

John E. Wright

designwright.org

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Education:

Master of Fine Arts, Scenic Design

May 2015

University of Georgia

Athens GA

Thesis: "George Tabori's *Mein Kampf*" Analysis of historical references combined with farcical and abstract design techniques culminating in both academic and professional productions in separate theater settings.

Advisors: Julie Ray MFA, Richard Dunham MFA, Michael Hussey Ph.D.

Coursework:

Scenic Design I/II/III, Lighting Design I/II, Costume Design, Model Making, Moving Lighting, CAD Design, Furniture Design, History of Costume and Decorum, Scene Painting, Studio I dry medium, Studio II wet medium, Drafting, Seminar of Designers, Pedagogy, Introduction to Graduate Studies.

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre Design

Armstrong Atlantic
State University

May 2011
Savannah, GA

College Level Teaching Experience:

Georgia Southern University (formerly Armstrong State University), Savannah GA

Assistant Professor Scenic Design, Technical Director, Head of Theatre

- Sound Design: (1 Section, 15 Students) Introduced students to sound reinforcement, foley design, and multi-point surround sound for live theatre and film. Students created audio for short animated films while having to build all musical beds and effects. Students also created 24.2 surround sound as an experimental piece for the theatre using Q-Lab 4.
- Scene Painting: (2 Section, 15 Students) Introduced students to varying techniques for painting scenery. Focusing on painting from a grid, and basic brick, marble and wood textures. Each student completed 4, four foot by six foot scenic paintings.
- Introduction to Design: (7 Sections, 15+ Students) Introduction to Design gives students a brief introduction to several types of theatre design. Projects are hands on and usually involve something that can be put in their newly growing portfolio. The main design genres touched on are Sound Design, Lighting Design, Costume Design and, Scenic Design. There is also an art research book due at the end of the semester designed to expose students to different styles of art, and theatre.
- Introduction to Lighting Design: (3 Sections, 15+ Students) This class teaches students about the basics of lighting for the stage. Students focus on learning the types of lighting instruments, along with basic electrical formulas in order to operate safely. Students learn how to analyze light and determine the controllable qualities of light. Students also perform a series of practical projects to recreate light from images they have collected.
- Problems in Design; New Course Design 2018: (2 Section, 15 Students) Problems in Design focuses on developing creative thinking via Meta Cognition strategies. Students are given lectures along with

quizzes to help develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. Using these skills students create new design concepts of common things from advertisements to furniture. Each student also compiles a “Materials Book” to assist them throughout their career. Students also learn how to take a scenic design and budget the cost, with only the designers drawings to go off of.

- Problems in Design 2017: (1 Section, 15 Students) This class teaches students about problem solving for the theatre, along with life, I challenge students to break down issues and solve complicated design problems. Major topics covered are materials that can be used, that the student may not know about, techniques on how to build and engineer scenery for the stage, budgeting a show, along with introductions to certain software available to the young professional.
- Scenic Design: (5 Sections, 15 Students) This course introduces students to concepts of design for the stage. Students learn to build models and draft for designated spaces. Each student is challenged to think outside of the box and develop functional concepts for three different shows.
- Stagecraft: (11 Sections, 20+ Students) Students use hands-on experience to build sets and assist with lighting for the theatre department along with assisting in maintaining the theatre space for shows and other events. Students also focus on how to safely use tools and other equipment.
- Stagecraft II: (7 Sections, 15 Students) An extension of Stagecraft one students are given more difficult challenges and builds for the theatre. They are also given the opportunity to lead crews and monitor students to insure a safe working environment.
- Intro to Theater: (3 Sections, 25 Students) This course focuses on a brief history of theatre and its impact on society. Students read ten plus plays from different points in history, while also learning of the evolution of theatre throughout the ages. Students prepare a presentation on one of the plays that are assigned.
- Theatre Management: (1Section, 3 Students) Students are exposed to two types of theatre management. The first part of the class focuses on stage management, along with putting together multiple prompt scripts, from rehearsal scripts to show scripts. The second part of the class focuses on how to put together a 501c3 non-profit. Students develop a mission, vision, and value statements, along with organizational charts and basic bylaws.

