

Gianni Downs

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Education:

M.F.A. Scenic Design, Brandeis University, May 2003

B.S. Theatre Arts with a Fine Art minor, University of New Hampshire, May 1998

Employment:

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts:

Lecturer II in Scenic Design and Scene Painting

September 2019-present

Director of Undergraduate Studies

2014-2021

Lecturer in Scenic Design and Scene Painting,

September 2013-present

Visiting Lecturer of Lighting Design

September 2004- May 2006

Master Electrician and Shop Foreman

September 1998- May 2000

Westminster College:

Assistant Professor of Theatre

August 2009-May 2011

Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama:

Special Faculty in the School of Drama

September 2006-May 2009

Point Park University:

Adjunct Faculty

Fall Semester 2004 and Spring Semester 2022

Teaching:

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Theatre Arts:

Introduction to Stagecraft

Taught every semester of the 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2020-22 academic school years. The class was designed for BA liberal arts students and satisfied a departmental major requirement. The course introduced students to the concepts behind modern stagecraft including basic carpentry, sound, lighting, scene painting, and rigging. The class was a mixture of in-class lectures and hands-on projects and included a 3-hour lab requirement in the department's theatre shops each week

Introduction to Theatre Design

Taught each semester in the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 semesters, this course was designed for BA liberal arts students and satisfied a university general education requirement. This was a team-taught class with 2 other professors. Each professor took 1/3 of the class to introduce students to a particular area of theatre design. I focused on scenic design, but in previous years I have taught the lighting design and the costume design sections as well.

Lighting Design

Taught in the fall 2004 semester, this class was designed for BA liberal arts students and fulfilled a departmental major or minor requirement. The course was studio-based and progressed students through a variety of hands-on projects in lighting design that culminated in a fully-drafted plot for a stage production.

Scene Design 1

Taught every-other year in the fall semesters (2013-present), this course was designed for BA liberal arts students. The class is a studio-based class with students learning the basics of designing scenery and how to communicate their designs to others. Skills taught include 2D design and composition, drafting by hand and CAD, Photoshop, model building, and paint elevations.

Scenic Painting

Taught every-other year in the fall semesters (2014-present), this course was designed for BA liberal arts students. The class is a studio-based class with students learning basic scene painting skills associated with cartooning flats, faux finishes, and recreating 3D textures in 2D paint.

Special Topics in Theatre Design: Computer Applications

Taught in the spring semesters of 2014 and 2019, this class was designed for BA liberal arts theatre majors who were pursuing technical theatre or theatre design as a focus. This class served as an introduction to the software Adobe Photoshop and Vectorworks (a CAD program) commonly used in the professional world of theatre design. The class incorporated both lecture and studio-practice and was team-taught with Professor Annmarie Duggan.

Special Topics in Theatre Design: Introduction to Media Design for Performance

Taught in the fall 2015 semester, this course was designed around the Innovation in Education Award to provide projection and sound design training to BA liberal arts students concentrating on theatre design. The class culminated with 3D mapping and projections of the exterior and interior lobby of the Stephen Foster Memorial designed and implemented by students.

Special Topics in Theatre Design: Business Practices for Designers/Technicians

Taught in the spring 2021 semester, this course was designed to provide soft and hard skills for professionally bound students as they navigate getting hired, unions, and graduate school applications. Topics included, resumes, taxes, graduate schools, unions, tv/film, etc.

Theatrical Production

Taught every semester of the 2004-06, 2013-19 school years. This course was designed for BA liberal arts students to provide hands-on training as run-crew or shop-crew members of a theatrical production. This course served as a requirement in both the department's theatre major and minor.

Westminster College:

Basic Theatrical Design

Taught in the spring 2010, this course was an introduction to the 4 main areas of theatrical design: Costume, Lighting, Scenery, and Sound. A studio-based class, BA liberal arts students were led through projects in each design area to provide them with an introduction to the concepts behind designing in theatre.

Introduction to Theatre

Taught in the fall 2009, this course was an introduction to the artform of live theatre. The course satisfied a general education requirement within the college, and was designed for non-majors in a BA program.

Theatre Practicum

Taught in each semester of 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. Theatre Practicum was a project-based class where BA liberal arts students worked in a variety of theatre shops and as run crew for departmental productions to gain experience in technical theatre.

