

# Justin M. Thomas

Associate Professor of Theatre and Design  
Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

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## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

**Master of Fine Arts, Theatrical Design (2005)** - University of Maryland, College Park  
**Dual Emphasis in Lighting and Scenic Design**

**Bachelor of Arts, (2001)** - Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Major: Theatre and Communication, Minor: English Literature**

**Study Abroad:** Six months study at the University of London (Theatre)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### *First Year Tutorial, Grinnell College*

Staging Revolution: Making the Case for Universal Human Rights

One of 30 tutorial course options required for all first-year students. A foundational course in written and oral communication, critical thinking and analysis, and an introduction to research methods.

#### *Theatre and Dance Courses, Grinnell College*

Introduction to Technical Theatre:

Requirement for all Theatre and Dance Majors.

Introduction to Theatrical Design and Technology:

A curricular replacement for Introduction to Technical Theatre utilizing more experiential and inquiry-based learning practices

Design for Performance I:

Foundation course in Theatrical Design. Elective course for Theatre and Dance Majors.

Design for Performance II:

Advanced course in Scenic Design. Elective course for Theatre and Dance Majors.

Lighting for the Stage:

Introduction to the lighting design process, script analysis for the lighting designer, and pertinent electrical and design techniques utilized in lighting design. Elective course for Theatre and Dance majors.

Stage and Production Management:

Advanced course in production skills and techniques needed to manage the production process. Special topics course in the Theatre and Dance Department.

Stage Properties Design:

A guided research project through art history and period stage design of theatrical properties.

**Advanced Programming for Lighting Design:**

A guided research project involving a series of small lighting design projects, which allowed for students to investigate programming intelligent lighting fixtures across multiple platforms.

**Advanced Lighting Design:**

An independent study project in conceptual formulation, visual research, and design of lighting for multiple design projects, including the Grinnell/Newburgh High School production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

**Advanced Scenic Design:**

An independent study project in conceptual formulation, visual research, and design of scenery for Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*.

**Theatrical Metal Working:**

A guided research project involving the design and implementation of scenery, weaponry, jewelry, and other stage properties.

**Performance Lab, Design and Technology:**

An experiential learning, one-credit course working on aspects of design and technological implementation of production design.

**Performance Lab, Stage and Production Management:**

An experiential learning, one-credit course working exploring aspects of managing theatrical and dance production.

***Theatrical Technology and Design Courses, University of Maryland***

**Fundamentals of Design:**

Elective course with emphasis on appreciation of Theatre Design

**Fundamentals of Theatre Design:**

Theatre Department Foundation Series Requirement for all Theatre Majors

**Fundamentals of Theatre Craft:**

Theatre Department Foundation Series, Requirement for all Theatre Majors

**Production Practicum:**

Technical and Artistic Production Application, Requirement for all Theatre Majors

**Computer Assisted Design:**

Advanced elective course with emphasis on Technical Drafting, two-dimensional rendering, and three-dimensional animated rendering for theatrical and industrial application

**Lighting Design I:**

Elective course with emphasis on design elements and qualities of light in addition to the technical aspects and requirements of lighting design

**Lighting Design II:**

Advanced elective course with emphasis on design process and translation of textual analysis into a visual lighting concept

**Lighting Technology:**

An advanced elective course emphasizing exploration and application of modern lighting technology, including automated lighting fixtures, projection, and special effect programming

### ***Guest Lectures***

Special Topic: Art 111 Introduction to the Studio, (Grinnell College)

*Color and Light: The Interaction of Pigment and Light, (Grinnell College)*

Special Topic: Berlin: Borders and Transgressions, (Grinnell College)

*Leaving Realism in the Dust: The Advance of German Expressionism in the Theatre*

THE 200 Theatre Appreciation, Guest Lecturer: (Institute for Public Service and Policy Research and South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina)

*Theatre and Design as a Form of Political Expression*

Lighting Design, Guest Lecturer: (American University)

*The Use of Light to Influence Mood, Tone, and Action in Orson Welles' The Third Man*

