

STUART DUKE

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SUMMARY

A collaborative and highly creative arts manager and lighting designer with proven expertise in general management, design and production management, theater operations, finance and budgeting, facilities planning and management, teaching, marketing, and consulting. Leverages keen intuition and cultivated experience to imagine better outcomes and execute improvements that drive change. A collaborative leader who aligns diverse groups with common objectives and engages teams in problem solving. Balances artistic and business insights to create long-range plans that position an organization for growth and success.

EXPERIENCE

WESTON PLAYHOUSE THEATRE CO., Weston, Vermont

Managing Director, 1997-2013

Led organization, overseeing financial, marketing, sales, human resources, information systems, design, and production areas. Played pivotal role in growing the company from small summer stock theatre company to noted and respected regional summer theatre. Planned for fiscal vitality by creating annual operating budgets and long-range, multi-year budgets. Balanced organizational focus on achieving greater artistic excellence, with conservative forecasting of earned and unearned revenues. Developed and implemented professional intern program, providing opportunities for younger college students to gain valuable work experience in professional theatre. Led hiring of 35 seasonal staff members in production and audience services.

- Managed growth of company's annual operating budget from \$350,000 to \$1,600,000, attracting higher caliber artists and staff, improving production values, and reaching underserved constituents through education and outreach.
- Oversaw efficient growth of company's year-round staff from two to seven employees and took active role in hiring key staff members to advance company's mission.
- Imagined and oversaw major renovation project to provide state-of-the-art orchestra pit and enhanced dressing rooms at company's flagship performance venue, The Weston Playhouse.
- Managed disaster response effort in wake of Hurricane Irene, bringing together staff, community, and outside services to effect \$500,000 repair and restoration of the Weston Playhouse.
- Participated in design of proposed second performance space to enhance year-round production capabilities and provide home for development of new plays and musicals for American theatre.
- Enhanced artistic growth by engaging high caliber creative artists for productions.
- Developed focused approach to growing company's brand through traditional print media, social media, and e-marketing. Oversaw three significant redesigns of web site. Led effort to define and articulate brand as part of promotional culture.
- Designed vital information systems infrastructure, including computer and phone technology, office facilities, and equipment.
- Led committee to develop and disseminate key employee benefits, including health and vacation.

NORTHERN STAGE, White River Junction, Vermont

Director of Design & Production, 2014-2015

Joined senior management team to develop and execute a plan to transition the company from an inadequate performance space to a new \$7.2MM thrust theatre in the heart of White River Junction, Vermont.

- Participated in final stages of facility design through active role on project committee. Worked directly with architects and consultants to shape the design and function of the theatre and backstage spaces.
- Played key role in specifying lighting, sound and backstage equipment for new theatre.
- Re-built sagging production staff culture through new hires, advocating and planning for improved working conditions, and competent production management.
- Worked directly with organizational leaders to cultivate high-caliber creative teams to improve production values.
- Created and managed annual artistic and production budgets.

FREELANCE, New York, New York
Lighting Designer, 1979- Present

Designed lighting for over 300 professional theatre, dance, and opera productions in New York and for prominent regional organizations. Created lighting elements for high-profile corporate events and business meetings through various producers in New York and Chicago. Achieved Corbin Patrick Award, Carbonell Award, and three nominations for Helen Hayes Award for outstanding lighting design.

- Notable New York/Off-Broadway credits:
 - *Orwell in America*, 59 East 59th St. Theatre 2016, Directed by Peter Hackett
 - *John and Jen*, Lamb's Theatre 1995, Directed by Gabriel Barre
 - *The Matchmaker*, Roundabout Theatre 1991, Directed by Lonny Price, Starring Dorothy Loudon
 - *The Rothschilds*, Circle-in-the-Square 1990, Directed by Lonny Price
 - *Kathleen Battle and Grover Washington, Jr.*, Carnegie Hall 1993
 - *Frankie*, York Theatre Company 1989, Directed by George Abbott, Choreographed by Donald Saddler
- Notable Regional credits:
 - *Saint Ex* (world premiere), Weston Playhouse 2011, Directed by Kent Nicholson
 - *Death of a Salesman*, Weston Playhouse and on tour 2010, Directed by Steve Stettler and starring Christopher Lloyd
 - *Rags*, Coconut Grove Playhouse and Paper Mill Playhouse 1999, Directed by Jeffrey B. Moss (major revival)
 - *The Night Seasons* (world premiere), American Stage Co. 1993, Written and Directed by Horton Foote
 - *Conrack*, Ford's Theatre 1991, Directed by Lonny Price
- Other Regional organizations:

Huntington Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Buffalo Studio Arena, McCarter Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Co., GeVa Theatre, Portland Stage Co., Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger, Studio Theatre (D.C.), Goodspeed Musicals, Indianapolis Opera, Opera Memphis, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- Corporate events:

Producers include: Kaleidoscope Productions, Caribiner, The Zink Group, Maritz Communications, Jack Morton
 Companies include: Del Monte, Amtrak, Mazda, CBS Television, IBM, Glaxo, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, RJ Reynolds

OTHER ENGAGEMENT

HARRIS DUKE ASSOCIATES, Darien, Connecticut, **Partner**, 1985-1996. Consulted on and designed architectural lighting for residences and businesses in Fairfield County, Connecticut and Westchester County, New York.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, Chestertown, MD, **Visiting Assistant Professor and Guest Lighting Designer**, 2017 (Current). Classes in Lighting Design and Arts Management. Interim Production Manager for Theatre Department.

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, Harrisonburg, Virginia, **Guest Lecturer and Guest Lighting Designer**, 2006 - 2016. Taught professional seminars in stage lighting and theatre management.

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE, Castleton, Vermont, **Guest Lecturer**, 2000. Theatre management.

OBERLIN COLLEGE, Oberlin, Ohio, **Guest Lecturer**, 1996-1997. Taught introduction to stage lighting and master class in lighting design for advanced students. Engaged students, with combination of technical expertise and depth of hands-on experience.

Frequent presenter at THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL Region I – *Stage Lighting*

EDUCATION

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY, Ashland, Ohio
Radio/TV, Theatre, Public Speech, 1978

CERTIFICATIONS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - LODESTAR CENTER FOR PHILANTHROPY AND NONPROFIT INNOVATION
Strategic Non-Profit Financial Management – Sequence I and II
2013

COMPUTER SKILLS

Advanced I.T. skills, including Microsoft Office, Google Apps, Lightwright, Vectorworks, Theatre Management Software (ticketing and development)

References available upon request.

Lighting Design resume available for download at stuartduke.com.