Theatrical Production

Taught in each semester of 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. This class was an introduction to the concepts and skills behind technical theatre. BA Liberal arts students were taught skills ranging from basic carpentry, to scenic painting, to hand-sewing.

Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama:

3D Scene Design Skills

Taught in the spring 2008, this course was designed for third-year BFA and second-year MFA scenic design students and focused on model building skills for design presentations.

Basic Design

Taught in spring 2009, this mini-course was designed for first-year BFA design/production students and introduced the students to the concepts behind script analysis, exploring ideation techniques, and critical thinking in design.

Business Practices for Designers

Taught in fall 2006 and 2007, this mini-course was designed for fourth year BFA design students and third year MFA students as a preparatory course covering a variety of freelance issues from resume's to unions before they graduated in the spring. As a mini-course, it spanned only half of a semester.

Computer Applications: Dreamweaver

Taught in fall 2006, spring 2008, and spring 2009, this mini-course covered the basics of HTML and website creation using Adobe Dreamweaver for online design portfolios. The class focused

on third year BFA theatre design students and second year MFA design students and spanned half of a semester.

Hand-drafting

Taught in the summer of 2008, this class was part of the CMU pre-college program for high school juniors interested in going to college for theatre design and production. In this course, I covered the basic skills associated with hand drafting and orthographic projection.

History of Architecture and Décor

Taught in 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09. History of Architecture and Décor was a full-year lecture course that covered major styles of architecture and interior decoration within the western tradition. The class was designed for third year Theatre Design BFA students and first-year Theatre Design MFA students.

Introduction to Scene Design

Taught in spring 2008 and 2009, this course was designed for second year BFA design students focused on scenic design. This was the first course specifically in scenic design and introduced them to the ideas and concepts behind bringing a design to completion.

Scene Design 1B

Taught in fall 2006 and 2007, this course was designed for second year MFA theatre design students not focused in scenic design to be used towards their thesis requirements.

Studiocraft 1

Taught in the 2008-2009 school year, Studiocraft 1 was a year-long class for first-year BFA design/production students. The class focused on hand-drafting skills and techniques, then progresses on to drawing of theatrical scenery. 2d orthographic projection was the focus and it culminated with 1-point perspective drawing techniques.

Studiocraft 2

Taught in the fall 2008, this course was designed for 2nd year BFA design/production students and 1st year MFA design/production students. The class was a team-taught class that introduced students to drawing architecture both from life and using linear perspective, as well as the software programs: AutoCAD, Photoshop, and Sketch-up. I focused on the Sketch-up lectures and projects.

Point Park University:

Computer Applications for Designers

Taught in Spring 2022, this class introduces advanced techniques for designers in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to 2nd and 3rd year BFA students.

Scene Design 1

Taught in Fall 2004, this was a class for second year BFA Theatre design and production students and served as their first specific design course in scenic design.

Workshops:

- Summer 2019: Conducted a scenic painting workshop for the Ohio Valley USITT members with Lori Bollinger on intermediate scenic painting techniques. The workshop is geared to instructors for high school and small BA college programs to build their skills and introduce new practices

- Spring 2018: Conducted a scene design workshop as part of the Cultural Trust's Theatre Arts Workshops for high school students. The workshops ran 3/day for 3 days at the Byham Theatre and each workshop included about 30 high school students

Undergraduate Mentorship:

2021-22 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Lauren Scheller-Wolf: Participated on the BPhil Defense Committee for her thesis: *Language, Relatability, and Ease of Access: Bringing the Works of Shakespeare to a Wider Audience*
- Jillian Werbisky: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Scenic Design 1

Directed Projects

- Jillian Werbisky: Student Scenic Designer for *A Drag Seed* and *A New Brain*, as well as her work on an independent study in Model Building for Scenic Designers
- Jillian Werbisky: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for THEA 1235: Scenic Design 1
- Elizabeth Amstutz: Assistant Scenic Designer for *The Drag Seed*
- Jason Goldstein: Independent Study exploring Sound Mixing and Engineering
- Lena Ruther: Internship in Casting for the film *Thanks to Her*
- Jillian Werbisky: Independent Study exploring redesigning scenery for film
- Eric Heim: Assistant Scenic Designer on *Why We Have a Body*

