

BEN STARK, ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Technical Design and Production, Yale School of Drama

B.A., Theatre and English [Creative Non-Fiction], The University of Iowa

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEADERSHIP IMPACT

Assistant Dean for Infrastructure and Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Kansas State University

Associate Director, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, Kansas State University (KSU) 2014 -Present

Technical and Managing Director, Asst./Assoc./Professor, Theatre, KSU 2009 -Present

Assistant Professor: 2009-2014

Associate Professor: 2014-2022

Full Professor: 2022

I am grateful to impact and affect the students, faculty, campus, and community in the following ways:

Facilities Management, Renovation, and Programming

- Developing Programming for an Interdisciplinary Arts Building (IAB) with the departments of Art and Music, Theatre, and Dance (MTD). Project will pursue \$100 million in grant and foundation philanthropy to serve as a gateway to campus.
- Re-located and consolidated 50,000 s.f. of campus space to save nearly \$250,000 each year
- Prioritize and coordinate over \$200,000 in state renovation and repair funding for the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Coordinate and schedule approximately 300 events per academic year between MTD and outside rentals
- Solicited, Planned, supervised, and maintain a \$1 million renovation to 250-seat theatre
- Planned, supervised, and maintain renovation to historic campus building totalling nearly \$9.5 million.
- Developed, implemented, and maintained a training program for House Managers focused on audience safety.
- Solicited, negotiated, and implemented a MTD box office system providing greater accessibility, saving the units over \$30,000 in one year alone; the resulting program remains financially independent from the College.

Curriculum Innovation, Maintenance, and Student Development

- Led the development, re-alignment, and communication of a stream-lined theatre program curriculum focused on flexibility, opportunity, diversity, and interdisciplinary.
- Created new courses that align with College-level funding providing over \$15,000 in travel support.
- Initiated and coordinated flipped-classroom delivery to production-related courses to allow for greater student immersion and understanding in how theatre skills translate to life-skills.
- Developed a hands-on training program for technical students to work professionally Off-Broadway.
- Led areas of NAST Accreditation related to production and finances.
- Supervised the creation of Social Transformation Studies; School of Media and Communication

Budget and Finance

- Manage Theatre program budget of \$100,000 per year including materials, labor, marketing, and tickets sales. In 10 years, I have been consistently within 1% of estimated and actual expenses.
- Manage and distribute nearly \$5 million in student fees to the College of Arts and Sciences each year.
- Collaborate, develop and prioritize over \$100,000 in classroom supply and student labor funding each year.
- Developed and managed student research funding programs totalling over \$100,000.
- Represent the Arts and Sciences on the College-level budget model working group to revise an RCM practices.

Friend, Fundraising, and Development

- Produced four events with University Foundation, raising over \$100 million for University goals and naming opportunities.
- Created and implemented engagement activities to solicit \$1.2 million in private donations for facilities renovations.
- Developed audience engagement activities to raise thousands of dollars per year for program scholarships.
- Created consistent, yet flexible, marketing plan for production; pre-pandemic grew audiences by 20%.
- Managed \$100,000 in Foundation endowment.

Recruitment, Retention, and Strategic Initiatives

- Developing programs focused on student well-being in the arts.
- Created focused recruitment materials showcasing program strengths and identity
- Incentivized production participation through research grants - offering nearly \$10,000 per year
- Identified trends in engagement and participation to align with existing resources. Post-pandemic this is was essential to re-connect with patrons and students.
- Led Music, Theatre, and Dance through three different strategic planning initiatives to align the with University priorities.

