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# DECLAN RANDALL

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## Objective

- To continue to develop the art and craft of lighting and stage design through on-going production design and collaborations with other fellow theatre makers.
- To establish as one of the top lighting, set and projection designers in the UK as well as internationally.
- To be able to contribute to the development and training of the next generation of theatre practitioners through the sharing of knowledge and experiences. To nurture talent and help to shape the future creative and technical careers of students so that they may go on to have wonderfully successful careers. Passing on my knowledge and experience is one of the ways that I feel allows me to give something back to the industry and profession that has been very kind to me.

## Education

### **BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY | 2000 | TSWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

- Major: Lighting Design
- Minor: Arts Administration
- Related coursework: Lighting Design and production electrics, stage management, production management, personnel management, marketing.

### **NATIONAL DIPLOMA | 1994 | TSWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

- Major: Stage Technology (Lighting and Sound)
- Minor: Stage Management, Décor construction, Scenic Arts, Costume Construction, Props, Theatre history
- Related coursework: Lighting and Sound (theory and practice), Make-up (theory and practice), Stage Management (theory and practice), Scenic Arts and Realisation (theory and practice), Props and Stage Craft (theory and practice)

## Skills & Abilities

### **DESIGN**

- I have over 21 years of professional design experience. Whilst primarily a lighting designer, I have a number of set- and projection design credits to my name. At the start of my career, I was employed as a production electrician at the Jo'burg Theatre before moving on to join the Market Theatre in Johannesburg as Head of Lighting where I also became Resident Lighting Designer.
- Upon leaving the Market Theatre I began my freelance design career where I have been fortunate enough to have designed lighting, set and projection internationally, including on Broadway and London's West End, totaling to more than 400 design credits.
- In addition to my theatre and work in live entertainment, I have also worked extensively in architecture, lighting a number of hotels, shopping centers, retail outlets, museums and themed attractions.

- I have also done work in film and television lighting.
- My work in theatre and live entertainment covers all genres of the performing arts including drama, dance, opera, musicals, site-specific works, corporate events and music videos.

## **MANAGEMENT**

- Owned and managed a small design studio in Johannesburg, South Africa, called CONGO BLUE DESIGN. The practice designed lighting and technical solutions for theatre and architecture and was built up over a ten year period to include a staff of two additional members as well as being the ROSCO distributor for South Africa. As owner and manager, I was responsible for budgets, staffing, day to day operations as well as overseeing the design and projects managed by the other team members. I also actively designed and project managed several projects on which I was principle designer.
- Over the years I have also worked as a Production Manager and Technical Director overseeing a wide range of projects from small- to large-scale events. For a number of years I served as Technical Director for the Dance Umbrella in Johannesburg where I was responsible for all technical aspects of the festival including managing budgets, staff, venues as well as local and visiting companies.

## **TEACHING**

- Part-time teaching at a number of different institutions around the United Kingdom including: Rose Bruford College (Creative Lighting Control), Guildford School of Acting (Production Technical Arts), Westherts College (Production Arts), Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Lighting Design), University of South Wales (Lighting Design)
- Visiting Designer at a number of different tertiary institutions around the United Kingdom. In this role, I act as designer for the given production but also act as a mentor for those students allocated to the production in their various show roles.
- Created the lighting syllabus and served as a consultant for the creation of the lighting design course for a new tertiary institution in South Africa IPAA (Institute for Performing and Applied Arts)
- Created and hosted SLMC (Stage Lighting Master Class). After winning a scholarship to attend BLMC in New York, I realized that there was a need for theatre skills training in South Africa. I created SLMC as a 2-day masterclass covering the basic aspects of stage lighting design. At the time, this was the only course of its kind on the country and one of two in the world. SLMC Was first held in 2001 and then again in 2004, 2007 and 2012. Across the four events SLMC had over 400 attendees. All the course material was created by myself and the event was devised, planned, marketed and executed by myself.
- As a follow up to the success of SLMC, I published my first book entitled "Stage Lighting Design – Making the Light Fantastic" which was published in 2007

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Excellent presentation skills – confident and comfortable talking in front of groups of people
- English (first language) – excellent in spoken and written word
- Afrikaans (second language) – very good in spoken and written word
- Dutch (third language) – average in spoken word
- Proficient in the following software packages: AutoCAD, SketchUp, CorelDraw, PhotoShop, LightRoom, MS Office
- General computer literacy is good

## **OTHER ROLES AND INTERESTS**

- Member of the Executive Committee of the ALD (Association of Lighting Designers)
- Professional Member of the SBTB (Society of British Theatre Designers)
- Hobbies include: Photography, Restoration of vintage film projectors, Graphic design and Website design

## **Experience**

### **PRODUCTION DESIGNER | VARIOUS (FREELANCE) | FROM 2009 - PRESENT**

- A number of productions where I served as Set, Lighting and Projection Designer. The above dates are based on my relocation to the United Kingdom from South Africa in 2009

### **LIGHTING DESIGNER | VARIOUS (FREELANCE) | FROM 2009 - PRESENT**

- Numerous productions ranging from theatre and dance to opera and musicals. The above dates are based on my relocation to the United Kingdom from South Africa in 2009.

### **VISITING TUTOR | ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE | FROM 2011 - PRESENT**

- As visiting tutor from the CLC (Creative Lighting Control) course I presented lectures in lighting design and lighting control.
- I also acted as mentor for various productions assisting the lighting design, production electrics and production management students

### **CONSOLE TRAINER | ELECTRONIC THEATRE CONTROLS (ETC) | FROM 2010 - PRESENT**

- One of ETC's certified console trainers for the EOS range of consoles.
- Also offer console support on behalf of ETC at Edinburgh Festival
- One of ETC's certified console trainers for the SmartFade and ColorSource console range

### **FREELANCE LIGHTING, SET AND PROJECTION DESIGNER | FROM 2000 - 2009**

- Numerous freelance contracts as a freelance designer in South Africa and internationally
- Preferred designer for Barnyard Theatre Group, State Theatre Dance Company, OperaAfrica and Vuyani Dance Theatre
- Numerous architectural lighting design projects including luxury hotels and resorts in Mauritius and Seychelles, museums and themed attractions.

### **HEAD OF LIGHTING & RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER | FROM 1997 - 2000**

- Joined the Market Theatre in Johannesburg as Senior Lighting Technician where I developed and extended the lighting department implementing new systems and overseeing the upgrade of the lighting equipment across three venues.
- Worked up to becoming Head of Lighting
- Carried out a number of designs across three venues becoming the Resident Lighting Designer for the Market Theatre

### **LIGHTING TECHNICIAN AND PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN | FROM 1994 - 1997**

- Joined the Jo'burg Theatre (then Johannesburg Civic Theatre) as a lighting technician working on a variety of productions across all 5 venues within the theatre complex.

For a full list of Production Credits, please download the relevant document from my website.