2020-21 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Lauren Scheller-Wolf: **SURA** project *Overcoming Language, Relatability, and Expense: Bringing the Works of Shakespeare to a More Diverse Audience*
- Jess Fitzpatrick: **Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship** for her work as an undergraduate TA in the THEA 1227 Scenic Painting course Fall 2020
- Jillian Werbisky: **CREATE** fellowship through the Office of Undergraduate Research for her work exploring the psychology of scenic design in film

Directed Projects

- Alexander Dolinger: Student Scenic Designer for *Spark!*
- Kami Beckford: Student Scenic Designer for *Anon(ymous)*
- Jessica Fitzpatrick: Student Scenic Designer for *Miss You Like Hell* and Student Scenic Charge Artist for *Spark!*
- Sophia Kosowsky: Student Technical Director for *Spark!* And Student Assistant Technical Director for *Miss You Like Hell*
- Adam Nie: Independent research into Puppetry construction

2019-20 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Alexander Dolinger: **NYC Field Research** project exploring digital scenery in popular live theatre.
- Lauren Scheller-Wolf: **SURA** project *Overcoming Language, Relatability, and Expense: Bringing the Works of Shakespeare to a More Diverse Audience*
- Jess Fitzpatrick: **UHC Research Fellowship** exploring 3D printing and laser cutting applications for theatre designers
- Tia Gillespie, Yingjie Guo, Lauren Lussier, and Jordan Rosenblum: **First-Experience in Research** project in the scene painting studio.

- Jess Fitzpatrick: **Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship** working as my undergraduate teaching assistant for THEA 1235: Scene Design 1.
- Sophia Kosowsky: **Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship** working as Eben Alguire's undergraduate teaching assistant for THEA 0842: Introduction to Stagecraft.

Directed Projects

- Alexander Dolinger: Student Scenic Designer for *The Wolves*
- Kami Beckford: Student Scenic Designer for *The Verge*
- Caroline Book: Student Scenic Charge artist for *Next To Normal*
- Jenna Teplitzky: Assistant Sound and Projection Designer for *The Wolves*
- Sophia Kosowsky: Student Technical Director for *Appropriate*
- Claire Bachtell: Internship at Woodland Hills Drama
- Tyler Lentz: Internship at Shadyside Academy

2018-19 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Jeff Zeng: **NYC Field Research** project exploring Asian American theatre and representations in popular live theatre.
- Jess Fitzpatrick: **Summer Undergraduate Research Award** exploring hands-on teaching methods used in scene painting.
- Lori Huang: **First-Experience in Research** project in the scene painting studio.
- Mary Tsvetkova: **First-Experience in Research** project in the scene painting studio.
- Ria Joglekar: **Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship** working as my undergraduate teaching assistant for my scene painting class.
- Ria Joglekar: **CREaTE Award** where she designed and painted a large-scale mural for the Plant to Plate community outreach program combating food insecurity on the University of Pittsburgh campus.

Directed Projects

- Caroline Book: Scenic Charge Artist on the production of *Into the Woods*.
- Caroline Book: Assistant Scenic Designer on the production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.
- Cas Peters: Assistant Scenic Designer on the production of *Into the Woods*.
- Jess Fitzpatrick: Scenic Designer on the production of *Flyin' West*.
- Jessica Israel: advanced scenic painting techniques.
- Kami Beckford: Assistant Scenic Designer on the production of *Into the Woods*.
- Nick Depinto: Sound Designer on the production of *Flyin' West*.
- Thomas Bednarz: Projection Designer on the production of *She Kills Monsters*.
- Thomas Bednarz: Projection Designer on the production of *Flyin' West*.

2017-18 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Allison Ball: **First-Experience in Research** in the scene painting studio.
- Kami Beckford: **New York City Scholars in Residence** program focused on bringing the work of minority scenic designers into the spotlight.
- Ria Joglekar: **Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Research Award** where she designed and painted a large-scale mural in the Cathedral of Learning basement.

- Mentored Zev Woskoff: **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant** in my Scene Design course.