SELECTED ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

- Principal Advisor, Student Directing Program Proposals for Theatre Fall 2023-Present
- Project Lead, Revised Production Model for Theatre Program Fall 2023-Present
- Chair, College Safety Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Fall 2020-Present
- Committee Leader, School Committee on Planning: Fall 2013-Present
 - Update and Integrate NTT Promotion (2022-23)
 - Refining Strategic Plan (2019-20)
 - [Chair] Administrative Realignment (2018-19)
 - [Co-Chair] Creating Strategic Plan (2014-15)
 - [Co-Author] Unified Standards for Evaluation, Promotion and Tenure (2013-14)
- Managing and Marketing Director, Theatre Program, College of Arts and Sciences Fall 2014-Present
- Advisor, Theatre Program Curriculum Revision, College of Arts and Sciences Fall 2014-Present
- Chair, College Committee on Planning, College of Arts and Sciences Fall 2020-2023
- Advisor; Consent, Intimacy, and Communication Pathways, Theatre Program Fall 2022-23
- Vice President of Programming for Heart of America Regional Chapter, USITT Spring 2010-2018
- Theatre Program Safety and Compliance Officer Fall 2009-2018
- Chair; Design, Technology, and Management; Region V, KCACTF Spring 2014-2018
- Regional Selection Committee, Region V, KCACTF Spring 2012-2018
- Merit Salary Evaluation Committee, Kansas State University Spring 2015, 2017, 2021, 2022
- Assessment Coordinator, Theatre Program, Kansas State University Spring 2013-2016
- Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate Representative, Committee on Technology Fall 2012-Spring 2016
- Nominated Participant, Coffman Leadership Institute Spring 2014
- Kansas State University Honor Council Fall 2011-2014
- Chair, Panel Presentation, *Budgeting and Material Tracking*, National USITT Spring 2014

SELECTED INTERDEPARTMENTAL/COLLEGE COLLABORATIONS AND OUTREACH

- Program Developer, *Interdisciplinary Arts Building [new building] for Art and MTD* Fall 2023- Present
- Lead, *Geology Program Facility Move and Integration* Fall 2023- Present
- Advisor, *Ebony Theatre [Diversity and Equity-Centered Theatre] Student Group* Fall 2020- Present
- Television Newsroom Set, *A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Comm.* 2015, 2020, 2021
- KStateHD Television Studio at Bill Snyder Family Stadium with Andy Liebsch, *Athletics* Fall 2017, 2019
- Advisor, *Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth* Spring 2019
- Seaton Remodel Furnishings with Richard Thompson, *Architecture, Planning, and Design* Summer 2017
- TEDx MHK, *Union Program Council; Communication and Marketing* Spring 2015, 2017
- Facility Program Development with LaBarbara Wingfall, *Architecture, Planning and Design* Spring 2017
- Green Roof Design with Lee Skabelund, *Architecture, Planning, and Design* Spring 2017
- Space Migration, *Communication Studies, College of Arts and Sciences* Spring 2016
- Foundation Fundraising Event with Jennifer Rettele-Thomas, *KSU Foundation* Spring 2016
- Thesis Art Exhibits; Myra Holt, Allison Garrett, *Art, College of Arts and Sciences* Spring 2016
- Thesis Committee for Allison Garrett (graduate student), *Art, College of Arts and Sciences* Spring 2015

PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Engineer , Hudson Scenic Inc., Yonkers, NY Technical design, draft, and advise on professional projects. Projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Notebook, The Musical</i> (Broadway, Spring 2024)• <i>The WIZ</i> (National Tour, Broadway 2024)• <i>Sweeney Todd</i> (Broadway, Spring 2023) - Winner of two Tony Awards• <i>The Devil Wears Prada, The Musical</i> (Chicago, Nederlander Theatre, Fall 2022)• <i>Florence and The Machine on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon</i>, May 2022• <i>Swan Lake</i> for Miami City Ballet• <i>The Drew Barrymore Show</i> on CBS	Summer 2021- Present
Technical Designer , Blackwalnut, Valley Cottage, NY Technically design, draft, and advise on professional projects. Projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Broadcast Studio, Rockefeller Foundation, NYC</i>• <i>NBA on TNT</i>, Television Studio set featuring Shaquille O'Neal and Charles Barkley• <i>WRC4 - NBC News, Washington D.C.</i> - Newstudio set	Summer 2022- Present
Draftsman , Downsart Inc., Wichita, KS Assist in scenic drawing and layouts for a variety of projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>American Rodeo Western Weekend</i>, Globe Life Field, Arlington, TX	Spring 2023 - Present
Technical Consultant , <i>Spain</i> , SecondStage Theatre (Off-Broadway), New York, NY Consulted with the production team to solve logistical and technical challenges related to a commissioned play by Jen Silverman, directed by Tyne Rafaeli.	Fall 2023
Technical Designer , Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Center Valley, PA Assisted the technical staff in preparing drawings for city engineering approval for a temporary outdoor performance venue.	Summer 2021
Engineer and Estimator , <i>Repping Globe</i> , Nebraska Shakespeare, Omaha, NE Engineered, specified, and provided labor and material estimates for a reusable stage and set to replicate Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Project was unrealized due to COVID.	Summer 2020
Technical Director , <i>Wolf Play</i> , SoHo Rep (Off-Broadway), New York, NY Incorporated KSU students into the install crew for this creative production. After completion of the install, the tech process was cut short by COVID.	Spring 2020
Lighting Installation , <i>Eisenhower Presidential Museum</i> , Abilene, KS Worked with EOS lighting to install and troubleshoot fixtures for museum exhibits.	Summer 2019
Technical and Scenic Facilitator , Manhattan Parks and Recreation Theatre Academy Worked with students from first grade to high school to create projects that served the overall scenic needs of <i>How to Eat Like a Child</i> as well as provide individual recognition.	Summer 2019
Technical Designer , Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival Assisted in the install of <i>Crazy for You</i> and technically designed and drafted shows in rotating repertory - <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> ; <i>Private Lives</i> . Designed by Roman Tatarowicz.	Summer 2019
Draftsman , <i>Lil' Abner</i> , Orlando Rep Detailed final scenic drafting and recommended construction methods for scenic designer Joe C. Klug.	Spring 2019
Technical Director , <i>Passage</i> , SoHo Rep (Off-Broadway), New York, NY Recommended construction methods to commercial scene shop. Supervised scenery installation including a manual turntable and practical LED effects.	Spring 2019
Technical Director/Production Manager , Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute Coordinated and Scheduled events in the Performing Arts Center. In addition, creatively collaborated with Film, Video, Photography, Dance, and numerous music artists to present their work during this intensive camp with professional faculty from across the country.	Summer 2018

PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE ACTIVITY CONTINUED

Scenic Designer/Technical Director , Manhattan Parks and Recreation This in-depth collaboration built relationships and familiarity with the Parks and Rec program and the needs of the community related to arts participation and youth programming. Shows included <i>Disney's Beauty and The Beast</i> , <i>Seussical</i> , and <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> .	Summer 2017, 2018
Technical Director , State of Kansas Division of Children and Families Collaborated with a diverse clientele to understand their various needs and translate those into reality.	Summer 2016
Draftsman , <i>Billy Elliot</i> , Music Theatre Wichita Drafted and plated mobile units for production. Planned for efficiency and clear communication.	Summer 2015
Technical Director , Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival Supervised the scenic budgeting, planning, fabrication, and install of six shows each season working with professional crew and carpenters..	Summers 2010-2012, 2014-15
Draftsman , <i>Project: Winnfield</i> , Microsoft Inc. Drafted and plated immersive scenic designs for DownsArt, Inc. for Microsoft new product launch.	Winter 2014
Draftsman , <i>Product Launch</i> , Lenovo Computers Created virtual 3d environment of a PNC Arena in Raleigh, NC for client presentation.	Winter 2014
Technical Director , Nebraska Shakespeare Festival Budgeted, engineered, and supervised a crew of eight to produce a 2500 sq. ft. outdoor deck and scenic units for <i>Twelfth Night</i> and <i>Titus Andronicus</i> . Scenery rose to over 35' tall and included a manual trap door and 25' tall repping tree.	Summer 2013
Installation Supervisor , <i>La Traviata</i> , New York City Opera Collaborated with New York City Opera to mount <i>La Traviata</i> at the Brooklyn Academy of Music with Local 4 (2012).	Spring 2012
Installation Supervisor , <i>La Traviata</i> , Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, BC, CA Supervised the scenic install, estimated rigging weight loads, and became familiar with international technical production methods and tools.	Spring 2011
Project Manager , Mystic Scenic Studios, Norwood, MA	2007 - 2009
Technical Director , Wolf Trap Opera Company, Vienna, VA	Summer 2006
Production Supervisor , <i>The Elixir of Love</i> , Opera of Yale College, New Haven, CT	Spring 2006
Technical Director , <i>Lulu</i> , Yale Repertory Theatre	Spring 2007
Assistant Properties Master , <i>The Mistakes Madeline Made</i> , Yale Repertory Theatre	Fall 2006
Associate Production Supervisor , Yale School of Drama/Repertory Theatre	Winter 2005/2006
Properties Supervisor , <i>Hedda Gabler</i> , Yale School of Drama	Spring 2005
Character Effects Coordinator , <i>Safe in Hell</i> , Yale Repertory Theatre	Fall 2005
Assistant Properties Master , <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> , Yale Repertory Theatre	Fall 2005
Assistant Technical Director , <i>The Ladies of the Camellias</i> , Yale Repertory Theatre	Winter 2004
Assistant Technical Director , Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, Winchester, VA	Summer 2004, 2005
Scenic Charge , Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, Winchester, VA	Summer 2003
Master Electrician , <i>The Clean House</i> , Yale Repertory Theatre	Fall 2004

