STEPHEN PRUITT

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2023 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78702

Theatrical designer and artist, photographer, lighting, scenic and audio designer, installation artist.

Awards and Honors

My design work has received 21 nominations and 4 wins for lighting, scenic and media design by the Austin Critic's Table and B. Iden Payne Awards. Three different short performances (**Exactitude**, **Twenty Twenty**, **TBA (of late night radio)**, have received "Best of the Fest" awards in Austin's Fronterafest fringe festival.

Current Affiliations and Work.

Photographer - landscape and portrait artist, working with film and digital mediums (1984 – present). My work has been shown in numerous group shows nationwide as well as solo shows in Austin, Texas (Prizer Gallery, 2015) and Cincinnati, Ohio (Gallery 513, 2003). Corporate clients have included Bearpaw Shoes and Title Nine women's apparel, among others. My current interests include using carbon based black and white inks for extremely archival prints that exceed the expected lifetime of silver-nitrate based prints, and producing single edition prints of smaller work.

Production Designer and Technical Director, Forklift Danceworks (2008 – present)

As the production designer and TD with this award winning, internationally recognized dance company, I have a large role in the creation of each production, from selecting sites and designing the audience experience to incorporating the use of equipment into the performances and creating the scenic and lighting designs. Performances include **Bartholomew Swims!** at a public swimming pool (2017 w. Staff of Aquatics, Austin Parks. Year one of a three year project funded by the NEA Our Town Program); **Trees of Govalle** in and around an enormous Pecan tree (2015, w. Austin Parks Forestry Division, co-sponsored by Fusebox Festival); **Play Ball!** (2014, w. Huston-Tilotson Rams baseball team); **Power Up!** (2013, w. workers and staff of Austin Energy); **Solo Symphony** (2012, w. Peter Bay, Conductor of Austin Symphony); **Trash Project** (2009, 2011 w. employees of Austin Solid Waste Services, subject of the award winning documentary **Trash Dance**, directed by Andrew Garrison)

Company member, lighting and scenic designer, Rude Mechanicals (2002 – present)

I've been a long time company member with this award winning theatrical collective known for creating original ensemble work. My work with the Rudes has included lighting and scenic design, installation design, large form puzzle making, and many other forms of collaboration. Recent productions include **Field Guide** and **Stop Hitting Yourself**, both commissioned and premiered by LCT3/Lincoln Center and **Fixing Troilus and Cressida**. Previous shows of note include **The Method Gun**, **I've Never Been So Happy**, **Dionysus in 69** (restaging), **Get Your War On**, and **Lipstick Traces: A Secret History of the 20th Century** (adapted from the book by Greil Marcus).

Production Designer and Technical Director, Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance (2010 – present)

I design all visual and technical elements as well as occasional audio design for this award winning modern dance company. They are highly sought after as performers and for workshops in dance communities across Texas, and sponsor the ever growing annual Austin Dance Festival. Standout productions include **Parade** (2017), **More or Less** (2016), **True Stories** (2015), and the **Undoing of Nonette** (2014).

Production Designer and Technical Director, Tapestry Dance Company (2007 – present)

I design the scenic and lighting production elements, as well as overseeing video and audio for this internationally recognized professional tap company. Tapestry produces two new productions and a weekend festival each year as well as touring nationally and internationally on a semi-regular basis.

Artistic Director, Catastrophe Theory Arts (1996 – present)

I founded this loose collective producing performances, installations and media arts on an irregular basis over the last twenty years. Projects include **The Unhappening Engine** (2017, site specific audio installation); **Notes on the Classification of Spectral Lines** (2016, a two person performance created with Rebecca Whitehurst on the night sky, the history of science, the significance of signs in baseball, and other vignettes, presented by Fusebox Festival in April 2016 and at Salvage Vanguard Theater in May 2016); **Encryption** (2011, performance and video installation); **TBA (of late night radio)** (2009, performance for an audience wearing radio headsets); **Exactitude** (2005, short performance) **History of the World as the Center of the Universe** (2002, performance); **Invisible Moments** (2001, improvisational performance with actor Jason Phelps and composer Graham Reynolds).

Recent Affiliations.

Lighting Designer, Conspirare (2015 – 2016)

I consulted with production design and created lighting for this Grammy Award winning and internationally recognized Choral Ensemble under the direction of Craig Hella Johnson.

Lighting Designer, Physical Plant Theater (2002 – 2016)

I've created a number of lighting designs for this innovative theater company founded and directed by Steve Moore, who utilizes theater, mime, puppetry, and design to create new worlds and fabulist theater, including **The Kindermann Depiction** (2002), **Not Clown** (2004), and **Adam Sultan** (2013).

Lighting Designer, Trouble Puppet Theater (2008 – 2015)

For several years I did the lighting design for this Austin based company founded by Connor Hopkins, who work primarily with Bunraku influenced tabletop style puppetry and deep, complex stories aimed at adults. They've been recipients of several grants from the Henson Foundation for adaptations of Mary Shelley's **Frankenstein**, R.L. Stevenson's **Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde**, Upton Sinclair's **The Jungle**, Russell Hoban's **Riddley Walker**, and Shakepeare's **Macbeth**, as well as original works.

Production Designer/Technical Consultant, Requiem Project at the Emery Theater (2009 – 2012)
I served as the technical consultant as well as production designer for this organization dedicated to rescuing the one hundred year old Emery Theater in Cincinnati, Ohio. Notable performances included shows by The National, Bill Frisell, Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Dirty Projectors, **13 Most Beautiful** (a collaboration between Dean and Britta and the Andy Warhol Foundation) and over 30 other performances and events. A twenty five million dollar renovation design was created with Cleveland architects Westlake Reed Leskosky who specialize in saving historical theaters, to bring the space up to current standards while keeping the remarkable acoustics intact. Unfortunately, the effort to return the building to use was unsuccessful and it currently remains abandoned and deteriorating.