Directed Projects

- Braun Taylor: Scenic Designer on the production of *Marie Antoinette*.
- Caroline Book: Assistant Scenic Charge Artist on the production of *Our Town*.
- Caroline Book: Scenic Charge Artist on the production of *Marie Antoinette*.
- Caroline Book: Assistant Scenic Artist on the production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.
- Cassandra Canavan: Scenic Designer on the production of *Recoil*.
- Hayley Ulmer: Projection Designer on the production of *Marie Antoinette*.
- Laura Valenti: Scenic Designer on the production of *Our Town*.
- Laura Valenti: Scenic Designer on the production of *The Little Shop of Horrors*.
- Megan Bresser: Scenic Charge Artist on the production of *Our Town*.
- Nick Depinto: Assistant Sound Designer on the production of *Recoil*.

2016-17 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Joe Spinogatti: **Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship** working as my undergraduate teaching assistant for the Special Topics in Theatre Design course.
- Laura Valenti: **Summer Undergraduate Research Award** exploring historic and contemporary scene painting techniques.
- Sat on the committee for Joe Spinogatti's successful **BPhil defense** of his thesis: *Storytelling Within The Theatre: How The Work Of The Projection Designer Pushes The Boundaries Of Art, Collaboration, And Technology*

Directed Projects

- Ayushi Dwivedi: Assistant Scenic Designer on the production of *Peter and the Star Catcher*.
- Braun Taylor: Scenic Designer on the production of *Baltimore*.
- Hayley Ulmer: Assistant Projection Designer on the production of *Baltimore*.
- Jackie Mroziak: Projection Designer on the production of *Baltimore*.
- Joe Spinogatti: Projection Designer on the production of *Hair*.
- Kristen West: Sound Designer on the production of *Baltimore*.
- Laura Valenti: Scenic Designer on the production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.
- Megan Bresser: Scenic Charge Artist on the production of *Peter and the Star Catcher*.
- Zev Woskoff: Scenic Designer on the production of *Hair*.

2015-16 school year

Directed Projects

- Andrew Pham: Projection Designer on the Innovation in Education Award projection implementation.
- Becca Smith: Scenic Designer on the production of *Water by the Spoonful*.
- Becca Smith: Assistant Projection Designer on the production of *Nine*.
- Braun Taylor: Scenic Designer on the Math department's production of *Mathematics of Being Human*.
- Chris Wimbrow: Assistant Projection Designer on the production of *Nine*.

- Davis Caramanico: Assistant Technical Director on the production of *Good Kids*.
- James Williamson: Assistant Technical Director on the production of *Nine*.
- Jessica Lynn Smith: Projection Designer on the Math department's production of *Mathematics of Being Human*.
- Joe Spinogatti: Projection Designer on the production of *Nine*.
- Joe Spinogatti: digital painting and industrial design drawing.
- Kim Potenga: Sound Engineer on the production of *Rhinoceros*.
- Laura Valenti: Assistant Scenic Designer on the production of *Nine*.
- Valerie Hart: Scenic Charge Artist on the production of *Curse of the Starving Class*.

2014-15 school year

Undergraduate Research

- Becca Smith: **Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship** working as my undergraduate teaching assistant for the Scene Painting class.

Directed Projects

- Becca Smith: Scenic Designer on the production of *Stop Kiss*.
- Rhianne Lowe: Scenic Designer on the production of *Antigone*.
- Stephen Kromka: Technical Director on the production of *Antigone*.
- Stephen Kromka: Assistant Technical Director on the production of *Avenue Q*.

Awards, Nominations, and Accolades:

- Recipient of the 2019 **Provost's Personalized Education Grant** through the University of Pittsburgh with Annmarie Duggan; funded for \$20,000
- Nomination for the 2019 **St. Louis Theatre Circle Award for Outstanding Set Design** for *The Humans* produced by the St. Louis Repertory Theatre
- Recipient of the 2018 **Innovation in Education Award** through the University of Pittsburgh with Annmarie Duggan; funded for \$18,000
- Pittsburgh Post Gazette's **10 Best Theatre Experiences of 2017** for *The Liar*
- Recipient of the 2017 **Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Award** at the University of Pittsburgh
- Nomination for the 2017 **Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising** award
- Recipient of the 2015 **Innovation in Education Award** through the University of Pittsburgh with Annmarie Duggan; funded for \$19,000
- Recipient of the 2012 **Kevin Kline Award for Outstanding Scenic Design** for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *In the Next Room; or the vibrator play*
- 2012 Pittsburgh Post Gazette's Best Play (3 way tie): *Chekhov Festival*
- 2011 Pittsburgh Post Gazette's Best Play(s): *House and Garden*
- River Front Times **2010 Best Set Design** for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *Crime and Punishment*
- 2010 Kevin Kline Nomination for **Outstanding Scenic Design** for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *Crime and Punishment*
- 2009 Kevin Kline Nomination for **Outstanding Scenic Design** for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*
- Nomination for the 2005 Independent Reviewers of New England's Award for **Excellence in Scenic Design** for Stoneham Theatre's production of *The Dazzle*