Visiting Artist, Guest Lecturer: (Kalamazoo College)

*Life After College*

*Find the Passion, Light the Emotion*

### ***Wilderness Survival and Team Building***

Quest Leadership Program: (Trinity College, 2008)

Invited as a program guide for the Quest Leadership first-year orientation program. The program is a two-week, intensive leadership-training program for the purpose of helping prepare high school teenagers for the transition into young-adult college students. Responsibilities included training and mentoring upper-class student leaders in leadership skills, conflict resolution, wilderness skills, and first aid training. Additional responsibilities included facilitating the leader and participant experiences, assisting the program director and college president throughout the program, as well as emergency first-aid and response.

Land and Sea: (Kalamazoo College)

Selected as a three-year leader for the Land/Sea first-year orientation program, a three-week wilderness experience including, sailing, canoeing, hiking, climbing, rappelling, and two-and-a-half day solo experience. Emphasis was placed upon survival skills, group dynamics, conflict resolution, and communication skills.

### **WORKSHOPS and CONFERENCES**

Panelist, "Filling the Gap: Advising Students With Narrow Interests," USITT National Conference, Milwaukee (2013)

Presenter, "Design as Pedagogy," Visual Learning: Transforming the Liberal Arts (2012)

Attendant, USITT National Conference, Long Beach (2012)

Attendant, USITT National Conference, Cincinnati (2009)

Attendant, USITT National Conference, Houston (2008)

Panelist, "Designer-Director Collaboration," The Capital Fringe Festival (2006)

Presenter, "Putting It All Together" Design Creation Workshop, Maryland Day, University of Maryland (2004)

Presenter, "Appia: The Father of Modern Design?" Design Creation Workshop, Maryland Day, University of Maryland (2003)

**RECENT DESIGN EXPERIENCE*****As Lighting Designer***

*Rocky Horror*, The Studio Theatre; Directed by: Keith Alan Baker and Alan Paul, (2012)

*Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, The Studio Theatre; Directed by: Keith Alan Baker, Christopher Gallu, and Jennifer Harris, (2012)

*Naked*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Crag Quintero, (2011)

*Dakshina: Works by Anna Sokolow*, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center; Choreographed by Anna Sokolow, Set by Lorry May, (2010)

*Passing Strange*, The Studio Theatre; Directed by: Keith Alan Backer and Victoria Murray, (2010)

*Low Tide Hotel*, Happenstance Theatre and Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center; Directed by: Mark Jaster & Sabrina Mandell, (2010)

*Far Far Oasis*, Happenstance Theatre and Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center; Directed by: Mark Jaster & Sabrina Mandell, (2010)

*The Pillowman*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Craig Quintero, (2010)

*Experience the Movement*, Natarani (Ahmedabad, India); Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh and Anna Sokolow, (2010)

*Experience the Movement*, The National Theatre (Dhaka, Bangladesh); Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh and Anna Sokolow, (2010)

*Experience the Movement*, The Tapovan Hall (Chennai, India); Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh and Anna Sokolow, (2009)

*Traveling Feast*, Grinnell College and Bridgman/Packer Dance Company; Choreographed by: Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer, (2009)

*Fucking A*, The Studio Theatre; Directed by: Keith Alan Baker and Rahaleh Nasri, (2009)

*Stovepipe*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Lesley Delmenico, (2009)

*Fall Festival of Indian Arts*, The Lincoln Theatre (Washington, DC); Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh, Srimathi Shanta, Sri VP Dhananjayan, and Mallika Sarabhai, (2008).

