

RESUMÉ

MONIKA ESSEN, DIRECTOR/DESIGNER/ARTIST
15301 MACK AVE, DETROIT, MI 48224
MONIKA@STUDIOEPOQUE.COM 586.662.9813



EDUCATION

MFA in Scenography, Summa Cum Laude - Hilberry Repertory Co./Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
BA in Interior Design, Magna Cum Laude - Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Design Program in Environmental and Interior Architecture - Parson's School of Design, New York, NY

DIRECTOR / PRODUCTION DESIGNER / SCENIC ARTIST

Opera Modo, Detroit, MI
La Cenerentola, Orpheus In The Underworld
Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit MI
La Pizza Con Funghi
Rackham Choir, Detroit MI
Walk from the Garden
Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI
Red

PRODUCTION DESIGNER / PROJECTION DESIGNER (P) / SCENIC ARTIST

Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit MI
The Medium, Carmina Burana (P), Frida (P), The Tender Land, Ahmal and the Night Visitors
Opera Atlanta, Atlanta GA
Frida (P)
Florida Grand Opera, Miami FL
Frida (P)
Cincinnati Opera Theatre, Cincinnati, OH
Frida (P)
Detroit Public Theatre, Detroit, MI
American Hero
Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI
Sins of Sor Juana (P), She Loves Me, A Doll's House, Amadeus, Dirty Blonde, Baker's Wife, Souvenir, Entrances and Exits, The Little Dog Laughed (P), Nine Parts of Desire, Geoffrey & Jeffery, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead, Fences, Christmas Carol'd, Little Shop of Horrors, Woman Before A Glass (P), Piano Lesson, Next Fall, Marie Antoinette- The Color of Flesh, In the Next Room, Becky Shaw, An Illiad
Waterworks Theatre Company, Royal Oak, MI
Two Gentlemen of Verona
Blackbird Theatre, Ann Arbor, MI
Midsummer Night's Dream
Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Serious Moonlight Fundraising Event
Cherry Hill Theatre, Canton, MI
Mrs. Shakespeare
Tree Top Theatre Co, Ann Arbor, MI
Whistler (P)
Shakesperience Co., Hamtramck, MI
The Tempest, Comedy of Errors

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SCENIC DESIGNER / PROJECTION DESIGNER (P) / SCENIC ARTIST

Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Michigan

The Maker of Illusions, The Very Last Green Thing (P), HMS Pinafore, Happy Prince, Mikado, Little Women

Meadowbrook Theatre, Rochester, MI

Mindgame (P)

Detroit Public Theatre, Detroit MI

Murder Ballad, The Harassment of Iris Malloy, Detroit '67, Paradise Blue

Tipping Point Theatre, Northville MI

I love you—You're Perfect--Now Change, Proof (P), The Importance of Being Earnest, I Hate Hamlet, Murder at the Howard Johnson's, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Leaving Iowa (P), The Foursome (P), American Wee Pie, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, Young Americans, Ripcord (P), The Impossibility of Now (P), Comedy of Terrors, Funnyman, The Dollhouse Part 2

Mosaic Theatre Company, Detroit MI

Hastings Street, Crossing 8 Mile

Waterworks Theatre Company, Royal Oak Michigan

Richard III

St Dunstan's Theatre – Bloomfield Hills, MI

The Producers, She Loves Me, God of Carnage

Actors Theatre Company, Grand Rapids, MI

God of Carnage

Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI

Angels in America—Part 1

Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL

Trojan Women

Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI

Maiden's Prayer, Fuddy Meers, Maggie Rose, Struggling Truths (P), Taking Leave, White Rose, Special Relativity, Elizabeth Rex, Spirit House, Necessary Targets, Man of La Mancha, Kimberly Akimbo, Humble Boy, Boston Marriage, Summer and Smoke, Three Penny Opera, Ice Glen, Life in the Theatre, I Am My Own Wife, Retreat from Moscow, Fantasticks! (P), Language Lessons, Candida, Clean House, Sonia Flew, Drowsy Chaperone, God of Carnage. Burn This, The Glass Menagerie, A Little Night Music, Jerry's Girls, Richard III

