

# Yuri Okahana-Benson

## Curriculum Vita

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### EDUCATION

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

### TEACHING & GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCY

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Special Faculty, Scene Design 1 and 2, Intro to Model Making, Intro to Drafting, California Institute of the Arts, 2022-present  
Guest Artist, Long Beach City College, Spring 2024  
Guest Artist, University of Southern California, 2023  
Guest Artist, Saddleback College, Spring 2022, Fall & Spring 2023, Spring 2024  
Guest Artist, California State University, Fullerton, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023  
Adjunct faculty, Intro to Stage Craft, Stage Craft Lab, Intermediate Stagecraft and Scenic Design, California State University Northridge, Fall 2022  
Guest Artist, California State University Northledge, 2022  
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 (Scenic Painting Concentrated), Cypress College, Spring 2013

### TEACHING / MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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#### Fall 2022 - Present

California Institute of the Arts. Special Faculty. School of Theater. TSCE-110B "Intro to Drafting", TSCE-110A "Intro to Model Making", TSCE-200A "Scene Design", TSCE-201 "Scenic Design 1". Working with the Experience Design and Production BFA program. Teaching scenic design students as well as themed entertainment, fine art students the fundamentals of the design process, trade specific skills to help articulate their conceptual ideas to reality. As well as enhancing their understanding of the realistic production timeline for projects and each different job roles involved and responsibilities. Valencia, CA

### **Spring 2024**

Saddleback College. Guest Artist and a mentor. Provided a complete scenic design package for the production of “*She Kills Monsters*”. Including concept research package, design sketches, full color scale model, paint elevations, design drafting package etc). Collaborating with the director, other designers and the staff members as well as students workers throughout the production process. Mentoring student assistants who were assigned to each show by the department and teaching them the design process and managing the workflow. Laguna Niguel, CA

### **Fall and Spring 2023**

University of Southern California. Guest Artist and a mentor for 2 main stage theatrical productions; “*The Belle's Stratagem*” and “*The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*”. Provide a complete scenic design package (including concept research package, design sketches, full color scale model, paint elevations, design drafting package etc). Collaborating with the director, other designers and the staff members as well as students workers throughout the production process. Mentoring student assistants who were assigned to each show by the department and teaching them the design process and managing the workflow. Los Angeles, CA

### **Fall 2022 - Spring 2023**

California State University, Fullerton. Guest Artist for 2 main stage musical productions; “*Merrily We Roll Along*” and “*DOG FIGHT*”. Provide a complete scenic design package (including sketches, full color scale model, drafting, paint elevation, prop reference package etc) for the shows. Collaborating with the director, other designers and the department throughout the process by attending meetings, tech rehearsal etc. Mentoring student assistants who were assigned to each show and teaching them the design process and managing the work. Fullerton, CA

### **Fall 2022**

California State University, Northledge. Adjunct faculty, TH 261 “Intro to Stage Craft”, TH261-P “StageCraft Lab / Production Participation”, TH 361 “Intermediate Scene Design and technology”. Teach both Theater Arts major and minor students covering the basics of stagecraft, scenic painting, terminology in technical theater practice, scenic design process, sketching, model making, painting and design. As well as general exposure and understanding to art and theater. Northledge, CA

### **Fall and Spring 2022**

California State University, Northledge. Guest Artist for 2 main stage productions. Provide a 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 installation process at the scene shop and demonstrate and teach students basic building and painting skills for both set and props. Northledge, CA

### **Fall 2014 to 2022**

Westmont College. Scenic Designer for all main stage shows.

Provide a 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 installation process at the scene shop and demonstrate and teach 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

### **Spring 2021**

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

### **Spring 2015, Spring 2016**

California State University Long Beach. Served as a substitute instructor for a couple of individual sessions of visual expression course. Taught students on subjects such as design process, generating ideas for design, and material choices etc. Long Beach, CA

### **Spring 2013**

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

Provide a 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 a 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

## **SELECTED CREDITS IN DESIGN :Theater**

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### **Currently in Production Process**

<i>Kaiser von Atlantis</i>	New World Symphony	Yuval Sharon	Scenic & Puppet Design
<i>Hedwig and the Angry Inch</i>	The Garage Theater	Eric Hamme	Scenic Design
<i>Psycho Beach Party</i>	HorseChart Theater	Tom DeTris	Scenic Design
		Ryan Bergman	

