

# Michael G. Benson

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## EDUCATION

**Masters of Fine Arts, *Theatre*, Scene Design Emphasis, 2011**  
The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

**Bachelor of Arts, *Speech Communication and Theatre*, Cum Laude, 1995**  
Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH

**Bachelor of Arts, *Music*, Cum Laude, 1995**  
Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH

## EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Scene Design & Technology  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO 64093  
August 2011-Present

### Theatre Instruction

Assistant Professor, *Fundamentals of Design*, THEA 2610  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2014

Assistant Professor, *Period Research*, THEA 4620  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2016

Assistant Professor, *Stagecraft*, THEA 1600  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Assistant Professor, *Scene Design*, THEA 3600  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2011, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015

Assistant Professor, *Senior Showcase*, THEA 4910  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2015

Assistant Professor, *Drafting for the Theatre*, THEA 2630  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2015

Assistant Professor, *Discovering Theatre*, THEA 2400  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2013

Assistant Professor, *Professional Practices*, THEA 4300  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015

Instructor, *Period Research*, THEA 454  
The Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2011,

Instructor, *Digital Imaging for the Theatre*, THEA 458  
The Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2010

Teaching Assistant, *Intro to Design*, THEA 150  
The Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2009

Teaching Assistant, *Period Research* THEA 454  
The Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2009

Graduate Assistant  
Paint Shop Supervisor/ Properties Assistant  
The Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2008-Spring 2011

### **Design**

Scenic Designer, *The Little Foxes*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO February 2016

Scenic Designer, *Chicago*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO October 2015

Scenic Designer, *Ruddigore*, Freeland Theatre  
Ohio Light Opera, Wooster, OH July 2015

Scenic Designer, *Les Miserables*, Eisenhower Auditorium  
Fuse Productions, State College, PA June 2015

Scenic Designer, *Brigadoon*, Freeland Theatre  
Ohio Light Opera, Wooster, OH June 2015

Scenic Designer, *Spring Awakening*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO April 2015

Scenic Designer, *The Wedding Singer*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO October 2014

Scenic Designer, *A Little Night Music*, Off-Crown Theatre  
Spinning Tree Theatre, Kansas City, MO May 2014

Scenic Designer, *Julius Caesar*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO April 2014

Scenic Designer/Media Designer, *Kindertransport*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO February 2014

Scenic Designer, *Scrooge: The Musical*, State Theatre  
Fuse Productions, State College, PA, December 2013

Scenic Designer, *The Shape of Things*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, November 2013

Scenic Designer, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Just Off Broadway Theatre  
Spinning Tree Theatre, Kansas City, MO, November 2013

Scenic Designer, *Pirates of Penzance*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, October 2013

Scenic Designer, *Street Scene*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, April 2013

Scenic Designer, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, American Heartland Theatre,  
American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City, MO, January 2013

Scenic Designer, *Blue Window*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, November 2012

Scenic Designer, *Beehive: The 60's Musical*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
Penn State Centre Stage, State College, PA, June 2012

Scenic Designer, *As Long as We Both Shall Live*, American Heartland Theatre,  
American Heartland Theatre, Kansas City, MO, May 2012

Scenic Designer, *The Tempest*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, April 2012

Scenic Designer, *How I Learned To Drive*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, February 2012

Scenic Designer, *Almost, Maine*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, November 2011

Scenic Designer, *Oklahoma!*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO, October 2011

Scenic Designer, *Five Guys Named Moe*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
Pennsylvania Centre Stage, State College, PA, June 2011

Scenic Designer, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
The University Resident Theatre Company, University Park, PA, December 2010

Scenic Designer/Media Designer, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Esber Recital Hall  
Penn State School of Music, University Park, PA, October 2010

Scenic Designer/Media Designer, *Palmer Park*, Citizens Bank Theatre  
The University Resident Theatre Company, University Park, PA, April 2010

Scenic Designer, *Singing in the Rain*, Academy Theatre  
Empty Jug Productions, Meadville, PA Spring 2008

Resident Scenic Designer, The Richard E. Rauh Conservatory  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 2005 - April 2007

