

Daniel Schindler

Theatre Designer & Educator

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Education

MFA in Scenic Design, Indiana University, Bloomington
BA in Theatre Arts, Montana State University

Teaching Positions

Associate Professor / Scenic Designer

Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA 2015 – Present

Director of Theatre 2016 - 2020

Department Chair 2016 - 2019

Associate Professor & Director of Technical Theatre

California State University, Chico, 2011 – 2015

Assistant Professor & Director of Technical Theatre

California State University, Chico, 2005 – 2011

Assistant Professor / Scenic Designer

Colorado State University, 2000 – 2005

Scenic Designer & Technical Director

Governor's School for the Arts

Middle Tennessee State University, 1999 – 2001 (Summers)

Visiting Artist / Scenic Designer & Instructor

University of Toledo, 1999

Assistant Instructor

Indiana University, 1995 – 1998

Adjunct Professor of Design & Technical Production

Rocky Mountain College, 1994 – 1995

Courses Taught

First Year Seminar
Design Scenic Painting
Lighting Design
World Theatre
Props and Puppetry
Drafting for Theatre
Stage Management
Production Practicum

Foundations of
Scenic Design
Digital Media Design
Stagecraft
Introduction to Theatre
Advanced Scenic Design
Rendering and Modelmaking
Advanced Production Practicum

Proficiencies

Adobe Creative Suite, VectorWorks, AutoCADD, Qlab, SketchUp, Touch Designer, traditional watercolor rendering and model building techniques.

Grants, Honors, & Awards

Humanities Montana Opportunity Grant, 2023

This grant supplemented my professional development funds from Whitman and allowed me to start a project collecting oral histories from the Virginia City Players in Virginia City, MT. The work so far is publicly available through [Archives West](#) and [Montana State University Archives Special Collections](#).

Mellon Grant for Community Engaged Learning and Research Initiative, 2021 & 2022

This grant was received to take multiple sections of the First Year Seminar students to the Tamastslit Cultural Center in Pendleton, OR. The field trip was part of a multi-week research assignment connecting local authors, Whitman Archives collections, and independent research to help inform first year students about the land and cultures of the regions.

Pedagogical Inquiry Grant for "Creative Thought and Practice", 2022

I was one of the leaders of this summer research group which explored how the arts could enhance the student experience, create an area of distinction at Whitman College, and build more cross-departmental opportunities for research, creative projects, and community engagement.

AITAG Technology Experimentation Grant, 2021

This grant allowed me to purchase a portable sound system and interface for a new class, Digital Media Design. This course combines projection and sound design. The equipment has allowed us to independently explore sound in different acoustical spaces and use it in conjunction with projection technology for class projects.

Suzanne L Martin Award for Excellence in Mentoring, 2020

Presented to a staff or faculty member in recognition of their accomplishments in helping students get the most out of their time at Whitman, as well as for their extraordinary engagement in the Whitman community.

Kennedy Center Gold Medallion Award, 2019

Each year, the eight KCACTF regions honor individuals or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre and who have significantly dedicated their time, artistry, and enthusiasm to the development of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Most importantly, recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to the values and goals of KCACTF and to excellence in educational theatre. It is the most prestigious regional award given by KCACTF and is considered one of the great honors in theatre education.

Mellon Grant for Diversity and Community Engagement, 2019

This grant awarded funds which allowed me to bring Anthony Hudson to campus

to perform Looking for Tiger Lily and interact with the students and community through a series of class visits and a talkback. This grant brought together members of the Whitman and Walla Walla community in the areas of theatre, politics, gender studies, indigenous studies, and art. We were also able to bring members of the local Umatilla Tribe to participate in the performance through a traditional land acknowledgment.

KCACTF Meritorious Achievement in Design

Scenic Design for *Life Is A Dream*, Whitman College, 2019

Humanities and Fine Arts International Fellows Award, 2014

California State University, Chico. This grant awarded funds for a performing arts research trip to Northern China including Beijing and Chengdu, 5/2014.

KCACTF, Meritorious Achievement Award for Design

Music Man, California State University, 2013

E-Learning Academy program, 2011.

Accepted to participate in a series of E-Learning workshops where we developed method to create and education students in various online formats.