*EnGendered Festival*, Nayikas and The Lincoln Center (NYC); Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh, (2008)

*Jerry Springer: The Opera*, The Studio Theatre; Directed by: Keith Allen Baker, (2008)

*Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Olney Theatre Center Summer Shakespeare Tour; Directed by: Clay Hopper, (2008)

*Low Tide Hotel*, Happenstance Theatre; Directed by: Mark Jaster & Sabrina Mandell, (2007)

*Low Tide Hotel*, Happenstance Theatre and Round House Theatre; Directed by: Mark Jaster & Sabrina Mandell, (2007)

*Vanishing Marion*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Elizabeth Bonjean, (Spring 2008)

*Godspell*, Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: Eve Musson, (2007)

*Low Tide Hotel*, Happenstance Theatre; Directed by: Mark Jaster & Sabrina Mandell, (2007)

*The Farthest Earth From Thee*, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange; Choreographed by: Peter DiMuro, (2007)

- Imprints on a Landscape*, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange; Choreographed by: Martha Wittman, (2007)
- A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Sandy Moffett, (2007)
- The Seven Ages of Mime*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Nick Olcott, (2007)
- The Director: The Life and Times of Elia Kazan*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Leslie Kobylinski, (2007)
- Hamlet*, American University; Directed by: Karl Kippola, (2007)
- I Hate Hamlet*, American University; Directed by: Carl Menninger, (2007)
- Dakshina: Experience the Movement*, Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and DC Cowboys; Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh, (2007)
- Dakshina: Experience the Movement II*, Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and Pallabi Chakravorty; Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Singh and Pallabi Chakravorty, (2007)
- Equinox Spring Dance*, American University; Choreographed by: Rob Esposito and Vladimir Angelov, (2007)
- Lighting Repertory Plot Designer, Round House Theatre, Silver Spring, (2007-2008)
- Lighting Repertory Plot Designer, Round House Theatre, Silver Spring, (2006-2007)
- The Importance of Being Earnest*, Olney Theatre Center, National Players Tour 58; Directed by: Alan Wade, (2006)
- Othello*, Olney Theatre Center, National Players Tour 58; Directed by: Clay Hopper, (2006)
- No End of Blame: Scenes of Overcoming*, Potomac Theatre Project and Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: Richard Romagnoli, (2006)
- An Experiment with an Air Pump*, Potomac Theatre Project and Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: Cheryl Farone, (2006)
- Frankenstein*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Nick Olcott, (2006)
- They Shoot Horses, Don't They*, Volkov Theatre, Yaroslavl, Russia; Directed by: Gail Humphries-Madorosian, (2006)
- Fair Ladies at a Game of Poem Cards*, Rorschach Theatre Company; Directed by: Randy Baker, (2006)
- Dakshina: An Offering*, The Lincoln Theatre (Washington, DC), Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company; Choreographed by: Daniel Phoenix Sing, (2006)
- They Shoot Horses, Don't They*, American University; Directed by: Gail Humphries-Madorosian, (2006)
- Out of Darkness*, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Consort and Washington National Cathedral; Composed by: Christopher Patton, (2005)
- Tale of a Tiger*, Rorschach Theatre Company; Directed by: Ami Dayan, (2005)
- Curse of the Starving Class*, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, UMCP; Directed by: Daniel DeRaey, (2005)
- Noel and Cole Cabaret*, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center; Directed by: Leon Major, (2005)
- Newport Rivals* (World Premier), University of Maryland Opera Studio; Directed by: Leon Major, (2005)
- Dancing at Lughnasa*, Villa Julie College; Directed by: Carol Mason, (2006)
- Equinox Dance Concert*, American University; Choreographed by: Robert Esposito and Vladimir Angelov, (2006)

*Our Town*, American University; Directed by: Caleen Jennings, (2006)  
*Round House Theatre Gala '06*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Blake Robison,  
*Anything's Possible*, Imagination Stage; Produced by: Wendy Hamilton, (2005)  
*Guys and Dolls*, Round House Theatre and the British International School; Directed by:  
 Fiona Charles, (2006)  
*Master and Margarita*, Rorschach Theatre Company; Directed by: Jenny McConnell-  
 Frederick, (2004)  
*Jane Eyre: A Musical Drama*, University of Maryland Department of Theatre; Directed  
 by: Scot Reese, (2005)  
*Zooman and the Sign*, University of Maryland Department of Theatre; Directed by:  
 Scot Reese, (2005)  
*Our Town*, University of Maryland Department of Theatre; Directed by: John Vreeke,  
 (2004)  
*Eleemosynary*, University of Maryland Department of Theatre; Directed by:  
 Leslie Jacobsen, (2004)  
*APA Showcase*, Arden Theatre Company; Directed by: Amy Dugas Brown, (2002)

