothy in Oz, tour</i> <i>Junie B. Jones</i> <i>Humpty Dumpty, tour</i> <i>Snowy Day</i>	Keith Smith Katie Campbell John Isner Keith Smith Katie Campbell	AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater
2017	<i>Mother Goose Christmas</i> <i>Jack Frost, tour</i> <i>Goosebumps: the Musical</i> <i>Giggle Giggle Quack</i>	John Isner Bradley Anderson Katie Campbell Bradley Anderson	AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater AAC Children's Theater
2015	<i>The Little Princess</i>	Bill Williams	MCT-Davis Theatre
2013	<i>Intimate Apparel</i>	Ron Himes	Indiana University
2012	<i>Cabaret</i>	George Pinney	Indiana University
2011	<i>Hair</i>	Patti Wilcox	Indiana University
2009	<i>The Crucible</i>	Kate Frank	University of Arkansas
2008	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Michael Landman	Walton Arts Center
2004	<i>Children of Eden</i>	Robert Hupp	Arkansas Repertory Theatre

Director



Lighting Design Experience

Director/Choreographer

2024	<i>The Love Talker</i>	Landry Doshier	Hendrix College
	<i>Illuminous Unearthing</i> from Dance Concert	Brigitte Rogers	Hendrix College
	<i>Twelfth Night or What You Will</i>	Daryl Phillipy	Hendrix College
2023	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Ann Muse	Hendrix College
	<i>Night</i>	Lavinia Roberts	Hendrix College
	<i>Sagittarius Ponderosa</i>	Ria Joshi	Hendrix College
	<i>Tomorrow</i> from <i>Spring Dance Concert</i>	Rebecca Wilenski	Hendrix College
2022	<i>Elephant & Piggie's "We're in a Play"</i>	Antonio Horne	Hendrix College
	<i>This Property is Condemned</i>	Brigitte Rogers	Hendrix College
2014	<i>Path Interrupted</i> from <i>Moving into Focus</i>	IU Dance Faculty	Indiana University

Other Theater Experience

Carpenter - BigFork Summer Playhouse, 2012 & 2013 Seasona

Helped construct scenery for 4 musicals in rotating repertory during each season

Stitcher - University of Arkansas, 2008 Fall Semester

Helped construct costumes for *Cymbeline* and *A Christmas Carol*

Scene Shop - University of Arkansas, Fall 2007-Spring 2008 and Spring 2009-Spring 2010

Served as a Carpenter, Welder, and/or Scenic Artist for 11 productions

Grants

Hendrix-Murphy Foundation Fall 2023, \$9,000 Honorarium

Proposal to bring guest director, Katherine Silverman for Spring 2025 production Granted

Hendrix-Murphy Foundation Fall 2023, \$15,000 Honorarium

Proposal to bring distinguished playwright, Candrice Jones, for a campus visit Granted

Thea Foundation's Art Closet Fall 2021 and 23 individual donors through DonorsChoose.org

Grant named "Stagecraft: A New Era", Goal of \$2,940 met

Thea Foundation's Art Closet Spring 2021 and 23 individual donors through DonorsChoose.org

Grant named "Stagecraft: Scenic Painting 101", Goal of \$2,062 met

Thea Foundation's Art Closet Fall 2020 and 9 individual donors through DonorsChoose.org

Grant named "Stagecraft Goes Virtual", Goal of \$2,435 met

Thea Foundation's Art Closet Spring 2020 and 1 individual donor through DonorsChoose.org

Grant named "Stagecraft: Costuming, Designing, and Safety, Oh My!", Goal of \$1,819 met

Thea Foundation's Art Closet Fall 2019 and 12 individual donors through DonorsChoose.org

Grant named "Stagecraft: The Safety Sequel", Goal of \$2,626 met

Thea Foundation's Art Closet Fall 2018 and 11 individual donors through DonorsChoose.org

Grant named "Stagecraft Safety Knows No Bounds", Goal of \$2,418 met



Awards & Nominations

Nomination: Best Scenic Design, BroadwayWorld.com Arkansas, 2021

Nominated for *The SpongeBob Musical* at the Studio Theatre

Employee of the Month, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School, March 2019

Best in Show: Excellence in Scenic Design, AACT National Festival, 2017

I was awarded for my scenic design of *Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street* for Midland Community Theatre's 2016 Season.

MacGruder Drama Award, University of Arkansas, 2010

The MacGruder Drama Award is given to an undergraduate for their pursuit of excellence in theater and for their commitment to the University of Arkansas' Drama Department.

Presentations

USITT Conference and Stage Expo 2024 Seattle, Washington

Co-presented "16 Hour Days Suck"

Description: This presentation focused on sharing examples for budgeting not just money for a production, but time, and how to estimate available hours for staff as well as how long projects and processes will take.

USITT Conference and Stage Expo 2023 St. Louis, MO

Design Expo, presented design for *The SpongeBob Musical*

LRSD Theatre Professional Development 2022 Little Rock, AR

Presented "Technical Theatre 101"

Description: Taught Elementary-High School educators about the process of designing and constructing a production.

LRSD Theatre Professional Development 2021 Little Rock, AR

Presented "Teaching Technical Theatre Equitably in the Digital Age"

Description: Post-pandemic and hybrid teaching year, taught Elementary-High School educators about how to teach technical theatre without access to traditional shop tools and production processes.

ACTAA Annual Conference 2019 Little Rock, AR

Presented "Scenic Design & Stagecraft: Designing from the Outside In"

Description: Taught educators from around Arkansas about ways to think outside the box when designing for educational theatre.

USITT Conference and Stage Expo 2017 St. Louis, MO

"Cover the Walls," presented design for *Sweeney Todd*

SETC Convention 2014 Mobile, AL

Co-presented "The Limits of Unlimited: The Repertory Space"

Description: Through lecture and a PowerPoint presentation, this workshop focused on giving undergraduate and graduate students creative ideas for designing and constructing a repertory set without sacrificing their overall vision.



Skills

AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Acrobat, Adobe Illustrator, SketchUp, Microsoft Office, Scenic Painting, Modelbuilding, Basic Watercolor/Gouache Techniques, Acrylic Techniques, Prismacolor Pencil and Marker Techniques, Foam Carving, Carpentry, MIG Welding, Flat Patterning, Hand Stitching, Sewing/Serger Machine, ETC EOS Console Trained Levels 1-4, Hanging/Focusing Lighting Equipment, Basic Sound Mixing, Additional Languages: Basic American Sign Language and French

Professional Affiliations

member, United States Institute of Theatre Technology 2010-current
member, Guild of Scenic Artists 2017-current
member, International Thespian Society Troupe 7955, 2018-2022
member, SouthEastern Theatre Conference 2012-2015

Committees

Hendrix-Murphy Foundation, Director's Cabinet, 2023-Present

-Review student and faculty grant applications to give guidance to the director of the Hendrix-Murphy Foundation.

Play Selection Committee-2016 Season, Midland Community Theatre

-5 member committee
-Chose 11 shows consisting of 4 musicals, 6 plays, and 1 new work

Additional References

Katie Campbell
Associate Director
Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre
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