Awarded funds from Instructional Development Funds, 2011

I applied for and was awarded funds to purchase a new intercom system for the Performing Arts Center on the CSU, Chico campus. This technological addition significantly improved the quality of our productions and improved technology that the students now could train on.

KCACTF Meritorious Achievement Award for Design

Scenic Design of Our Town, CSU, 2008

Professional Affiliations

Montana State University Archives and Special Collections

- Research Partner, 2023 - present

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 7

- Chair of Design, Management, & Technology Region 7, 2017 - 2020
- Vice-Chair of Design, Management, & Technology Region 7, 2014 - 2017

United Scenic Artists, Local #829, Member since 2006

United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Member

- Chair, Rocky Mountain Section, 2004 – 2005

Professional and Scholarly Activities

Virginia City Players Oral History Project (2023 – present)

I have begun a project of collecting and cataloging oral histories from current and former performers at the Virginia City Players in Virginia City, Montana. This company is the longest running summer theatre west of the Mississippi and celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023. To facilitate this work, I've become a Research Partner with Montana State University who is currently housing the material generated from this project. I expect to be continuing to work on this project for the next several years.

Tamastlikt Cultural Center Museum Renovation, 11/2023

I was engaged help visualize a portion of a re-design to the TCI. I was also engaged to design and construct a replica of a beaver pelt press from the 1830's to be installed in a newly renovated portion of the Tamastlikt Cultural Center. This project has been completed and delivered to TCI.

Educational Space Consultant for Walla Walla Community College 3/2024

I consulted and created visualizations for the renovation of the Center for Integrated Learning (CIL) on the WWCC campus. This space will be used to educate students and faculty on educational technology in the classroom.

KCACTF Region 7, Spokane, 2/22 - 2/24, 2023

Workshop Presentation: "Starting the Conversation: Fostering successful collaborations between directors and designers."

Theatre Consultant for Walla Walla Community College

I was asked to review the current performance and production spaces at WWCC and give my opinion on their safety, functionality, and what needed to be done to improve or upgrade them. They also engaged me to create a feasibility study detailing how the theatre department could move forward in the near future.

Northwest 5 Consortium Learning Community: Indigenous People and Colonialism in the Pacific Northwest. 5/1 - 9/1, 2021

External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, Trinity University, 2021

I was asked to review and submit my professional opinion on an application for promotion to Full Professor in the Department of Human Communication and Theatre.

External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, Wichita State University, 2021

I was asked to review and submit my professional opinion on a faculty an application for promotion to Full Professor in the School of Performing Arts.

VectorWorks University Series Workshop: Creating Efficient Scenic Designs
Workshop Participant; 1/21

Anti-Racist Theatre, A Foundational Course, Presented by Nicole Brewer
Participant; 11/20

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region 7, 2013 - 2020

I have served in the regional leadership of KCACTF. During that time, I've held the roles of Vice-Chair and then Chair of Design, Technology, and Management for the region. My responsibilities included regional guidance in the Design, Technology, and Management area, organization of DTM events and registration at the annual festival, sourcing and contacting experienced theatre educators and professionals from outside of our region to come to the festival and give feedback to our students. Identify prominent professional designers to serve as keynote speakers. Planning meetings such as site visits, regional organizational meeting, and attendance at the national meeting each Spring in Washington DC. During festival itself, each year I've been responsible for all of the students participating in DTM, the set up and liaison with the host school, all logistics associated with our area, and the presenting of awards of excellence determined by our respondents. I've also implemented national initiatives such as the Collaborative Theatre Challenge with National Playwrighting Program.

KCACTF Region 3, Madison, Wisconsin, 1/7 - 1/11, 2020

Regional Festival Design Respondent
Workshop Presentation- "From Pinterest to Prezi; Digital Design Tools"

External Program Reviewer for Gonzaga University, 3/3 - 3/6, 2019

I performed a program review for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Gonzaga University. I evaluated their program structure, watched classes, talked to the faculty and students, and toured their physical spaces and made recommendations to the administration based on this evaluation. My review was based on NAST best practices.

External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, Boise State University, 2018

I was asked to review and submit my professional opinion on the application for promotion to Full Professor in the Department of Theatre.