Scenic Designer, *The Sound Of Music*, Byham Theatre  
Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2006

Resident Scenic Designer, Double M Enterprises, LLC  
Winston-Salem, NC Fall 2004 - Fall 2005

Scenic Designer, *Married...With Chekov!*, Cuyahoga Community College  
Cuyahoga Community College Theatre Department, Parma, OH June 2004

Scenic Designer, *Waiting for Godot*, Cuyahoga Community College  
Cuyahoga Community College Theatre Department, Parma, OH February 2004

### **Charge Artist**

*Chicago*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO Fall 2015

*The Wedding Singer*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO Fall 2014

*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, Citizen's Bank Theatre  
Penn State Centre Stage, University Park, PA Summer 2012

*How I Learned To Drive*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO Spring 2012

*Almost, Maine*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO Fall 2011

*Oklahoma!*, James L. Highlander Theatre  
UCM Department of Theatre & Dance, Warrensburg, MO Fall 2011

*Five Guys Named Moe*, Citizen's Bank Theatre  
Pennsylvania Centre Stage, University Park, PA Summer 2011

*Smokey Joe's Cafe*, Citizen's Bank Theatre  
Pennsylvania Centre Stage, University Park, PA Summer 2010

*The Beaux' Stratagem*, University Resident Theatre Company  
The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA Spring 2011

*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, University Resident Theatre Company  
The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA Fall 2010

*History Boys*, University Resident Theatre Company  
The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA Fall 2010

*Smokey Joe's Cafe*, Citizen's Bank Theatre  
Pennsylvania Centre Stage, University Park, PA Summer 2010

*School House Rock Live*, University Resident Theatre Company  
The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA Spring 2010

*Footloose*, Byham Theatre  
Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA Spring 2007

*Miss Saigon*, Byham Theatre  
Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA Spring 2006

### **Technical Direction/Supervision**

Technical Director, *The Taming of the Shrew*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO April 2016

Technical Director, *Chicago*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO October 2015

Technical Director, *Barefoot in the Park*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO November 2014

Technical Director, *The Wedding Signer*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO September 2014

Technical Director, *Julius Caesar*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO April 2014

Technical Director, *Kindertransport*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO February 2014

Technical Director, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Spinning Tree Theatre  
Kansas City, MO October 2012

Technical Director, *The Pirates of Penzance*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO Fall 2013

Technical Director, *Blue Window*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO Fall 2012

Paint Shop Supervisor, Penn State Centre Stage  
University Park, PA Summer 2012

Technical Director, *How I Learned To Drive*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO Spring 2012

Technical Director, *Almost, Maine*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO Fall 2011

Technical Director, *Oklahoma!*, University of Central Missouri  
Warrensburg, MO Fall 2011

Paint Shop Supervisor, Pennsylvania Centre Stage  
University Park, PA Summer 2011

Production Manager, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre  
Pittsburgh, PA Spring 2006 - Spring 2007

Technical Director, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre  
Pittsburgh, PA Fall 2005 - Spring 2007

Technical Director/Owner, Double M Enterprises, LLC  
Winston Salem, NC Fall 2004 - Fall 2005

Interim Technical Director, Cuyahoga Community College  
Parma, OH Fall 2003 - Fall 2004

Assistant Technical Director, Cuyahoga Community College  
Parma, OH Fall 2002 - Fall 2003

Master Carpenter, Shakespeare and Company  
Lenox, MA Summer 2002

Technical Director, Northern Stage Company  
White River Junction, VT Fall 2001 - Spring 2002

Technical Director, John Carroll University  
Cleveland Heights, OH Fall 1998 - Fall 2000

### **Related Theatre Experience**

Audio Visual Technician, Three Rivers Entertainment  
Pittsburgh, PA Spring 2007 - Fall 2008

Draftsman, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Prime Stage  
Pittsburgh, PA Spring 2007

