

CURRICULUM VITAE

Matt Saunders

Assistant Professor of Design
 Co-Chair for Production
 Department of Theater
 Swarthmore College
www.mattsanders.net

Office:

Lang Performing Arts Center 308
 Department of Theater
 Swarthmore College
 500 College Ave
 Swarthmore, PA 19081
 610-328-8247
msaunde1@swarthmore.edu

Home:

1321 E. Montgomery Ave
 Philadelphia, PA 19125
 267-971-8884
matt_saunders@verizon.net

EDUCATION

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2008-2010 | Master of Fine Arts, Yale School of Drama, Donald Oenslager Advanced Scholar of Set Design, Awarded by Ming Cho Lee, New Haven, CT |
| 1996 | Graduate , Scuola Commedia del Arte, Reggio Emilia, Italy, Master Teacher, Antonio Fava |
| 1994-1998 | Bachelor of Arts, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, <i>magna cum laude</i> |

ADMINISTRATION & CHAIRING

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2013-2014 | <i>Co-Chair for Production</i> , Department of Theater, Swarthmore College. The Co-Chair for Production oversees and administers all aspects of the Department's production program, which averages seven productions in an academic year. |
|-----------|--|

Selected Administrative Responsibilities Include: Heading search committees for new staff hires, supervising current production staff, Managing the Department's Annual Production Budget, Staffing Guest Artists and Technicians for each Production

2011-present *Resident Set Designer*, Department of Theater, Swarthmore College. Responsibilities include: Designing at least two Department productions per academic year, as well as supervising Scene Shop activities and Technical Staff.

Productions Designed as Resident Set Designer:

2012

Princess Ivona, by Witold Gomborwicz, Production Ensemble, Directed by Prof. Elizabeth Stevens

2013

Three Sisters, by Anton Chekhov, Production Ensemble, Directed by Richard Hamburger

Unstuck, devised by Meryl Sands and Company, Meryl Sands Honors Thesis in Directing

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare, Production Ensemble, Directed by Elizabeth Stevens

2014

Lex and Goldaline, devised by Swift Shuker, Honors Thesis in Directing

Mad Forest, by Caryl Chrchill, Production Ensemble, Directed by Alex Tora

2015

Mercury Fur, by Philip Ridely, Directed by Josh McLucas, Honors Thesis in Directing

Additional Designs for The Department of Theater at Swarthmore College:

2012

American Buffalo, by David Mamet, (Costume Design) Honors Acting Thesis

TEACHING

Courses taught as Associate Professor of Design, Swarthmore College:

THEA 004A, *Introduction to Set Design*, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
THEA 003, *Fundamentals of Design for Performance*, 2011, 2012, 2014
THEA 004D, *Integrated Media for Performance*, 2012, 2015
THEA 001, *Theater and Performance (w)*, 2013
THEA 014A, *Design II, Scenography*, 2012, 2013
THEA 014D, *Special Project Integrated Media Design*, 2012
THEA 034A, *Intermediary Set Design*, 2012
THEA 034D, *Intermediary Media Design*, 2013

THEA 054A, *Advanced Set Design*, 2012, 2013, 2014
THEA 099, *Senior Company*, 2013
THEA 180B, *Senior Honors Thesis in Directing*, 2012, 2013
THEA 180D, *Senior Honors Thesis in Design*, 2013, 2015

Courses taught at other institutions:

Designing in the 4th Dimension; Time. Drexel University, Visual Studies Program. 2006-2008.
(Course taught three times)

Guest Instructor:

Movement for the Actor, Temple University, 2003
Movement Theater, Bryn Mawr College, 2004
Theatrical Movement for Dancers, Rowen University, 2004
Fundamentals of Theater, Penn State, 2011, 2012
Interior Design II, Moore College of Art and Design, 2011, 2012
Projection Design II, Yale School of Drama, Master Class, 2012

Special Projects and Independent Study Instruction:

2012

Baltimore Waltz
Advanced Set Design, realized production by student, Eric Verhasselt

American Buffalo
Advanced Set Design, realized production by student Marta Roncada

The Cosmonaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved in the Former Soviet Union
 Advanced Set Design, realized production by student, Eric Verhasselt
 Advanced Projection Design, realized production by student Fernando Maldonado