Roper Theatre Company, Birmingham, MI

Romeo & Juliet

Croswell Opera House, Adrian, MI

Beauty and the Beast

Jewish Ensemble Theatre, West Bloomfield, MI

Falsettos, Shiva Queen, Anne Frank and Me, Cemetery Club (P), Never the Sinner, The Immigrant (P), The Day We Met, Prisoner of Second Ave., Broken Glass, Twilight of the Golds, Conversations With My Father, Another Antigone, Horowitz & Mrs. Washington, Romeo & Juliet, Talley's Folly, Laramie Project, Tommy J & Sally, Visiting Mr. Green, Denial, The Chosen, Dirty Story (P), Nobody's Gilgul, Boy Gets Girl, I'm Not Rappaport, Door to Door, 74 Georgia Ave, Last Yankee, Fiddler on the Roof, Dybbuk for Two People, The Blank Page, The Big Bang, The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, God of Carnage

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SCENIC DESIGNER / PROJECTION DESIGNER (P) / SCENIC ARTIST (CONTINUED)

Off Broadway Theatre, Milwaukee, WI
Mrs. Shakespeare Dishes the Dirt
Boarshead Theatre, Lansing, MI
Dance Like No One's Watching, King o' the Moon, Moonglow
Detroit Repertory Company, Detroit, MI
Daytrips
Circa 21 Theatre, Rock Island, IL
Phantom of the Opera
Appletree Theatre, Highland Park, IL
The Swan
Hilberry Repertory Company, Detroit, MI
Noises Off, Arms and the Man, On the Razzle, Alice in Wonderland, Chicago,
Sea Horse, Speed the Plow, Find Me, Normal Heart, Woman in Black, Cocktail Hour

COSTUME DESIGNER

Eisenhower Dance Company
The Rite of Spring
Blackbird Theatre Company, Ann Arbor, MI
The Tempest
Performance Network, Ann Arbor, MI
A Picasso, The Blonde The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead, Brill
Waterworks Theatre Company, Royal Oak, MI
Hamlet

PROPERTY DESIGNER

Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit, MI
Resident Designer/Property Master, 1998--Present
Manon Lescaut, The Elixir of Love, Porgy and Bess, Turandot, Lucia di Lammermoor,
Madame Butterfly, Eugene Onegin, Samson and Delilah, Tosca, Barber of Seville
Peter Grimes, Der Rosencavalier, Così Fan Tutte, La Bohème, Falstaff,
Tales of Hoffmann, Otello, Lakmé, Marriage of Figaro, La Traviata, Don Pasquale,
Il Trovatore, Don Giovanni, Die Fledermaus, Dead Man Walking, Masked Ball, Werther,
Carmen, Anoush, Madame Butterfly, Magic Flute, Pirates of Penzance, Pearl Fishers,
Rigoletto, Faust, Daughter of the Regiment, Margaret Garner, Norma, La Bohème,
Aida, Cenerentola, Salome, Porgy and Bess, Romeo and Juliet, Cyrano, Marriage of
Figaro, La Sonambula, La Rondine, La Traviata, Nabucco, A Little Night Music,
Mikado, Pagliacci, Julius Caesar, Fidelio, Flying Dutchman, View from the Bridge,
Elektra, Merry Widow, The Passenger, MacBeth, Silent Night, Summer King, Eugene
Onegin, Barber of Seville, Candide, Hansel and Gretel, Grapes of Wrath, Don
Giovanni, Sweeney Todd
Hilberry Repertory Co., Detroit, MI
Winter's Tale, She Stoops to Conquer, Three Penny Opera, Cocktail Hour
Jewish Ensemble Theatre, West Bloomfield, MI
Resident Alien, Falsettos, Shiva Queen, Anne Frank and Me, Never the Sinner

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FILM / COMMERCIALS – SET DECORATOR /ART DIRECTOR

For Pinacothek Presents – Glenda (short)
For Rysher Entertainment - Judicial Consent (for HBO)
For Scott Shuptrine - Go West, Accessory Sale
For Big City Films - The Music Challenge

SCENIC ARTIST

West End Studios, Detroit Michigan – Gilbert Awards Set
Lifetime Movies, Detroit MI – Something in the Dark
International Auto Show, Detroit MI - Jeep Exhibit
Grace and Wild, Farmington Hills, MI - Volkswagen Commercial Backdrop
SAE Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI - Stage Backdrop
Grand Rapids Ballet - Grand Rapids, MI - Backdrop for Nutcracker
Meadowbrook Theatre, Pontiac, MI - Piano Lesson, Shadowlands, Corpse!
Hilberry Repertory Co., Detroit, MI - Les Liasons Dangereuses