Technical Consultant, The New Hazlett Theatre  
Pittsburgh, PA Spring 2007

Stagehand, De La Guarda  
Las Vegas, NV Fall 2000 - Spring 2001

Carpenter, Desert Entertainment  
Las Vegas, NV Fall 2000 - Spring 2001

Carpenter, Cleveland Opera  
Cleveland, OH Fall 1995 – 2001

Audio Technician, Cleveland Playhouse  
Cleveland, OH Winter 2000 - Spring 2001

Sound Engineer, Hanna Cabaret  
Cleveland, OH Fall 1997 - Spring 1998

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

"Behind the Curtain: Encouraging Careers in Theatre Technology and Design"  
Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri, 2014 Conference, Lake of the Ozarks, MO, September 2014

"Advanced Vectorworks Model Creation and Rendering for the Scene Designer."  
KCACTF Region 5, Festival 46, Lincoln, NE, January 2014

"The Lesson of the Three Dancing Sumo Wrestlers: An Investigation of Structure, Design, and Historical Research."  
Kansas State Thespians Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2014

"What the Heck is a NURB and Why Should I Care? Advanced Vectorworks Modeling for the Scene Designer."  
KCACTF Region 5 Festival 45, Lincoln, NE, January 2013

"The Lesson of the Three Dancing Sumo Wrestlers: An Investigation of Structure, Design, and Historical Research."  
Kansas State Thespians Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2013

"No Money? No Problem! Free and Inexpensive Software for the Young Designer."  
Kansas State Thespians Conference, Wichita, KS, January 2013

"The Lesson of the Three Dancing Sumo Wrestlers: An Investigation of Structure, Design, and Historical Research."  
Missouri State Thespians Conference, Missouri State University, January 2012

"Showcase of Current Collaborative Projects: Video Screening and Discussion"  
Symposium on Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity, The Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2010

"The Nature of Technical Direction"  
THEA 150, The Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2010

"The Role of the Scenic Designer and His/Her Process"  
THEA 150, The Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2010

"Love's Labor Lost: Balancing Graduate School and Family"  
USITT National Conference, Cincinnati, OH, Spring 2009

"You Can Do It!: Five Basic Scene Painting Techniques for High School Drama"  
Wadsworth High School Thespians, Wadsworth, OH, Spring 2008

"Sound Reinforcement for the Theatre"  
Cuyahoga Community College, Parma, OH, February 2004

## **UNIVERSITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

Moderator, Arts Panel, "Scholars Symposium and Creative Achievement Day"  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2015

Member, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Faculty Advising Committee  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2013-Present.

Chair, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology Curriculum Committee  
Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Central Missouri, Fall 2013–Spring 2014

Member, Faculty Senate Committee on Policies and Procedures  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2013-Present  
Advisor, UCM Players  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2013-Present

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Theatre & Dance  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2014

Member, Selection Committee for Meridith Harmon Sauer Distinguished Endowed Professorship  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2013

Member, Hendricks Hall Rejuvenation Committee  
University of Central Missouri, Fall 2013-Present

Member, Auditorium Safety Committee  
University of Central Missouri, Spring 2012-Present

Member, School of Theatre Student Advisory Council  
Pennsylvania State University

Member, Faculty Search Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
Cuyahoga Community College, Spring 2004

Member, Assistant Dean Search Committee, College of Liberal Arts  
Cuyahoga Community College, Fall 2003

## **GRANTS**

Central Technology Grant, University of Central Missouri, \$2500, Fall 2014

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

New Faculty Achievement Award  
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Central Missouri, April 2014

Award for Outstanding Scenic Design, *The Shape of Things*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2014

Golden Handtruck Award, *Blue Window*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2013

Award for Outstanding Artistic Collaboration, *How I Learned to Drive*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2013



Award for Design Collaboration, *The Tempest*  
American College Theatre Festival, Region V, January 2013

Creative Achievement Award  
College of Art & Architecture, Pennsylvania State University, April 2011

Anne Gibson Award for Professional Development in Theatre Design and Technology  
School of Theatre, Pennsylvania State University, April 2011

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)  
United States Institute of Technology (USITT)

### **RELATED SKILLS**

Vectorworks ®  
Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook,  
Power Point)  
Soundforge

Adobe Creative Suite  
Sony Vegas  
Q-Lab  
Mac and Windows OS proficient