The Cinderella Project
 Advanced Projection Design, realized production by student, Meryl Sands

Ode To Shalimar
 Independent Study in Creating Devised Work for Performance, realized production by student, Petra Floyd (professionally produced after graduation in Brooklyn, NY and Philadelphia, PA)

Princess Ivona
 Intermediate Set Design, realized production as Assistant Designer, by student, Regina Noto

2013

Burn This
 Advanced Set Design, realized production by student, Marta Roncada

Jackie Morgan Senior Dance Thesis
 Advanced Projection Design, realized production by student, Fernando Maldonado

Unstuck
 Advanced Projection Design, realized production by student, Fernando Maldonado
 Honors Advising in Devised Theater Direction, realized production by student, Meryl Sands

America Misfit
 Advanced Set Design, realized production by student Marta Roncada

2014

Earthquakes in London
 Advanced Set Design, realized production by student Sophie Miller

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Committees:

College Judiciary Committee, Swarthmore College, 2012-present
 Tenure-Track Search Committee, Acting and Directing Line, Swarthmore College 2013

Internship and Field Placement Supervision:

Marta Roncada, Studio Theatre, Washington DC

Samuel Swift Shuker Haines '14, Artistic Internship, New Paradise Laboratories

Petra Floyd, *Good Person of Szechwan*, Assistant Set Designer, LaMama ETC, Public Theater, NY

Petra Floyd, Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA

Juried Panels and Portfolio Reviews:

Moore College of Art, Senior Interior Design Portfolio Review, Adjudicator, 2011-2013

Temple University, MFA Thesis Portfolio Review, Adjudicator, 2013

Design Meeting Curator, MFA Portfolio Review, NYU, CalArts and Yale School of Drama, 2013

PROFESSIONAL THEATER EXPERIENCE**Administrative:**

Associate Artistic Director of the OBIE Award Winning Experimental Theater Company, New Paradise Laboratories, 2010-present. Founding Company Member, 1996.

Associate Artist, Wilma Theater, 2015-present

Resident Designer, Theatre Exile, 2005-2010

Co-Creator / Author of Devised Work:

2000

The Fab 4 Reach the Pearly Gates, New Paradise Laboratories, PS 122 in NY, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis MN, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival.

2001

This Mansion is a Hole, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2003

Stupor, New Paradise Laboratories, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia.

Rose Selavy Takes a Lover in Philadelphia, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2005

Planetary Enzyme Blues, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2006

PROM, New Paradise Laboratories and The Children's Theater Company, Minneapolis, MN

Still Unknown, Subcircle Dance Company, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

Fail Better, Nichole Canuso Dance Company, Painted Bride Arts Center, Philadelphia, PA

2007

The Living News Theater Project, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA

BATCH, New Paradise Laboratories, Humana Festival for New American Plays, Actor's Theater of Louisville, Louisville, KY; Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2010

Fatebook, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2012

"27", New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2014

The Adults, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

Selected Performance Work:

1998

Gold Russian Finger Love, role: James Bond, New Paradise Laboratories

2000

Man Measure's Man, role: Agim, InterAct Theater Company (Barrymore Award nomination "Best Leading Actor")

The Fab 4 Reach the Pearly Gates, role: Paul, New Paradise Laboratories, PS 122 in NY, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis MN, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival.

2004

Stupor, role: ensemble, New Paradise Laboratories, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia. (Nominated, Barrymore Award, Best Ensemble).

Valparaiso, role: Michael, Theater Exile, Philadelphia, PA

2005

Feast of the Flying Cow, role: Izak, InterAct Theater Co, Philadelphia, PA

2006

Killer Joe, role: Chris, Theatre Exile (Barrymore Award "Outstanding Ensemble in a Play," Barrymore Award nomination, "Best Supporting Actor in a Play.")

2008

Bug, role: Peter Evans, Theatre Exile (Barrymore Award nomination "Best Leading Actor in a Play")

2014

The Adults, role: ensemble, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia PA

Selected work as a Set Designer:

2000

Rhinoceros, by Eugene Ionesco, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA*The Two Character Play*, by Tennessee Williams, Walnut Street Theater, Philadelphia, PA*The Fab 4 Reach the Pearly Gates*, New Paradise Laboratories, PS 122 in NY, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis MN, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival.