University Service:

- College of Arts and Humanities By Laws committee 2020
- Director of Theatre Armstrong Campus 2018-present
- Hiring Committee new Temporary Professor of theatre Armstrong Campus 2020
- Technical Director: As Technical Director it is my responsibility to oversee the safe and efficient implementation of all technical aspects of a show. This includes running technical rehearsals and choreographing scene changes. There are many moving parts to a theatre that can be extremely dangerous if not done properly. It is imperative that each student knows their responsibilities and how to safely operate under show conditions which are often performed in little to no light. As Technical Director it is also my responsibility to make detailed construction drawings of each show, whether I am the designer or not. Think of it as being the engineer to the architect. The scenic designer comes up with a beautiful design and it is the Technical Director's responsibility to figure out or engineer the design to not only work on stage but also stay under the allotted budget for the show. I take my duties as Technical Director very seriously because the theatre can be a dangerous place if not run properly.
- Scenic Design, I design most shows that are performed in the Armstrong Theatre department whether they are being peer reviewed or not, this allows me to mentor young scenic designers and help them through the process.
- Lighting Design, I also handle the lighting design for most shows at Armstrong, though recently we have had many students show a strong interest in this area.
- Sound Design, sound design is one of my specialties and while this area of our department is growing at an incredible rate, I work with student designers on the proper set up and engineering of an audio system. This also allows me to teach them how to manipulate the audience's perception of the scene at hand.

- Scene Shop Supervisor, in this position I oversee the daily operation of the scene shop and the many students who come through and work on the productions. The scene shop is where all of the “magic” happens, here we build all scenery along with painting and installing it on the stage. The shop can be a dangerous place with many tools that if not used properly can cause serious harm. In this role I make sure that everything is being built to the TD’s drawings and that we maintain a safe and productive working environment.
- Hiring Manager, it is my responsibility to create student positions and hire any students who work whether it be institutional work study or federal work study. It is in this role that I also sign off on biweekly time cards and make sure that student hours do not exceed the allotted budget allocation for student workers.
- Budget Approval Manager, in this position I sign off on all spending request, being sure that all items are ordered properly and follow strict state of Georgia guidelines. I also make sure all items have been received and are in proper working fashion from the supplier before releasing any funds or closing out purchase orders.
- Facilities Manager, in this role I make sure that Jenkins Hall is maintained in proper working fashion. This includes anything from electrical to plumbing to janitorial services. It is my responsibility as facilities manager to produce work orders and follow up with the appropriate division of the University.
- Faculty Advisor to the Armstrong Masquers, in this role I advise the Masquers program which is a student run organization that is the producing body of the theatre program. I make sure that they are meeting regularly and that member roles are up to date. I also make sure that they are taking the necessary steps to maintain their student organization through Georgia Southern.
- Faculty Advisor to Last Laugh Improv, in this role I help to build and schedule performances for the Last Laugh Improv group. The group has restarted after a few years of dormancy and has grown into a much beloved group on campus.
- Just recently I have been named sequence coordinator for the Department of Communication Arts on the Armstrong campus. In this role I will be submitting and scheduling all Communication Arts classes while adhering to a two year and four year rotation, which was developed to ensure Communication Arts classes are offered in a timely manner.
- NAST report and site visit contributor 2018
- Theatre Assessment Committee-contributor 2018
- Theatre Consolidation Committee-contributor 2018
- Technology in the Classroom Policy Committee 2018
- Environmental Health and Safety Officer Hiring Committee 2017
- Armstrong State Alumni Awards AMT representative 2016-2018
- Co Organizer, Georgia Theatre Conference held on Armstrong Campus 2018

Academic Presentations:

South Eastern Theatre Conference, March 2018

Mobile, AL

- Panel Title: *Spectacle on Stage: Violent Delights without Violent Ends*

A panel discussion on the use of violence on stage, when is it useful and what are some of the ways to approach violent acts. What are our physical, mental and, fiscal responsibilities to the audience?

Secondary School Teaching Experience:

Mill Springs Academy, Alpharetta GA Technical Director and Theatre Instructor August 2011-May 2012

- Introduction to Improvisation: (1 Section, 18 Students) Introduced students to the Improv art form, Played games and had students write in a daily journal to encourage new ideas and sketch writing.
- Introduction to Scenic Design: (2 Sections, 24 Students) Introduced students to the concepts of scene design. Taught basic drafting and reading in scale. Broke down the *Glass Menagerie* and created a design based on teachings in the class.
- Stagecraft: (2 Sections, 12 Students) Students used hands-on experience to build sets for the theatre department and to assist in maintaining the theatre space for shows and other events.
- Experience in the Arts: (1 Section, 15 Students) Students experimented in many cultural forms of art to help create a festival for the school to enjoy experiencing a different region or culture.

Woodward Academy, College Park, GA Technical Director and Theatre Instructor Jan 07-April 08

- Theatre Practice: Students assisted in building, painting and lighting sets as well as creating sound effects for the shows performed

Professional Experience:

Corn Stock Theatre Peoria IL, April 2008-Oct. 2008,

Act as Technical Director for full time season including twelve shows in two separate theaters. Mentor and assist designers in all phases of the design processes. Hire and manage all part time and full time employees. Oversee budget for season and run all general operations of the theatre.