Cross Disciplinary Teaching & Learning Initiative Research Group:

"The Moving Image", 2018

I was part of a faculty group that researched what "the moving image" means in wide variety of disciplines and presented their work through a museum display at the Sheehan Gallery which was open to the public engaging in the various expressions of image.

KCACTF Show Respondent, 10/2018

Boeing Boeing - University of Portland

KCACTF Region 5, Des Moines, Iowa, 2/3 - 2/8, 2018

Regional Design Respondent

Workshop Presentation- "Image to Design a Designer's Charette"

External Program Reviewer for University of Portland, Mar. 1 - 5, 2017

I was asked to perform a program review for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Portland. I evaluated their program structure, watched classes, talked to the faculty and students, and toured their physical spaces and made recommendations to the administration based on this evaluation. My review was based on NAST best practices.

KCACTF Show Respondent, 10/2017

The Elephant Man - Whitworth College, Spokane, WA

The Humana Festival, Louisville, 4/2016

I attended this festival of new plays to source plays for season selection and stay knowledgeable in current trends in play writing and production.

KCACTF Show Respondent, 5/2013

Proof – Humboldt State University

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region

VIII, 2/2012 DTM Omega Team – Design Expo set up and organization Workshop Presentation – "From Sketch to White Model."

USITT National Conference, 3/2012

I led a group of students to the conference. This is the first time in recent memory that students from CSU, Chico have attended this conference.

KCACTF Show Respondent, 12/2011

Some Assembly Required – Humboldt State University

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region VIII, 2/2011

- o Technical Respondent for Xtigone
- o DTM Omega Team member – festival set up and organization.

Annual International Conference on Fine and Performing Arts, Athens, Greece, 7/2010

I had a paper accepted for presentation; *Mua Roi Nuoc, Puppets That Walk on*

Water. The Art of Vietnamese Water Puppets. I was unable to secure adequate funding to attend.

International Journal of the Arts in Society, 2010 Associate Editor

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region VIII, 2/2010

- o Technical Respondent for Twelfth Night and A Servant of Two Masters
- o Faculty judge for the Tech Olympics.
- o DTM Omega Team member

Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, HI, 1/2009

I had two articles on Southeast Asian puppetry accepted for this conference. I was unable to secure adequate funding to attend in person, but my materials were presented digitally.

The Humana Festival, Louisville, 3/2009

Attended this festival of new plays to keep myself and the department knowledgeable in current trends in play writing and production.

USITT National Conference Presentation, Phoenix, 3/2007

"Jo Mielziner; The Rise of Poetic Realism in American Theatre"

This presentation is part of the ongoing project, *Tracing Our Roots, A History of Scenic Design*.

The Humana Festival, Louisville, 4/2006

I attended this festival of new plays to keep myself and the department knowledgeable in current trends in play writing and production.

ATHE Conference, Chicago, 7/2006

Invited to be on a panel discussion: Collaboration on the Academic Stage.

Performing Arts Tour of SE Asia, Lecture for CSU Humanities Center 12/06

Detailing a 3 1/2 week performing arts tour of Thailand, Cambodia & Vietnam sponsored through USITT and OISTAT.

Co-Chair, Scenic Design History Project, Tracing Our Roots.

USITT Conference, 2004 through 2007. This project collected images and information on important figures in scenic design history presented by me and knowledgeable colleagues and historians in the design discipline through a series of presentations at USITT conferences.

Participant in World Stage Design, USITT conference, 2005

Work displayed in the exhibition catalog published chronicling this event.

Host, Marker Rendering Workshop, presented by Donald Gerds, 11/2004

I was able to get internationally known maker artist and interior designer, Donald Gerds to come to Colorado State University, Fort Collins to present this workshop for a combined class of theatre and Interior design students.