2001

Children, by A.R. Gurney, Walnut Street Theater, Philadelphia, PA*Story of a Panic*, Headlong Dance Theater, Painted Bride Arts Center, Philadelphia, PA*This Mansion is a Hole*, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

2002

Britney's Inferno, Headlong Dance Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY

2003

Flop, Pig Iron Theater Company, The Ohio, New York, NY*Rose Selavy Takes a Lover in Philadelphia*, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA*Princess Ivona*, by Witold Gombrowicz, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA

2004

PROM, New Paradise Laboratories and The Children's Theater Company, Minneapolis, MN*Valparaiso*, Theater Exile, Philadelphia, PA*Hotel Pool*, Headlong Dance Theater, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA*Hell Meets Henry Halfway*, Pig Iron Theater Company and Adriano Shaplin, Philadelphia, PA, Poland, Lithuania, NYC (Obie Award, Outstanding Overall Production)*Don Juan in Nirvana*, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA

2005

Syringa Tree, by Pamela Gems, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA

Planetary Enzyme Blues, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA

2006

The Stinky Cheeseman, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA

Killer Joe, by Tracy Letts, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA

EYE 95, Brat Productions, Philadelphia, PA

Still Unknown, Subcircle Dance Company, Philadelphia, PA

Les Contes D' Hoffman, opera by Offenbach, Peabody Institute, Baltimore, MD

My Children My Africa, by Athol Fugard, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia, PA

2007

BATCH, New Paradise Laboratories, Humana Festival for New American Plays, Actor's Theater of Louisville, Louisville, KY; Philadelphia Live Arts Festival

Glengarry Glen Ross, by David Mamet, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA

Skin in Flames, by Guillem Clua, InterAct Theatre Company, Philadelphia, PA

Last of the Boys, by Steven Dietz, InterAct Theatre Company, Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Marmalade, by Noah Haidle, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA

Age of Arousal, by Linda Griffiths, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia, PA

2008

Roosters, by Milcha Sanchez-Scott, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA

Frozen, by Bryony Lavery, InterAct Theatre Company, Philadelphia, PA

Day of the Picnic, by Russell Davis, People's Light and Theater Company, Malvern PA

Rock and Roll, by Tom Stoppard, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia, PA

James and the Giant Peach, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA

Bug, by Tracy Letts, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA (Barrymore Award Nomination “Best Set Design”)

2009

Impressions de Palleas, opera by Debussy, Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, PA

Blackbird, by David Harrower, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, PA

American Buffalo, by David Mamet, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia PA (Barrymore Award Nomination “Best Set Design”)

2011

A Moon for the Misbegotten, by Eugene O’Neil, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA

A Doctor In Spite of Himself, by Moliere, Yale Repertory Theater, New Haven CT ; Berkeley Repertory Theater, Berkeley CA

2012

Curse of the Starving Class, by Sam Shepard, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

Angels in America Parts I & II, by Tony Kushner, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

27, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia PA

2013

As You Like It, by William Shakespeare, The Acting Company, Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis MN and Lincoln Center, NYC.

The Mountaintop, by Katori Hall, Philadelphia Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA

Good Person of Szechwan, by Bertolt Brecht, The Foundry Theatre, LaMama ETC, NYC and The Public Theater, NYC (nominated for Henry Hewes Design Award, in conjunction with the American Theater Wing, as well as a Lucille Lortel Award)

Under the Whaleback, by Richard Bean, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare, Public Theater at the Delacorte Stage in Central Park, NYC

2014

Venus in Fur, by David Ives, The Huntington Theater Company, Boston, MA

True West, by Sam Shepard, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia PA

Don Juan Comes Home from Iraq, World Premiere by Paula Vogel, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia

Katya Kabanova, Opera, Composed by [Leoš Janáček](#), Directed by Garry Hynes, Spoleto Festival, Charleston, SC.