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICE

- Member/Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Safety Committee Fall 2020-Present
- Safety Officer, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance Fall 2009-Present
- Member/ Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Planning Fall 2020-2023
- Presenter, *Facilities Serving New Initiatives in the Performing Arts*, USITT National Spring 2019
- Technology Coordinator for Theatre Program Spring 2016-2018
- Box Office Coordinator Fall 2015-2018
- Workshop Presenter, “Are We Failing Our Audiences, Or Are Our Audiences Failing Us? A workshop on Audience Development,” KCACTF Spokane, Washington Spring 2018
- Workshop Presenter, “What’s the Big Idea? Geometric Layout for Designers, and Technicians” KCACTF, Spokane Washington Spring 2018
- Recruiting Infographic Designer and Collaborator Spring 2015-2016
- Designer and Fabricator, Recruiting Display, Thespian Conference Spring 2014
- Workshop Presenter, “Why Sets Don’t Fall Down” Thespian Conference Spring 2014
- Participant, Theatre Core Outcomes Meeting - Drama Participation, Manhattan, KS Fall 2013
- Conference Organizer, Heart of America Chapter of USITT, Wichita, KS Fall 2012
- Rigging Consultant, *How to Succeed in Business...*, Manhattan High School Fall 2012
- Judge, Kansas State Research Forum Oral Session Spring 2012
- Workshop Presenter, “Who Came Up with That Idea? The History and Refinement of Common Building Materials.” KCACTF, Ames, IA. Spring 2011
- Workshop Presenter, “FOR Profit Theatre: Commercial Production Materials and Methods.” KCACTF, Ames, IA. Spring 2011
- Workshop Presenter, “Knots, Bends, Hitches, and Splices 101.” KCACTF, Ames, IA. Spring 2011
- Workshop Attendee, OSHA Applications and Updates. Topeka, KS. Spring 2011
- Load In/ Load Out Response Coordinator, KCACTF, Overland Park, KS; Ames, IA Spring 2010, 2011
- Participant, Theatre Core Outcomes Meeting - Drama Participation, Lawrence, KS Fall 2010
- Special Effects Designer, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, Manhattan High School Fall 2010
- Participant, USITT and ESTA Foundation Theatrical Electricity Workshop I & II, Heart of America Regional Section of United States Institute of Theatre Technology, Lawrence, KS Fall 2009
- Conference Attendee, Heart of America Regional Chapter USITT, Kansas City, KS Winter 2009
- Conference Attendee, Kansas Thespian Conference, Wichita, KS Winter 2009
- Judge (One Acts), Walter Trumbauer Secondary Theatre Festival, Alabama Conference of Theatre, Troy, AL Fall 2009
- Participant, Theatre Core Outcomes Meeting - Technical Production, Wichita, KS Fall 2009
- Co-Workshop Presenter, “Creating Stage Props from Found Objects.” Kansas Thespian Conference, Wichita, KS Winter 2009

AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP/ FUNDED PROJECTS

– Space Migration - Nichols 122 Upgrades, \$1,300	Fall 2017
– Lobby Renovation - Purple Masque Theatre, West Memorial Stadium, \$200,000	Fall 2016
– Box Office Start-Up Equipment, Dean’s Soft Money, \$15,000	Fall 2016
– Adobe Software Upgrades - Computer Lab, Student Credit Hour Fee \$1,260	Fall 2016
– Classroom Furnishings, Student Credit Hour Fee, \$7,500	Fall 2016
– Chapman Theatre Renovation, Private Donation, \$500,000	Fall 2015
– New Purple Masque Smart Classroom Upgrades, Student Credit Hour Fee, \$12,000	Fall 2015
– New Shop Garage Door, Facilities Surplus, \$6,000	Fall 2015
– New Theatre AV System, Large Equipment Fund, \$273,000	Spring 2015
– Sound System Upgrade, Chapman Theatre, Private Donation, \$350,000	Spring 2015
– Camera Equipment, University Small Research Grant, \$1,800	Spring 2014
– Furniture Research - Tools and Materials, KSU Academic Excellence, \$5,000	Spring 2014
– Scene Shop Safety Improvements, Large Equipment Purchase, \$20,923	Spring 2013
– New Computers for AutoCAD in Nichols Hall 301, KSU Academic Excellence, \$10,000	Spring 2013
– Rigging Certification Funding, KSU Academic Excellence, \$350	Spring 2013
– SawStop Table Saw, KSU Academic Excellence, \$5000	Spring 2012
– Creation of a Production Database, KSU Academic Excellence, \$4500	Fall 2012
– Improve Dust Collection in KSU Scene Shop, KSU Academic Excellence, \$5000	Fall 2012
– Rigging Safety Certification Funding (Theatre), KSU Academic Excellence, \$1000	Fall 2011