***As Associate Lighting Designer:***

*Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, Olney Theatre Center; Directed by:  
 James Petosa, (2006) – Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*An Enemy of the People*, Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: James Petosa, (2006) –  
 Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*Hedda Gabler*, Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: Halo Wines, (2006) –  
 Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*Retreat From Moscow*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: James Edmondson, (2006) –  
 Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*Body of Water*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Rebecca Taichman, (2006) –  
 Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*The Diary of Anne Frank*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Rebecca Taichman, (2005)  
 – Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner – *Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding  
 Lighting Design*  
*Drawer Boy*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Daniel DeRaey, (2004) – Designed by:  
 Daniel MacLean Wagner – *Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Lighting Design*  
*Radiant Abyss*, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; Directed by: Lou Jacobs, (2005) –  
 Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*The Day Room*, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; Directed by: Howard Schalwitz,  
 (2003) – Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*La Tragedie de Carmen*, Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: James Petosa, (2005) –  
 Designed by: Mark Lanks  
*Monster*, Olney Theatre Center; Directed by: James Petosa, (2003) – Designed by:  
 Harold Burgess  
*Alexander Who's Not, Not, Not, Not, Not, Not Going to Move*, The John F. Kennedy  
 Center Children's Series; Directed by: Nick Olcott, (2004) – Designed by: Daniel  
 MacLean Wagner  
*Heartbreak House*, Round House Theatre; Directed by: Nick Olcott, (2003) – Designed  
 by: Adam Magazine

*The Helen Hayes Awards Ceremony 2005*, The Warner Theatre; Directed by: James Petosa, (2005) – Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*The Helen Hayes Awards Ceremony 2004*, The Warner Theatre; Directed by: John Vreeke, (2004) – Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner  
*The Helen Hayes Awards Ceremony 2003*, The John F. Kennedy Center; Directed by: Eric Schaeffer, (2003) – Designed by: Daniel MacLean Wagner

***As Scenic Designer:***

*When the Elephant Comes Crashing Through the Roof*; Choreographed by Celeste Miller, (Spring 2013)  
*Pageant*, Colorado College; Choreographed by: Shawn Womack, (2012)  
*Rimers of Eldritch*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Sandy Moffett, (2011)  
*The Contingency Plan*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Lesley Delmenico, (2010)  
*Flowers of Evil*, Centre Culturel Robert Desnos (Ris-Orangis, France): Directed and Devised by: Craig Quintero, (2010)  
*Stovepipe*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Lesley Delmenico, (2009)  
*Pageant*, Contemporary Dance Theatre; Choreographed by: Shawn Womack, (Spring 2008)  
*Vanishing Marion*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Elizabeth Bonjean, (Spring 2008)  
*Testing the Echo*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Lesley Delmenico (Fall 2008)  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Sandy Moffett, (2007)  
*Dust*, Imagination Stage; Directed by: Allie Miller, (2007)  
*Salome*, Community College of Baltimore County; Directed by: Casey Kaleba, (2006)  
*My Fair Lady* (Assistant Designer), Signature Theatre; Directed by: Eric Schaeffer, (2006) - Designed by: James Kronzer

***As Projection Designer:***

*When the Elephant Comes Crashing Through the Roof*; Choreographed by Celeste Miller, (Spring 2013)  
*Camouflage*, Colorado College; Choreographed by: Shawn Womack, (2012)  
*The Contingency Plan*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Lesley Delmenico, (Fall 2010)  
*Testing the Echo*, Grinnell College; Directed by: Lesley Delmenico (Fall 2008)  
*Cyrano de Bergerac*, University of Maryland; Directed by: Susan Einhorn, (2004)

