

Yuri Okahana-Benson

Curriculum Vita

17302 Yukon Ave. #51, Torrance, CA 90504 | yuriokahana@gmail.com | 562.303.6923

EDUCATION

MFA	Scenic Design & Technical Theater, California State University, Long Beach, 2012
BA	Performing Arts, J.F. Oberlin University, Tokyo, Japan, 2009
Study Abroad	Theater Arts, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, 2006 - 2007
Internship	Theatre of Generation, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2009 and 2011

TEACHING & GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCY

Resident Artist & Adjunct Faculty, Design for Theater, Design for Performance, Westmont College, 2014-2022
Adjunct Faculty & Design Mentor, Scenic Design, California State University, Fullerton, 2021
Guest Speaker, Stagecraft, College of Southern Nevada, 2017
Guest Instructor, Intro to Scenic Painting, University of Southern California, 2017
Guest Speaker, Scenic Design, University of Southern California, 2016
Guest Artist, California State University, Long Beach, 2016
Guest Artist & Adjunct Faculty, StageCraft, Cypress College, Spring 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Westmont College. Scenic Designer for all main stage shows.

Provide complete scenic design package (including sketches, full color scale model, drafting, paint elevation, prop reference package etc) for the show and supervise the building and installing process at the scene shop and demonstrating and teaching students basic building and painting skills for both set and props.

Santa Barbara, CA Fall 2014 to 2022

Westmont College. Adjunct faculty, TA36 "Design for the Theater", TA137 "Design for Performance", senior projects mentor.

Teach both Theater major and non-Theater major students covering the basic of design process, sketching, model making, painting and design. As well as general exposure and understanding to art and theater. mentoring students with senior projects, student produced annual Fringe Festival, as well as portfolio development etc. Santa Barbara, CA Fall 2014 to 2022

California State University, Fullerton. Adjunct faculty and design mentor in Scenic Design. THTR578, THTR588.

Teaching graduate design seminar and production. Focusing on the practice of transforming abstract ideas to expressive physical visual form. Demonstrating practical methods to apply in creative processes. Mentoring an undergraduate student designer with one of the main stage productions of the semester. Fullerton, CA 2021

California State University Long Beach. Guest taught individual classes of visual expression.

Taught students on subjects such as design process, generating ideas for design, and material choices etc.
Long Beach, CA Spring 2015, Spring 2016

Cypress College, Scenic Designer for "Pride and Prejudice" and Adjunct Staff.

Provide complete scenic design package (including sketches, full color scale model, and drafting) for the show and supervise the

building and installing process at the scene shop. As well as teaching stagecraft lab.

Teach students how to use stationary and hand tools efficiently and safely in the shop through building sets. Also expose them to the design process and develop ongoing mentor-ship via both in class and outside of class such as tech and rehearsals. Served as a faculty supervisor for the performance of the show.

Cypress, CA Spring 2013

SELECTED CREDITS IN DESIGN :Theater

PROJECT	COMPANY	DIRECTOR	ROLE	
<i>PROOF</i>	Saddleback College	Marya Mazor	Scenic Design	2022
<i>COCKTAIL</i>	CSU, Northledge	Larry R Biederman	Scenic and Projection Design	2022
<i>A Doll's House, Part 2</i>	International City Theater	Trevor Bishop-Gillespie	Scenic Design	2022
<i>Carrie_The Musical</i>	Viterbo University	Teddy J Eck	Scenic Design	2022
<i>The Miser</i>	Westmont College	John Blondell	Scenic Design	2022
<i>#UNDERTHEINFLUENCE</i>	Santa Fe Playhouse	Jessica Hanna	Scenic Design	2021
<i>Pajama Game</i>	Viterbo University	Alex Mallory	Scenic Design	2021
<i>DELILAH</i> (ZOOM Production)	Pandora Production	Derek Lang	Original artwork design	2020
<i>In My Bones</i>	Pandora Production	Sonja Berggren	Scenic Design	Postponed
<i>DAISY</i>	International City Theater	caryn desai	Scenic Design	Postponed
<i>Marriage Contract / Gianni Schicchi</i>	New Vic Theater	John Blondell	Scenic Design	2020
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Joseph Haj	Assist. Scenic Design	2020
<i>FOUND</i>	IAMA	Moritz von Stuelpnagel	Assist. Scenic Design	2020
<i>PUNK PLAY</i>	Circle X	Matt Bretz and Lisa Sanae Dring	Assist. Scenic Design	2019
<i>Rashomon</i>	Kuro Productions/CAPS	Aramazd Stephanian	Scenic Design	2019
<i>Magic Flute</i>	New Vic Theater	John Blondell	Scenic Design	2019
<i>Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill</i>	International City Theater	Wren Brown	Scenic Design	2019
<i>Buried Child</i>	A Noise Within	Julia Rodriguez-Elliot	Assist. Scenic Design	2019
<i>The Price</i>	International City Theater	John Henry Davis	Scenic Design	2019
<i>INDECENT</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Shana Cooper	Assist. Scenic Design	2019
<i>Hughie/Krapp's Last Tape</i>	The Geffen Playhouse	Steven Robman	Assist. Scenic Design	2018
<i>DARKSIDE</i> (Remount)	The Garage Theater	Eric Hamme	Scenic Design	2018
<i>A Splintered Soul</i>	International City Theater	Marya Mazaor	Scenic Design	2018
<i>Victims of Duty</i>	A Red Orchid Theater Co.	Shira Piven	Assoc. Scenic Design	2018
<i>Jupiter Moon</i>	Pandora Production	Sonja Berggren	Scenic and Projection Design	2018
<i>Cardboard Piano</i> (West Coast Premier)	International City Theater	caryn desai	Scenic Design	2018
<i>The Flick</i>	College of Southern Nevada	Ann Marie Perez	Scenic Design	2018