UNAWARDED SCHOLARSHIP/PROJECTS

– Start-up Funding to create a Theatre-run box office, KSU Academic Excellence, \$5,000	Fall 2015
– Research Support, <i>Prop Furniture for the Stage</i> , USITT Fellowship, \$8,810	Spring 2015
– Research Support, <i>Prop Furniture for the Stage</i> , Howard Fellowship at Brown, \$30,000	Spring 2014
– New Shop Truck, KSU Academic Excellence, \$10,000	Spring 2014
– Chain Motor Package, KSU Academic Excellence, \$4000	Spring 2014
– Chain Motor Package, KSU Academic Excellence, \$4000	Spring 2012
– Guest Artist Travel, KSU Academic Excellence, \$8000	Spring 2012
– Supplemental Travel Funding to National USITT, KSU Academic Excellence, \$1000	Fall 2012

HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS

– Book Manuscript: <i>A Practical Guide in Designing and Constructing Furniture for the Stage</i>	In Process
– KCACTF Road Warrior, Region V	Spring 2019
–“Large-Scale Crackle Paint Effect.” <i>Technical Brief</i> 27:1:1419 (October 2008)	
– Recipient, The Allen M. and Hildred L. Harvey Prize for superior writing in <i>Technical Brief</i> and/or the best Technical Design and Production research thesis	Spring 2007
– Associate Editor, <i>Technical Brief</i> 25:1:1395-1398 (October 2006)	
–“An Affordable Gold Leaf Finish.” <i>Technical Brief</i> 24:2:1390 (January 2006)	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Instructor, *Fund. of Technical Production*, THTRE 368, Kansas State University Fall 2009-Present
- Instructor, *Technical Direction and Design*, THTRE 711, Kansas State University Fall 2010-Present
- Instructor, *AutoCAD for Theatre*, THTRE 711, Kansas State University Spring 2010-Present
- Instructor, *Advanced Technical Production*, THTRE 569, Kansas State University Spring 2011-Present
- Instructor, *Advanced AutoCAD for Theatre*, THTRE 711, Kansas State University Spring 2012-Present
- Instructor, *Fundamentals of Management*, THTRE 366, Kansas State University Spring 2019-Present
- Instructor, *Senior Seminar*, THTRE 599, Kansas State University Fall 2018-Present
- Instructor, *Run / Wardrobe Crew*, THTRE 211/212, Kansas State University Fall 2015-2019; 2020-Present
- Instructor, *Period Furniture Design*, THTRE 630, Kansas State University Fall 2018
- Participant, Faculty Exchange for Teaching Excellence at Kansas State University, *Generation Me* Spring 2016
- Instructor, *Drama Participation*, THTRE 211, Kansas State University Fall 2009-2015
- Instructor, *Shop Math*, THTRE 711, Kansas State University Fall 2015
- Participant, Faculty Exchange for Teaching Excellence at Kansas State University, *Understanding Motivations for Culturally Responsive Teaching* Fall 2015
- Nominated Participant, Coffman Leadership Institute Spring 2014
- Instructor, *Concepts of Theatre Production*, THTRE 162, Kansas State University Fall 2013-2014
- Participant, Peer Review of Teaching Program, Kansas State University Spring 2012
- Co-Instructor, *Prop Design and Management*, THTRE 711, Kansas State University Fall 2011
- Attendee, Teaching, Learning, and Technology Showcase Spring 2011
- Attendee, New Faculty Institute Workshop on Teaching Spring 2010
- Attendee, *Facebook in the Classroom*, Presented by Natalie Pennington, FETE Fall 2010
- Attendee, *The Physics of Theatre Project*, USITT Pre-Conference Workshop Fall 2010
- Class Assistant, Technical Design, Yale School of Drama Spring 2007
- Class Assistant, Structural Design for the Stage, Yale School of Drama Fall 2005-Spring 2006