Gordon College, August 2006-Jan 2007

Technical Director of Theatre, Gordon College, Design all aspects of theatre sound, set and lighting, manage scene shop and oversee daily operations of the theatre. Teach students the practical aspects of theatre.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, October 2005-April 2006

Head Sound and Light Engineer, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Supervise all lounges and entertainment areas aboard RCCI Splendor of the Seas. Manage Stage Crew and Musicians. Create schedule for workers and entertainment, run rehearsals and manage logistics.

Cumberland County Playhouse, May 2005-October 2005:

Head Sound Designer and Engineer, Cumberland County Playhouse Crossville TN, managed all aspects of sound for 2005 season, Ran 35 mic set up, touring and touring rig. Designed such shows as *Cats*, *Into the Woods*, *Spitfire Grill*, *Joseph...*

Gordon College, January 2004-May 2005:

Sound Designer in residence Gordon College, Barnesville GA, managed shop and built and designed 6 shows per season, including *Madrigal Dinner*, *Reynard the Fox*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, and *Poe's A Midnight Dreary*. Taught students practical aspects of theatre and etiquette of theatre.

Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, May 2001-July 2003:

Head Engineer and Sound Designer. Jekyll Island GA. Designed such shows as *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *My Fair Lady*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Honk, Oklahoma*, *1776*, *School House Rock Live!*, *State Fair*, *Hello Dolly*.

River Center, Columbus GA, August 2004-2006:

On call touring Technical Engineer, manage and set up 15-50 man crew for touring venues.

Longman Publishing, November 2004-January 2005:

Sound Designer and Recording Engineer Longman Publishing, New York, NY. Designed and recorded lectures for online textbooks.

Theatre as Scenic Designer:

<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, March 2021
<i>Beirut</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, October 2020
<i>The Addams Family</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, October 2019
<i>Great American Trailer Park Musical</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, April 2019
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, October 2018
<i>The Spitfire Grill</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, February 2017

Nominated ACTF region 4 Best Faculty Design
(Winner: Meritorious Achievement in Design and Technical Direction)

<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2017
<i>The Underpants</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2017
<i>Baby the Musical</i>	Armstrong State University, February 2017
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2016
<i>Red White and Tuna</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2016
<i>Next to Normal</i>	Armstrong State University, February 2016
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2015
<i>Almost Maine</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2015
<i>Mien Kampf</i>	Seven Stages, March 2015
<i>Mien Kampf</i>	University of Georgia, March 2015
<i>Nine to Five</i>	Highlands Playhouse, June 2014
<i>Pippin</i>	Highlands Playhouse, July 2014
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Highlands Playhouse, July 2014
<i>Flyin West</i>	University of Georgia, March 2014
<i>Flat Stanley</i>	Mill Springs Academy, April 2012
<i>The Wizard Of OZ</i>	Mill Springs Academy, March 2012
<i>Chronicles of Jane</i>	Mill Springs Academy, November 2011
<i>As You Like It</i>	Armstrong Atlantic State, April 2010
<i>All In The Timing</i>	Armstrong Atlantic State, February 2010
<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	S.P.A.C.E., September 2009
<i>On Golden Pond</i>	Corn Stock Theatre August 2008
<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Corn Stock Theatre, July 2008
<i>Beauty And The Beast</i>	Corn Stock Theatre, July 2008
<i>Singing In The Rain</i>	Corn Stock Theatre, June 2008
<i>Aladdin Jr</i>	Detroit School of Arts, May 2008
<i>Aladdin Jr</i>	Woodward Academy, May 2008
<i>Anything Goes</i>	Woodward Academy, April 2008
<i>Going To St. Ives</i>	Woodward Academy, March 2008
<i>Bump In The Night</i>	Woodward Academy, December 2007
<i>Once On This Island</i>	Woodward Academy, October 2007
<i>Christmas Carol</i>	Gordon College, March 2007
<i>The Diviners</i>	Gordon College, December 2006
<i>Wonderful to be Wicked 3</i>	Gordon College, October 2006
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Gordon College, September 2006

<i>Jack Fell Down</i>	Ramal Najort, April 2005
<i>Reynard the Fox</i>	Ramal Najort, March 2005
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Lamar Arts, July 2004
<i>Complete Works Shakespeare</i>	BBFB, June 2004
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	Gordon College, April 2004
<i>Grease</i>	Gordon College, April 2003
<i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	Gordon College, April 2002

Theatre as Sound Designer:

<i>The Laramie Project</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, March 2021
Nominated ACTF region 4 Best Faculty Sound Design	
<i>Beirut</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, October 2020
<i>The Addams Family</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, October 2019
<i>Great American Trailer Park Musical</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, April 2019
<i>Little Women the Musical</i>	Savannah Repertory Theatre, December 2018
<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, June 2018
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2017
<i>The Underpants</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2017
<i>Baby the Musical</i>	Armstrong State University, February 2017
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2016
<i>Red White and Tuna</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2016
<i>Next to Normal</i>	Armstrong State University, February 2016
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2015
<i>Almost Maine</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2015
<i>Nine to Five</i>	Highlands Playhouse, June 2014
<i>Pippin</i>	Highlands Playhouse, July 2014
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Highlands Playhouse, July 2014
<i>Doubt</i>	University of Georgia, September 2013
<i>Flat Stanley</i>	Mill Springs Academy, April 2012
<i>The Wizard Of OZ</i>	Mill Springs Academy, March 2012
<i>Chronicles of Jane</i>	Mill Springs Academy, November 2012
<i>As You Like It</i>	Armstrong Atlantic State, April 2010
<i>All In The Timing</i>	Armstrong Atlantic State, February 2010
<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	S.P.A.C.E., September 2009
<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Corn Stock Theatre, July 2008
<i>Beauty And The Beast</i>	Corn Stock Theatre, July 2008
<i>Singing In The Rain</i>	Corn Stock Theatre, June 2008
<i>Aladdin Jr</i>	Woodward Academy, May 2008
<i>Anything Goes</i>	Woodward Academy, April 2008
<i>Going To St. Ives</i>	Woodward Academy, March 2008
<i>Bump In The Night</i>	Woodward Academy, December 2007
<i>Once On This Island</i>	Woodward Academy, October 2007
<i>Christmas Carol</i>	Gordon College, March 2007

<i>The Diviners</i>	Gordon College, December 2006
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Gordon College, September 2006
<i>Homestead Album</i>	Cumberland County Playhouse, September 2005
<i>Smoke on the Mountain</i>	Cumberland County Playhouse, September 2005
<i>Ain't Misbehaving</i>	Cumberland County Playhouse, May 2005
<i>Cats</i>	Cumberland County Playhouse, May 2005
<i>Spit Fire Grill</i>	Cumberland County Playhouse, April 2005
<i>Reynard the Fox</i>	Ramal Najort, March 2005
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Lamar Arts, July 2004
<i>Complete Works Shakespeare</i>	BBFB, June 2004
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	Gordon College, April 2004
<i>State Fair</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, July 2003
<i>Hello Dolly</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, July 2003
<i>School House Rock Live!</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, June 2003
<i>Grease</i>	Gordon College, April 2003
<i>1776</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, July 2002
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, July 2002
<i>Honk!</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, June 2002
<i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	Gordon College, April 2002
<i>My Fair Lady</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, July 2001
<i>Annie Get Your Gun</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, July 2001
<i>You're A Good Man Charlie Brown</i>	Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, June 2001

Theatre as Lighting Designer

<i>The Addams Family</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, October 2019
<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Georgia Southern University, Armstrong, June 2018
<i>Blithe Spirit</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2017
<i>The Underpants</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2017
<i>Baby the Musical</i>	Armstrong State University, February 2017
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2016
<i>Red White and Tuna</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2016
<i>Next to Normal</i>	Armstrong State University, February 2016
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Armstrong State University, October 2015
<i>Almost Maine</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2015
<i>Flat Stanley</i>	Mill Springs Academy, April 2012
<i>The Wizard Of OZ</i>	Mill Springs Academy, March 2012
<i>Chronicles of Jane</i>	Mill Springs Academy, November 2012
<i>All In The Timing</i>	Armstrong Atlantic State, February 2010
<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	S.P.A.C.E., September 2009
<i>The Illusion</i>	Gordon College, November 2009
<i>Aladdin Jr</i>	Woodward Academy, May 2008
<i>Going To St. Ives</i>	Woodward Academy, March 2008
<i>Once On This Island</i>	Woodward Academy, October 2007

<i>Christmas Carol</i>	Gordon College, March 2007
<i>The Diviners</i>	Gordon College, December 2006
<i>Wonderful to be Wicked 3</i>	Gordon College, October 2006
<i>Jack Fell Down</i>	Ramal Najort, April 2005
<i>Oklahoma.</i>	Lamar Arts, July 2004

Theatre as Director:

<i>Red White and Tuna</i>	Armstrong State University, July 2016
<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Armstrong Summer Theatre, July 2010
<i>All in the Timing.</i>	Armstrong Atlantic Theatre, February 2010
<i>Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged</i>	BBFB, June 2004