<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>	South Coast Repertory	Mercy Vasquez	Scenic and Projection Design	2018
<i>Elliot, a soldier's fugue</i>	Kirk Douglas Theater	Shishir Kurup	Assist. Scenic Design	2018
<i>The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui</i>	Westmont College	Mitchell Thomas	Scenic and Projection Design	2017
<i>Richard 2</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Bill Rauch	Assist. Scenic Design	2016
<i>The Nether</i>	Woolly Mammoth Theater Co.	Shana Cooper	Assist. Scenic Design	2016
<i>RENT</i>	CSU, Long Beach	Joanne Gordon	Scenic Design	2016
<i>The UNFORTUNATES</i>	A.C.T.	Shana Cooper	Assist. Scenic Design	2016
<i>The Exit Interview</i>	Buzzwords Theater Company	Sirena Irwin	Scenic Design	2015
<i>The Lover</i>	Lit Moon Festival	Lauren White	Scenic Design	2015
<i>DARKSIDE</i> (World Premier)	The Garage Theater	Eric Hamme	Scenic Design	2015
<i>Revival</i>	Lucid Dramatics	Carla Neuss	Scenic Design	2015
<i>Pink Milk</i> (West Coast Premier)	The Garage Theater	Ashley Allen	Scenic Design	2014
<i>Noah & Jonah</i>	Four Clowns	David Bridel	Scenic and Props Design	2014

SELECTED CREDITS IN DESIGN :FILM / TELEVISION

PROJECT	COMPANY	DIRECTOR	ROLE	
<i>Western Avenue</i>	DeJong Film, LLC	Yoo Seok Jong	Production Design / Props	2022
<i>FATHER</i> (BOGART Short Festival Winner)	AFI	Hanna Vastinsalo	Production Design	2014
<i>ModelHome</i>	ModelHome, LLC	Patrick Cunningham	Set Dresser	2013
<i>2 Dead 2 Kill</i>	PIT BULLS AND SHOTGUNS LLC	Michael J. Hatch and Neil Kinsella	Set Dresser	2012
<i>SAKE-BOMB</i>	SAKE-BOMB FILM, LLC	Junya Sakino	Art. Dept.	2012

EXHIBITIONS & AWARDS

"The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui "

Broadway World: Regional Award Best Scenic Design Nominee (Santa Barbara Region) 2017

Design Showcase West at UCLA 2012

Design Showcase East in New York City 2012

USITT Stage Expo - Model Exhibit 2012

Design Exhibit at Theater of Generation, St.Petersburg, Russia 2009,2011

SKILLS

Model making, Soldering, Hand Drafting and Drawing, Scenic Painting, Props designing and fabrication, Sewing, Carpentry, AutoCAD drafting, Adobe Creative Software, Windows and Mac Platforms, Microsoft Office, QLab

Bilingual in Japanese and English, efficient in both Imperial and Metric System

SELECTED OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Panndora's Box New Play Festival. Design consultant and play selection committee member. Review over 200 new plays submitted to the festival. 2019, 2020

South Coast Repertory Theater. Scenic Artist (overhire). Working in a fast paced scenic shop. Understanding the renderings and/or model pieces given by the designer and executing the paint treatment with full-time staff.

South Coast Repertory Theater. Custom Model Maker for the production of "The Monster Builder". Working from the designer's initial sketch to create a fully colored scale model to be used as a prop on stage. 2017

"Tales of Three Cities". Scenographer. Interdisciplinary theatrical design workshop. Berlin, Germany. 2015

Pomona College. Scenic charge for a production of "Stand & Deliver" Working with student painters. 2013

Commercial Photo shoot. "Comic Genius: Portraits of Funny People" , Matt Hoyle Photography, Set Dresser 2012

German-Japanese Theater for Children. Produced as part of the 150th Anniversary of Friendship between Germany and Japan. Provided scenic design for small tour productions of "And The Red Monster Cried" and "The Valiant Little Tailor". As well as coordinated with the Japanese side of venues. 2011

Birmingham Royal Ballet Japan Tour. On deck translator/stagehand. Worked on tech rehearsals and performances in Tokyo to serve as on deck translator for the Japanese technicians. 2008

REFERENCE

Mitchell Thomas

Director, Actor

Chair, Theater Arts Dept.

Westmont College

Phone: 805.565.6187

Email: thomas@westmont.edu

Sibyl Wickersheimer

Scenic Designer

Associate Professor of Scenic Design

The School of Dramatic Arts, University of Southern California

Phone: 310.927.3277 (cell)

Email: sawicker@usc.edu

Danila Korogodsky

Scenographer

Artistic Director, Theater of Generation

Phone: 562.290.7896 (cell)

Email: dkorogod@icloud.com

caryn Desai

Artistic Director/Producer

International City Theater

Phone: 562.495.4595

Email: caryn@ictlongbeach.org