Chair, Theatrical Collaboration Roundtable,

KCACTF Regional Conference. Denver, 2004

KCACTF Show Respondent, 10/2004

Laramie Project, Denver Metro College

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Denver, 2004

Workshop Session Chair: *Concepts in Collaboration,*

Chair, Thumbnail Sketching Charette, USITT National Conference 2002

Design Respondent, Arkansas regional KCACTF conference, 2002

Chair, Thumbnail Sketching Charette, USITT National Conference 2001

Collegiate Service

Governance Roles at Whitman College

- Campus Affairs Committee member, 2024 – 2026
- Department Chair, Theatre and Dance Department, 2016 - 2019
- Director of Theatre, 2016 - 2020

Other Service

Whitman College

- Summer Registration Assistance, 2021 - Present
- Dance VAP Search Committee, SP 2024
- Human Centered Design steering committee, 2021 - Present
- Ombuds Research Group, 2021 - 2023
- Digital Studies / UX Design Focus Group, Summer 2021
- Sheehan Gallery Committee, 2021 - present
- Drama Club Organization, Faculty Advisor 2016 - 2020
- Junior / Senior Housing Committee, Whitman College 2019 - 2021
- Tenure and Promotion Dispute Review Committee, 2/19

California State University, Chico.

- University Senate, Senator At Large, 2013 – 2016
- Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, 2013 - 2015
- University Senate, Humanities & Fine Arts Representative, 2010 – 2013
- Educational Policies and Programs Committee, 2010 - 2013
- Instructional Related Activities Funding Board, 2010 – 2015
- Retention, Tenure, & Promotion Committee, 2012 – 2013
- Departmental Chair Description & Search Committee, 2012
- Departmental Scholarship Committee, 2012 - 2013
- High School Festival Planning Committee, 2010
- HFA Strategic Vision Statement Committee, 2009 - 2010
- University Scholarship Committee, 2008-2009
- Non-print Media Review Committee, 2008 - 2013
- Chair, Lighting Designer Search, Spring 2008
- Chair, Season Planning Committee, 2009 - 2012
- Departmental Library Representative, 2006 – 2007, 2009- 2011
- Departmental Curriculum Committee, 2005 - Present
- Theatre Audition/Interview Committee, 2005 - Present
- Undergraduate Advising Committee, 2005-2010
- Departmental Computer Lab Manager (PAC 261) 2005 – 2010

Community Outreach & Service

- Consultation with Walla Walla Community College on future plans and space for their theatre program.
- World Puppetry Presentation, Walla Walla Library, FA 2018
- Little Free Library project – Barber Neighborhood Association, Chico, CA
- Historic Restoration & Preservation Award, Chico Heritage Association, City of Chico, 2012
- Board Member, Paradise Performing Arts Center, 2009-2010
- Museum Installation Design for Chico Neighborhoods. Chico Museum, 6/2010

Involvement with K-12

- Puppet performance presentations for Kids Place, Walla Walla, WA Fall, 2015 & Fall 2018
- Coach for Junior Giants Baseball, 2013 & 2014
- Chico High School drama class discussion of designers and process, 11/2014
- High School Festival Planning Committee, 2010
- Participant and mentor in the C.H.A.M.P. high school student mentoring program at Chico High School. 2007 - 2008
- Workshop leader in CSU Theatre Department's annual High School Day. 2005 – 2010

Classroom Teaching & Instructional Technology:

- AITAG Grant to purchase a portable sound system for THDN 360 Digital Media Design.
- Upgraded Harper Joy Theatre lab through the acquiring of new speakers and a color printer.
- Developed new GE course THEA 251, World Theatre, 2011
- Developed a new course THEA 373, Scenic Painting, 2007

- I was instrumental in the planning and execution of the upgrade of Performing Arts Center Rm 261 into a functional computer lab shared by Interior Design and Theatre in 2008.

Professional Design Employment

International Academy of Design & Technology, Sacramento, CA Production Designer / Lighting Designer, *Emerge* Fashion Show, 5/2009

The Arvada Center for the Arts (LORT B), Arvada, CO
Scenic Design, *1940's Radio Hour*, 11/2004
Scenic Design, *Jekyll & Hyde*, 3/2004

Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Scenic Design, *Little Women*, 2/2004

Toledo Repertoire Theatre, Toledo, OH
Resident Scenic Designer, 1998 – 2000

Tampa Players, Tampa, FL
Technical Director 1993 - 1994

Virginia City Players, Gilbert Brewery Follies, Virginia City, MT
Stage Manager, 1991 – 1993 & 1994 – 1998

Moonlight Productions, Bozeman, MT
Master Electrician & Board Operator, 1991 – 1993