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR / EVENT / EXHIBIT DESIGN

Banister Shoe Co., Philadelphia, PA
Lenschraffers, Cincinnati, OH
Hot Dawg & More, Farmington, MI
Posner Gallery, Southfield, MI
EJ Plumb Socks, Cincinnati, OH
JSHOWITZ Residence, Orchard Lake, MI
Detroit Race Track, Livonia, MI
Wayne Shopping Center Renovation, Westland, MI
Great Expectations Hair Salon, Long Island, NY
Farmington Hills City Offices, Farmington Hills, MI
E. Mueller Residence, Hartland, MI
Jennifer Foss Salon, Canton, MI
D. Mueller Residence, Northville, MI
Basile Residence, Grosse Pte., MI
Bloomfield Residence, Grosse Pte., MI
A. Mueller Residence, Ann Arbor, MI
Summer Home, Saugatuck, MI
Interpretive Classrooms, Detroit Zoological Society, Royal Oak, MI
Opera Ball 2014, Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit, MI
Mooney Residence, Detroit, MI
Opera Ball 2015, Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit, MI
Interactive Children's Museum, Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield, MI
Antonino's Salon, Birmingham, MI
Opera Ball 2016, Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit, MI
Canine to Five, Ferndale Michigan
Healthmark Industries, Fraser, MI

AFFILIATIONS

United Scenic Artists Local 829 - Scenic Designer and Scenic Artist

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AWARDS

Best Scenic Design (Comedy of Terrors) 2019 Subscribers' Choice
Best Scenic Design (Impossibility of Now) 2018 Subscribers' Choice
Best Opera/Director (La Cenerentola) 2018 – Wilde Award – Encore Michigan
Best Scenic Design (The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance) 2016 Subscribers' Choice
Best Costume Design (Frida) 2015 Wilde Award – Encore Michigan
Best Scenic Design (Frida) 2015 nominated – Wilde Award – Encore Michigan
Best Scenic Design (Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike) 2015 Subscribers' Choice
Best Scenic Design (Little Night Music) 2012 Subscribers' Choice Awards
Best Set Design (Red) 2012 Wilde Awards – Encore Michigan
Best Scenic Design (The Piano Lesson) 2011 – Subscribers' Choice Awards
Best Scenic Design (Proof) 2011 Rogue Critic
Best Scenic Design (Little Shop of Horrors) 2010 nominated – Between the Lines
Best Property Design (Big Bang) 2010 nominated – Between the Lines
Best Set Design (Little Shop of Horrors) 2010 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Costume Design (Little Shop of Horrors) 2010 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Scenic Design (Fences) 2009 Ann Arbor News
Best Scenic Design (Midsummer Night's Dream) 2009 Ann Arbor News
Best Design (Fences) 2009 nominated – Between the Lines
Best Set Design (Fences) 2009 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Costume Design (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern) 2009 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Design (Baker's Wife) 2008 Wilde Award – Between the Lines
Best Set Design (Baker's Wife) 2008 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Costume Design (Baker's Wife) 2008 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Design (Candida) 2007 nominated – Between the Lines
Best Set Design (Language Lessons) 2007– Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Costume Design (Amadeus) 2007 – Subscribers' Choice Award
Best Design (Summer and Smoke) 2005 - Ann Arbor News
Best Design (Humble Boy) 2005 Opie award - Oakland Press
Best Design (Last Yankee) 2005 Wilde award - Between the Lines
Best Design (Humble Boy) 2005 nominated - Detroit Free Press
Best Design (Kimberly Akimbo) 2004 nominated - Oakland Press
The Detroit Free Press Lawrence Devine Award for
Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre - 2003
Best Design (Visiting Mr. Green & Denial) 2003 nominated - Detroit Free Press
Best Design (Necessary Targets) 2003 nominated - Oakland Press
Best Design (Elizabeth Rex) 2002 nominated - Detroit Free Press
Best Design (Romeo & Juliet) 2002 nominated - Oakland Press
Best Design (Twilight Of The Golds) 2001 nominated - Oakland Press
Best Design (Broken Glass) 2000 Opie award - Oakland Press
Best Design (Never the Sinner) 1999 Opie award - Oakland Press
Best Design (Noises Off) 1991 nominated - The Detroit News
Hilberry Fellowship Grant (WSU) - 89-92
Best of School and State- American Society of Interior Designers project competition