**OTHER PERTINENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Lighting Director and Technical Liaison: (Round House Theatre)  
Production Manager and Lighting Designer: (Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh & Company)  
Design Consultant: (Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh & Company) (Present)  
Associate Production Manager: (Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, *Amen Corner*) (2006)  
Design Mentor, *The Sarah Metzger Memorial Play*, (Round House Theatre) (2005-2006)  
Arden Professional Apprentice: (Arden Theatre Company) (2002)

Highly Selective Theatre Management Apprenticeship. Primary assistantships in Public Relations and Marketing, Development, and Stage Management.  
Master Electrician: (Round House Theatre) (2005)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Helen Hayes Award Nomination, Outstanding Resident Musical, *Jerry Springer: The Opera* (2009)  
Metro DC Dance Award Finalist, Excellence in Lighting Design, *The Farthest Earth From Thee* (2008)  
Metro DC Dance Award Nomination, Excellence in Lighting Design, *Ghosts in Our Bedroom* (2007)  
Metro DC Dance Award Nomination, Excellence in Lighting Design, *3rd Annual Fall Festival of Indian Arts* (2007)  
Distinguished Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland Center for Teaching Excellence and Office of Undergraduate Studies (2005)  
Helen Hayes Award Nomination, Outstanding Non-Resident Production, *Tale of a Tiger*, Rorschach Theatre Company, Lighting Designer (2005)  
Golden Geese Award for Collegiality and Service, University of Maryland Division of Research and Graduate Studies (2004)  
Teaching Assistant Development Grant: Digital Visual Database, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Maryland  
Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Lighting Design, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Round House Theatre, Assistant Lighting Designer to Daniel MacLean Wagner (2004)  
Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Lighting Design, *Drawer Boy*, Round House Theatre, Assistant Lighting Designer to Daniel MacLean Wagner (2003)  
Charles Tully Award for Excellence in Design, Kalamazoo College (2001)

### **SERVICE**

Chair, Choreography Faculty Search Committee, Grinnell College (Present)  
Theatre Consultant, Grinnell Area Arts Council (2008-Present)  
Lighting Design Consultant, Relish Restaurant (2012)  
Board Member, Grinnell College Admissions Board (2011-Present)  
Committee Member, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, Grinnell College (2011-2012)  
Interim Chair, Alumni Engagement Working Group of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, Grinnell College (2011-2012)  
Committee Member, Alumni Engagement Working Group of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, Grinnell College (2011-2012)  
Committee Member, Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (2012 - Present)  
Committee Member, Eating Disorder Awareness Committee (2009-2012)  
Committee Member, Physical Education Committee, Grinnell College (2009, Present)  
Co-Chair of Early Career Faculty Group, Grinnell College (2009-2011)  
Committee Member, Acting/Directing Faculty Search Committee, Grinnell College (2007-2008)



Mentor, Early Career Faculty Mentor, Grinnell College (Present)  
Mentor, Junior Faculty Mentorship Program, United States Institute of Theatre  
Technology (Present)  
Interviewer/Participant, Department of Spanish Faculty Search, Grinnell College (2010)  
Interviewer/Participant, Director of Student Health and Counseling Services Search,  
Grinnell College (2010)  
Interviewer/Participant, Curricular Technology Specialist Search Committee, Grinnell  
College (2007-2008)  
Participant, Committee for Revisions to 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year Retreat, Grinnell College (2009)  
Participant, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year Retreat, Grinnell College (2008)  
Participant, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Year Retreat, Grinnell College (2009)  
Participant, Posse Plus Retreat, Grinnell College (2010)  
Co-Chair, Graduate Council Association for Students of Theatre (2003-2005)  
Production Coordinator, Irene and Jack Kay Theatre, KC/ACTF Region II Festival  
XXXV (2003)

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

United States Institute for Theatre Technology  
Association for Theatre in Higher Education

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

International Travel (England, Ireland, Scotland, Turkey, Germany, Russia), Music  
(Piano, Guitar), Reading, Drawing, Painting, Hiking, Canoeing, Sports, History