The Adults, New Paradise Laboratories, Philadelphia PA

2015

Familiar, by Danai Gurera, Directed by Rebecca Taichman, World Premere, Yale Repertory Theater, New Haven CT

The Price, by Authur Miller, Directed by Garry Hynes, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles CA

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare, Directed by Blanka Zizka, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, by Tom Stoppard, Directed by Blanka Zizka, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

Swamp is On, created by Pig Iron Theatre Co, and Dr Dog, Union Transfer, Philadelphia, PA

Futurity, World Premere musical by Cesar Alverez and the Lisps, Soho Rep, New York, NY (nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award and a Drama Desk Award 'Best Set Design')

2016

The Hard Prblem, by Tom Stoppard, US Premere, Directed by Blanka Zizka, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

An Octoroon, by Brandon Jacob-Jenkins, Directed by Joanna Settle, Wilma Theater, Philadelphia PA

O Monsters, World Premere devised work by New Paradise Laboratories, Fringe Arts, Philadelphia PA

The Christians, by Lucas Hnath, Directed by Tim Bond, Co-Production, Syracuse Stage & Wilma Theater, Syracuse NY & Philadelphia PA

Das Mädchen mit den Schwefelhölzern, by Helmut Lachenmann, Directed by Phelim McDermott and Mark Down, Conducted by John Kennedy, Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston SC

Grace Notes: Reflections for Now, by Carrie Mae Weems, Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston SC

When the Rain Stops Falling, by Andrew Bovell, Directed by Blanka Zizka, Wilma Theater

2017

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison, Adaptation by Lydia Diamond, Directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz, Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis MN

Venus, by Suzan-Lori Parks, Directed by Lear deBessonet, Signature Theatre, NYC

Pipeline, World Premiere by Dominique Morisseau, Directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz, Lincoln Center Theater, NYC

PUBLICATIONS

Scene Design and Stage Lighting, Wolf and Block, Tenth Edition, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2014. Set Design for *Curse of the Starving Class* at the Wilma Theater featured in Chapter 4, "The Design Process." Included in the chapter are sketches, model photos, production stills and written copy chronicling my design approach to the production. *Scene Design and Stage Lighting* is the most widely used theatrical design textbook in the country.

American Theater Magazine 25th Anniversary Issue, April 2009, feature cover article identifying the top 25 theater artists in the country to watch. Each artist selected for the article submitted an essay for the publication on "the next 25 years for the American Theater."

Live Movies A Field Guide to New Media for the Performing Arts, Malone and White, George Mason University Press, 2006. Inclusion in an essay detailing the use of media in the devised work of New Paradise Laboratories.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2000 Barrymore Nomination, “Best Leading Actor in a Play” *Man Measures Man*, InterAct Theater Company

2004 Obie Award, Special Citation for an Overall Production, *Hell Meets Henry Halfway*, Pig Iron Theater Company

2007 Barrymore Award and Recipient of the F. Otto Haas Fellowship for Emerging Philadelphia Theater Artist. Cash prize of \$10,000

2007 Barrymore Award “Best Ensemble in a Play” and Barrymore Nomination, “Best Supporting Actor in a Play,” *Killer Joe*, Theatre Exile

2008 Barrymore Nomination, “Best Leading Actor in a Play” as well as “Best Set Design,” *Bug*, Theatre Exile

2009 Barrymore Nomination, “Best Set Design,” *American Buffalo*, Theatre Exile

2011 Design for *Fatebook*, New Paradise Laboratories, selected to represent American Set Design in the USA pavilion at the prestigious Prague Quadrennial

2012 Henry Hewes Design Award nomination, in conjunction with the American Theater Wing, *Good Person of Szechwan*, The Foundry Theater, NYC

2012 Lucille Lortel Award nomination, *Good Person of Szechwan*, The Foundry Theater, NYC

2013 Phindie Award, “Best Set Design” *North of the Boulevard*, Theatre Exile, also nominated in the same category (field of 4) for *Angels in America*, Wilma Theater and for *Under the Whaleback*, Wilma Theater

2015 Lucille Lortel nomination, *Futurity*, “Best Set Design”

2015 Drama Desk Award nomination, *Futurity*, “Best Set Design”

2014-2017 Pew Fellowship for the Arts

2015-2016 Princeton University Hodder Fellowship for the Arts