Education

Aerospace Engineering, University of Cincinnati (1987 – 1991)

Workshop - Natural Light Portraiture with Michael Wilson, Maine Media Workshops

Workshop – Fine Art Black and White Printmaking with Jon Cone, Cone Editions Workshops

Internship - Stage management - Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati. 1992 - 1993 Season

Stephen Pruitt Designer/Photographer

Partial Listing of Previous Work 2017

Parade Production Design Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance

Intl. Beard and Mustache Championships Lighting Design Remington

Bartholomew Swims! Production Design Forkift Danceworks

One Step at a Time Production Design Tapestry Dance Company

(Nominated 2017 Austin Critics' Table Awards, Lighting Design)

Glacier Production Design Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance

panning_memory Lighting Design Jennifer Sherburn

(Nominated 2017 Austin Critics' Table Awards, Lighting Design)

2016

Requiem for Tesla Scenic Design Rude Mechs

(Nominated 2017 B. Iden Payne Awards, Outstanding Scenic Design)

More or Less Production Design Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance

(Nominated 2017 Austin Critics' Table Awards, Lighting Design)

Lumen Production Design Andrea Ariel Dance Theatre

(Nominated 2016 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

2015

Trees of Govalle Production Design Forklift Danceworks

(Nominated 2016 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Once There Were Six Seasons Lighting Design Glass Half Full Theater

(Nominated 2016 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Frankenstein: The Trouble Puppet Show Lighting Design Trouble Puppet Theater

(Nominated 2015 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

True Stories Production Designer Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance

(Nominated 2015 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Feast of My Heart Scenic and Media Design Jason Phelps

(Nominated 2015 B. Iden Payne Awards, Outstanding Media Design)

2014 and Previous Work

The Case of Edward Hyde & Dr. Jekyll Lighting Design Trouble Puppet Theater

(Winner 2015 B. Iden Payne Awards, Outstanding Lighting Design)

Play Ball! Production Design Forklift Dance

Play Ball! Production Design Forklift Danceworks
The Crapstall Street Boys Lighting Design Trouble Puppet Theater

(Winner 2014 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

The Undoing of Nonet Production Design Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance

(Winner 2014 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Heart Production Design Andrea Ariel Dance Theatre

(Winner 2014 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

PowerUp! Production Design Forklift Danceworks

(Winner 2014 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Gold Show/Rose Show Production Design Heloise Gold & Julie Nathaniels

(Winner 2014 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Oklahoma Voices Video Design Oklahoma St. University

Solo Symphony Production Design Forklift Danceworks

(Nominated for 2013 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

11/11 Emery Theater Re-Opening Production Design Requiem Project

Souls of Our Feet - China Tour Production Design Tapestry Dance Company Intergalactic Nemesis Tour Lighting Design Intergalactic Nemesis, Inc

2014 and Previous Work (con't)

I've Never Been So Happy LD/Video Engineer Rude Mechs (Part of the NEA Distinguished New Play Development Program hosted by Arena Stage)

Ears Wide Open Production Design Tapestry Dance Company

(Winner for 2010 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

Frankenstein Lighting Design Trouble Puppet Theater

(Nominated for 2010 B. Iden Payne Award, Outstanding Lighting Design)

The Trash Project Production Design Forklift Dance Theater

(Winner for 2010 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

(Subject of the award winning documentary *Trash Dance*, dir by Andrew Garrison)

bobrauschenbergamerica Lighting Design St Edwards University

(Winner for 2010 Austin Critics' Table, Lighting Design)

The Jungle Lighting Design Trouble Puppet Theater

(Nominated for 2010 B. Iden Payne Awards, Outstanding Lighting Design)

Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards - 2007 Production Design Austin Film Society

Macbeth Lighting Design St. Edwards University, MMNT

(Nominated for 20007 Austin Critic's Table and B. Iden Payne Awards, Outstanding Lighting Design)

Cirque du Soleil Verakai Premiere Party - 2003 Production Design Cirque du Soleil
Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards 2003 - 2005 Production Design Austin Film Society

Fugitive Pieces Scenic Design Salvage Vanguard Theater

(Nominated for 2002 Austin Critic's Table Awards, Outstanding Scenic Design)

Requiem for Tesla Scenic Design Rude Mechanicals

(Nominated for 2002 Austin Critic's Table and B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Scenic Design)

Invisible Moments Production Design Frontera@Hyde Park Theater

(Nominated for 2001 B. Iden Payne Awards, Outstanding Lighting Design)

Previous Residencies and Affiliations

Producer, Frontera @ Hyde Park Theater, Austin, TX. Vicky Boone, Artistic Director 2000 – 2001. Lighting Designer, Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, Jasson Minadakis, Artistic Director 1995 -1997 Co-founder, Performance and Time Arts Series, Cincinnati, OH. Ongoing series for new works 1994 – 1997 Resident LD, Contemporary Dance Theater, Cincinnati, OH. Jefferson James, Artistic Director 1994 – 1997 Master Electrician, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, David White, Artistic Director. 1993 - 1994

Other Skills

Extensive experience with film and digital video, including shooting, editing and live design. Extensive knowledge of scenic construction, electrics, rigging, writing, directing, and all other aspects of live performance. Extensive experience with ETC Eos and Expression family consoles and Apple Macintosh computer systems. Strong knowledge in Vectorworks, Lightwright, Qlab, Adobe Photoshop and After Effects, DaVinci Resolve, Microsoft Office Suite, HTML basics and digital printing.

Professional References

provided upon request