### **2024**

<i>Spring Dance Concert</i>	Long Beach City College	LBCC Dance Dept.	Scenic Design & Props
<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Saddleback College	Robert Prior	Scenic Design & Original Drawings

### **2023**

<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Greenbrier Valley Theater	Matthew Campbell	Scenic Design
<i>Carrie, the musical</i>	Saddleback College	Andrew Palermo	Scenic Design
<i>The Last Days of</i>	USC	Natsuko Ohama	Scenic Design
<i>Judas Iscariot</i>		David Warshofsky	
<i>Thom Pain</i>	The Garage Theater	Matt Anderson	Scenic Design
<i>HUNGRY GHOST</i>	Skylight Theater	Jessica Hannah	Scenic Design
<i>Exit Wounds</i>	International City Theater	caryn desai	Scenic Design
<i>Curious Incident of</i>	Saddleback College	Marya Mazor	Scenic Design & Original Drawings
<i>a Dog in the Night Time</i>			
<i>DOGFIGHT</i>	CSU, Fullerton	Josh Grisetti	Scenic Design
<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Costa Mesa Playhouse	Katie Chidester	Scenic Design

**2022**

<i>SMILE</i>	IAMA	Michelle Bossy	Scenic Design
<i>The Drowning Girls</i>	The Garage Theater	Eric Hamme	Scenic Design
<i>The Hatmaker</i>	CSU, Northledge	Larry R Biederman	Scenic Design
<i>The Valley Song</i>	International City Theater	caryn desai	Scenic Design
<i>SWEAT</i>	CSU, Northledge	Shanna Beauchamp	Scenic Design
<i>Merrily We Roll Along</i>	CSU, Fullerton	Mark Ramont	Scenic Design
<i>PROOF</i>	Saddleback College	Marya Mazor	Scenic Design
<i>COCKTAIL</i>	CSU, Northledge	Larry R Biederman	Scenic & Projection Design
<i>A Doll's House, Part 2</i>	International City Theater	Trevor Biship-Gillespie	Scenic Design
<i>Carrie_The Musical</i>	Viterbo University	Teddy J Eck	Scenic Design
<i>The Miser</i>	Westmont College	John Blondell	Scenic Design

**2021**

<i>#UNDERTHEINFLUENCE</i>	Santa Fe Playhouse	Jessica Hanna	Scenic Design
<i>Pajama Game</i>	Viterbo University	Alex Mallory	Scenic Design

**2020**

<i>DELILAH (ZOOM Production)</i>	Pandora Production	Derek Lang	Original artwork design
<i>In My Bones (Postponed)</i>	Pandora Production	Sonja Berggren	Scenic Design
<i>DAISY (Postponed)</i>	International City Theater	caryn desai	Scenic Design
<i>Marriage Contract I</i>	New Vic Theater	John Blondell	Scenic Design
<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>			
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Joseph Haj	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>FOUND</i>	IAMA	Moritz von Stuelpnagel	Assist. Scenic Design

**2019**

<i>PUNK PLAY</i>	Circle X	Matt Bretz and Lisa Sanae Dring	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>Rashomon</i>	Kuro Productions/CAPS	Aramazd Stephanian	Scenic Design
<i>Magic Flute</i>	New Vic Theater	John Blondell	Scenic Design
<i>Lady Day at</i>			
<i>Emerson's Bar &amp; Grill</i>	International City Theater	Wren Brown	Scenic Design
<i>Buried Child</i>	A Noise Within	Julia Rodriguez-Elliot	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>The Price</i>	International City Theater	John Henry Davis	Scenic Design
<i>INDECENT</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Shana Cooper	Assist. Scenic Design

**2018**

<i>Hughie/Krapp's Last Tape</i>	The Geffen Playhouse	Steven Robman	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>DARKSIDE (Remount)</i>	The Garage Theater	Eric Hamme	Scenic Design

<i>A Splintered Soul</i>	International City Theater	Marya Mazor	Scenic Design
<i>Victims of Duty</i>	A Red Orchid Theater Co.	Shira Piven	Assoc. Scenic Design
<i>Jupiter Moon</i>	Pandora Production	Sonja Berggren	Scenic & Projection Design
<i>Cardboard Piano</i> (West Coast Premier)	International City Theater	caryn desai	Scenic Design
<i>The Flick</i>	College of Southern Nevada	Ann Marie Perez	Scenic Design
<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>	South Coast Repertory	Mercy Vasquez	Scenic & Projection Design
<i>Elliot, a soldier's fugue</i>	Kirk Douglas Theater	Shishir Kurup	Assist. Scenic Design