Production Experience:

“*” Indicates Nomination or Recipient of an Award

2022:

- Concept renderings for multiple projects under Non-Disclosure Agreements with Theatrical Concepts
- Scenic Designer for UPitt Stages production of *Why We Have a Body*
- Scenic Charge Artist for UPitt Stages productions of *A New Brain*, and *Why We Have a Body*
- Scenic Painter for UPitt Stages Production of *Emilia*

2021:

- Scenic Designer for UPitt Stages Production of *Somewhere*
- Scenic Charge Artist for UPitt Stages Productions of *Somewhere*, and *A Drag Seed*
- Video Editor and Sound Designer for UPitt Stages streamed production of *Spark!*
- Concept renderings for multiple projects under Non-Disclosure Agreements with Theatrical Concepts

2020:

- Scenic Design for Point Park Conservatory’s production of *Much Ado About Nothing*
- Concept renderings for multiple projects under Non-Disclosure Agreements with Theatrical Concepts
- Sound Design for UPitt Stages production of *Appropriate*
- Video Editor for UPitt Stages streamed productions of *She Kills Monsters*, and *Miss You Like Hell*

2019:

- Scenic Design for St. Michael’s Playhouse Productions of *The 39 Steps* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*
- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Into the Woods*
- Sound Design for UPitt Stages production of *The Wolves*
- Scenic Design for Point Park Conservatory’s production of *Vinegar Tom*
- Concept renderings for multiple projects with Theatrical Concepts

2018:

- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Much Ado About Nothing*
- Concept renderings for multiple projects with Theatrical Concepts
- Scenic Design for SUNY New Paltz’s production of *Avenue Q*
- Scenic Design for The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis’s production of *The Humans**
- Projection and Sound Design for UPitt Stages production of *Recoil*
- Scenic Design for City Theatre’s production of *Nomad Hotel*

2017:

- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Parade*
- Scenic Design for Front Porch Theatrical’s production of *Big Fish*
- Scenic Design for Kinetic Theatre’s production of *The Liar**
- Scenic Design for Resonance Works production of *Falstaff*
- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Peter and the Star Catcher*

- Scenic Design for Point Park Conservatory's production of *Big Love*
- 2016:
- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Intimate Apparel*
 - Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Nine*
 - Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Rhinoceros*
 - Scenic Design for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *Molly's Hammer*
 - Scenic Design for City Theatre's production of *Some Brighter Distance*
- 2015:
- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*
 - Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Good Kids*
 - Scenic Design for Theatre Squared's production of *Water by the Spoonful*
 - Scenic Design for Point Park University's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*
 - Scenic Design for City Theatre's production of *Oblivion*
- 2014:
- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Love Letters*
 - Scenic Design for UPitt Stages production of *Avenue Q*
 - Scenic Design for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *A Kid Like Jake*
 - Scenic Design for Front Porch Theatrical's production of *Parade*
 - Scenic Design for Kinetic Theatre's production of *Romance*
 - Scenic Design for PICT Theatre's production of *Woman and Scarecrow*
 - Scenic Design for Point Park Playhouse's production of *The Playboy of the Western World*
 - Scenic Design for UPitt Stages' production of *In the Heights*
- 2013:
- Scenic Design for UPitt Stages' production of *Venus*
 - Scenic Design for Point Park Playhouse's production of *Soldier's Heart*
 - Scenic Design for Off The Wall's production of *Well*
 - Resident Scenic Designer for PICT Theatre's 2013 Season. Designs included *Our Class*, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, and *A Skull in Connemara*
 - Production Manager for PICT Theatre's 2013 Season
 - Scenic Design for Guiding Star Dance Foundation's production of *Arranged Marriage*
 - Scenic Design for Allegheny College's production of *Anna in the Tropics*
 - Environmental Designer for Carnegie Mellon University's *New Works Festival 4-6*
- 2012:
- Production Manager for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's 2012 Season
 - Resident Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's 2012 season*. Designs included *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*, *Pitmen Painters*, *Three Sisters*, *Ivanov*, *After Play*, *Yalta Game*, *The Proposal*, *The Bear*, *Swan Song*, *Drama*, *The Evils of Tobacco*, and *School for Lies*.
 - Scenic Designer for Point Park University's production of *The Crucible*
 - Environmental Designer for Carnegie Mellon University's *New Works Festival 1-3*
 - Scenic Designer for Point Park Playhouse's production of *Rope*
 - Environmental Designer for Carnegie Mellon University's *New Works Festival 4-6*
- 2011:

- Production Manager for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's 2011 Season
- Resident Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's 2011 season. Designs included *House**, *Garden**, *Race*, and *The Mask of Moriarty*
- Associate Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- Scenic Designer for Point Park University's production of *Twelfth Night*
- Scenic Designer for Point Park University's production of *Illyria*
- Environmental Designer for Carnegie Mellon University's *New Works Festival 1-3*
- Production Designer for Westminster College's production of *The Children's Hour*
- Scenic Designer for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's production of *In the Next Room; or the vibrator play**
- Production Designer for Westminster College's production of *Red Herring*

2010:

- Resident Scenic Designer for the Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. Productions Included: *Othello*, *The Hothouse*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Betrayal*, *Celebration*, *The Room*, *No Man's Land*, and *Hobson's Choice*
- Production Designer for Westminster College's production of *A Little Night Music*
- Scenic and Lighting Designer for Stoneham Theatre's production of *The Turn of the Screw*
- Scenic Designer for St. Louis Repertory Theatre's *Crime and Punishment**
- Production Designer for Westminster College's production of *The Misanthrope*

2009:

- Production Designer for Westminster College's production of *Rabbit Hole*
- Resident Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. Productions Included: *What the Butler Saw*, *Doubt*, *The History Boys*, *Crime and Punishment*, and *Jane Eyre*
- Scenic Designer for Stoneham Theatre's production of *Strangers on a Train*
- Scenic Designer for Prime Stage Theatre's production of *Twelve Angry Men*
- USITT Panel Participant for "Big Careers Outside of the Big City"
- Scenic Designer for Point Park Conservatory's production of *The Rocky Horror Show*
- Scenic Designer for Point Park Conservatory's production of *Hot L Baltimore*

2008:

- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's Production of *Dublin Carol*
- Scenic Designer for Prime Stage's production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
- Scenic Designer for St. Louis Repertory's production of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore**
- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *The Synge Cycle*
- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Playboy of the Western World*
- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Salome*
- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Wilde Tales*
- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *An Ideal Husband*

- Scenic Designer for Prime Stage Theatre's production of *The Outsiders*
- Scenic Designer for Stoneham Theatre's production of *The Cutting*
- Scenic Designer for Merrimack Repertory Theatre's production of *The Missionary Position*

2007:

- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Pride and Prejudice*
- Scenic Designer for Prime Stage Theatre's production of *Inherit the Wind*
- Scenic Designer for Stoneham Theatre's production of *Gypsy*
- Scenic Designer for Point Park Conservatory's production of *Top Girls*
- Scenic Designer for The Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Private Lives, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Stuff Happens, and Nine Parts of Desire*
- Scenic Designer for The City Theatre's production of *The Missionary Position*
- Scenic Designer for Prime Stage Theatre's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- Scenic Designer for Stoneham Theatre's production of *The Grapes of Wrath*
- Scenic Designer for Point Park Conservatory's production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*

2006:

- Scenic Consultant for Carnegie Mellon School of Drama production of *Man is Man*
- Scene Design for Point Park Conservatory's production of *The Rover*
- Scene Design for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical's production of *Boston Marriage*
- Scenic Design for Klasikos Theatre's production of *Oedipus the King*
- Scenic Design for Klasikos Theatre's production of *Ubu the King*
- Light baffle design for Staging Productions
- Drop Design for the McKeesport First Methodist Church, Producing company: Staging Productions
- Lighting Design for The Stoneham Theatre's production of *Owen Meany*

2005:

- Scenic Design for UPitt Repertory's production of *Lie of the Mind*
- Lighting Design for UPitt Repertory's production of *Pericles*
- Lighting and Scenic Designs for UPitt Repertory's production of *Old Times*
- Scenic Design for Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama's production of *Lysistrata*
- Master Electrician for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Heartbreak House*
- Projection images for Saints and Poets Society reading of *Saffronia*
- Scenic Design for the Prime Stage production of *The Cay*
- Scenic Design for Point Park University's production of *A Flea in Her Ear*
- Lighting Design for UPitt Repertory's production of *Rashomon*
- Scenic Design for Carnegie Mellon University's Music Department production of *L'Italiana in Algieri*
- Scenic Design for Shakespeare in the Schools' production of *Rachel Carson Saves the Day*

2004:

- Williamstown Theatre Festival:

- Assistant Scenic Designer to Allen Moyer, *The Cherry Orchard*
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Susan Hillferty, *Rodney's Wife*
- Scenic Design for Sagal Fellowship, *Eurydice*, Directed by Meredith McDonough
- Studio Assistant for Anne Mundell, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre's production of *Travesties*
- Furniture finisher for Serbin Furniture
- Exhibit Finisher for Labyrinth Designs
- Scenic Design for Stoneham Theatre's production of *The Dazzle**

2003:

- Williamstown Theatre Festival:
 - Assistant Scenic Designer to Allen Moyer, *Landscape of the Body*
 - Assistant Scenic Designer to Michael Carnahan, *The Chekov Cycle*
 - Act I Scenic Design, *The Burden of Sunflowers*, Directed by Ted Sluberski
 - Director's Project Scenic Design, *Disco Pigs*, Directed by Susanne Agins
- *A Raft of Grass*, Property Design, Boston Theatre Marathon

2002:

- Lighting Designer for Brandeis University acting program's movement project
- Scenic Designer for Brandeis University's production of *Love for Love*
- Electrician and Board Operator for Paulette Dance School's year end production
- Scenic Design for Brandeis University's production of *Trigger*

2001:

- Lighting Designer for Brandeis University's production of *The Wake of Jamie Foster*
- Lighting Designer for Brandeis University acting program's movement project
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Milla Pavelka, Brandeis University production of *Summerfolk*
- Scenic Designer for Brandeis University's production of *The Psychic Life of Savages*
- Over-hire electrician for Limelight Productions
- Electrician and Board Operator for Paulette Dance School year end production
- Over-hire electrician for ART
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Milla Pavelka, ART institute production of *The Water Pail*
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Milla Pavelka, Brandeis University production of *Professional Skepticism*
- Over-hire electrician and carpenter for New Repertory Theatre
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Angie Dufresne, Brandeis University production of *The Diviners*

2000:

- Graduate assistantship in Brandeis University electric shop
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Margaret Cho, Brandeis University production of *Merrily We Roll Along*
- Scenic Designer for *Annie Warbucks*, Lakes Region Summer Theatre
- Scenic Designer for *Fiddler on the Roof*, Lakes Region Summer Theatre
- Scenic Designer for *Singing in the Rain*, Lakes Region Summer Theatre
- Studio Assistant Scenic Designer to Timothy Amrhein
- Lighting Designer for UPitt Repertory's production of *The Adding Machine*

- Assistant Scenic Artist to Stephanie Miller, Carnegie Library installation
- Lighting Designer for *The Dark Part of the Forest*, Lester Hamburgh Theatre
- University of Pittsburgh Master Electrician and Shop Foreman

1999:

- Assistant Scenic Artist to Stephanie Miller, Pittsburgh Opera school tour
- Scenic Design for UPitt Repertory Theatre's production of *Uncle Doggie's Nirvana*
- Co-scenic Design with Stephanie Miller for the Idaho Repertory Theatre's production of *Complete History of America Abridged*
- Assistant Scenic Designer to Stephanie Miller, Idaho Repertory Theatre
- Scenic Artist for the Idaho Repertory Theatre's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
- Scenic Designer for UPitt Repertory Theatre's production of *And Baby Makes Seven*
- Over-hire Carpenter for Louis P. Taylor Productions
- University of Pittsburgh Master Electrician and Shop Foreman

1998:

- 2nd Assistant Scenic Charge Artist, Berkshire Theater Festival
- University of Pittsburgh Master Electrician and Shop Foreman

1997:

- Carpenter Connecticut Repertory Theatre

1996:

- Technical Director, Lakes Region Summer Theatre

1995:

- Technician, Lakes Region Summer Theatre

Professional Affiliations:

- Member of the United Scenic Artists, Local 829 Scenic Design Category
- Member of the United States Institute for Technical Theatre

Publications and Articles:

- Downs, Gian. "7 Tips for Theatre Students Asking for Letters of Recommendations." Backstage.com. <https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/tips-theater-students-ask-letter-of-recommendation-70146/> 02/25/2020.
- Downs, Gian. "5 Tips For Starting Your Career as a Theatre Designer." Backstage.com. <https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/tips-starting-career-professional-theater-designer-69974/> 01/31/2020.
- Downs, G. & Duggan, A. Superhero Sword Project. Projects for Teaching Scene Design Compendium, Volume 2. USITT Press. 2016
- Downs, G. Private Lives. 2007. Drawing. Scene Design and Stage Lighting, 9th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2009. 59. Print.
- Highlight of the Pitt News Silhouettes article: *Gianni Downs: The Scenic Route*

Service:

University:

2021-22

- Participated in the week-long intensive course for the Pitt's Provost Academy teaching Tabletop Gaming Crafts to in-coming students in a remote setting.
- Painted scenic elements for the Say Her Name Memorial Gown exhibit

2019-20

- Participated in the week-long intensive course for the Pitt's Provost Academy teaching Illustrating Nature to in-coming students in a remote setting.

2018-19

- Participated in the week-long intensive course for the Pitt's Provost Academy teaching Mural Painting to in-coming students
- Participated on the panel of faculty for the Physics Department's Artists in Residence Program
- Participant in the interview process for the successful Assistant Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research search

2017-18

- Member of the NYC Scholars in Residence committee, awarding 3 students a NYPL research residency
- Participated as a judge in the Pitt Mobile App Challenge
- Participated in the Chancellor's Scholars recruitment process by presenting student opportunities in theatre to the applicant's family members at the chancellor's scholars visit day
- Participated on a panel for the Honor's College Craft of Undergraduate Research Proposal Workshops
- Participated on the panel of faculty for the Physics Department's Artists in Residence Program
- Presented my studio research at an Honors College Faculty dinner
- Worked with group USITT on their participation in the Pitt Park(ing) day

2016-17

- Participated as a judge in the Pitt Mobile App Challenge
- Supported Robert Clift's Film Studies project by designing and managing the scenic design used in his tenure case film

Department:

2021-22

- Co-head of the Design/Tech Area (Fall semester only)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies (Fall semester only)
- Chair of the Call-To-Action Committee
- Scenic Charge Artist for departmental productions

2020-21

- Co-head of the Design/Tech Area
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Member of the Call-To-Action Committee
- Member of the Curriculum Committee
- Scenic Charge Artist for departmental productions

2019-20

- Co-head of the Design/Tech Area
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Member of the Strategic Planning committee
- Member of the Curriculum Committee
- Scenic Charge Artist for departmental productions

2018-19

- Chair of the 2019-20 Season Selection committee
- Co-head of the Design/Tech Area
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Member of the Strategic Planning committee
- Member of the successful faculty search for a Performance Faculty member
- Scenic Charge Artist for all 4 department main stage productions

2017-18

- Co-head of the Design/Tech Area
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Head of the BA curriculum committee
- Scenic Charge Artist for all 5 department main stage productions

2016-17

- Chair of the 2017-18 Season Selection committee
- Chair of the BA curriculum committee
- Chair of the successful Visiting Artist: Props/Paint search committee
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Member of the curriculum committee
- Scenic Charge Artist for all 5 department main stage productions

2015-16

- Chair of the Budget committee
- Chair of the successful Staff Technical Director search committee
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Member of the Curriculum committee
- Member of the Library committee
- Scenic Charge Artist for all 5 department main stage productions

2014-15

- Chair of the Budget committee
- Chair of the successful Guest Scenic Design and Scenic Artist search committee
- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Member of the Curriculum committee

- Member of the department's Library committee
- Member of the successful Staff Shop Foreman/Master Electrician search committee

2013-14

- Chair of the successful Costume Design Faculty search committee
- Head of the Design/Tech Area
- Member of the Theatre Arts Library committee