## **2017**

<i>The Resistible</i>	Westmont College	Mitchell Thomas	Scenic & Projection Design
<i>Rise of Arturo UI</i>			
<i>Blood Wedding</i>	Westmont College	Mitchell Thomas	Scenic Design
<i>I Carry Your Heart</i>	Bootleg Theater	Jessica Hannah	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>Kill Climate Deniers</i>	The Garage Theater	Ashley Allen	Scenic & Installation Design

## **2016**

<i>Richard 2</i>	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Bill Rauch	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>The Nether</i>	Woolly Mammoth Theater Co.	Shana Cooper	Assist. Scenic Design
<i>RENT</i>	CSU, Long Beach	Joanne Gordon	Scenic Design
<i>The UNFORTUNATES</i>	A.C.T.	Shana Cooper	Assist. Scenic Design

## **2015**

<i>The Exit Interview</i>	Buzzwords Theater Company	Sirena Irwin	Scenic Design
<i>The Lover</i>	Lit Moon Festival	Lauren White	Scenic Design
<i>DARKSIDE</i> (World Premier)	The Garage Theater	Eric Hamme	Scenic Design
<i>Revival</i>	Lucid Dramatics	Carla Neuss	Scenic Design

## **2014**

<i>Pink Milk</i> (West Coast Premier)	The Garage Theater	Ashley Allen	Scenic Design
<i>Noah &amp; Jonah</i>	Four Clowns	David Bridel	Scenic & Props Design

## **SELECTED CREDITS IN DESIGN :FILM / TELEVISION**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>ROLE</b>	
<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

## EXHIBITIONS & AWARDS

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### *"Exit Wound"*

The 37th Robby Award: John Iacovelli Award for Best Scenic Design Nominee 2023

### *"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 Fall 2009 and Fall 2011

## SKILLS

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Scenic design, Model making, Soldering, Hand Drafting and Drawing, Scenic Painting, Props designing and fabrication, Sewing, Carpentry, Hand Painting and Digital Painting with Procreate, AutoCAD drafting, Adobe Creative Software, 3D printing, Windows and Mac Platforms, Microsoft Office

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

## SELECTED OTHER EXPERIENCE

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"Scene Shift : The Exhibit" curated by Maureen Weiss and Sibyl Wickersheimer. One of the 30 contributing designers. Images from previous work and conversation have been exhibited at The Fisher Museum of Art at USC, as well as speaking as a guest designer alongside Deb.O at the Artist Talk; one of sub events during the exhibition. 2024

"Scene Shift - U.S. Set Designers in Conversation" conceived, curated, and edited by Maureen Weiss and Sibyl Wickersheimer. One of the 30 contributing designers. Images from previous work and conversation have been included in the book.  
<https://www.scene-shift.com/> 2022

Flip This Bitch, A Los Angeles based production design and fabrication firm. Overhire Scenic Artist (on-call base). Working in a fast paced scene shop which provides service to TV / film programs that stream on major platforms. Working directly under the full time scenic charge artist to realize the designs submitted by the designers. Present.

Panndora's Box New Play Festival. Design consultant and play selection committee member. Review over 200 new plays submitted to the festival. 2019, 2020, 2021

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.

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

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

## REFERENCE

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### Jonathan Hicks

Lighting Designer / Technical Director  
Associate Professor Theater Arts,  
Co-Chair and Director of Film Study Minor  
Theater Arts Dept. Westmont College  
Phone: 310.927.3277 (cell)  
Email: [jhicks@westmont.edu](mailto:jhicks@westmont.edu)

### Sibyl Wickersheimer

Scenic Designer  
Associate Professor of Scenic Design  
The School of Dramatic Arts, University of Southern California  
Phone: 805.451.9107 (cell)  
Email: [sawicker@usc.edu](mailto:sawicker@usc.edu)

### Danila Korogodsky

Scenographer  
Artistic Director, Theater of Generation  
Phone: 562.495.4595  
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### Marya Mazor

Director / Educator  
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### Fred Kinney

Scenic Designer  
Associate Professor of Scenic Design  
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