Abby Bender

Technical Director

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Previous Work Experience

West Virginia University: Graduate Teaching Assistant, Aug. 2024-Present

- Led crews of up to 20+ students in construction/installation of scenery in three different venues
- Taught Stagecraft, Drafting for the Stage, and led hands-on Stagecraft Labs
- Functioned as Technical Director for four shows in three different venues: a three-quarter thrust, a 100+ year old proscenium with hemp & sandbag rigging, and a 1400-seat concert theatre
- Built sets including second stories, Hollywood and Broadway flats, turntables, welding, and other techniques

West Virginia Public Theatre: Technical Director, May-Jul. 2025, May-Jun 2026

- Budgeted, drafted, and supervised load-in and strike of a two-show season each summer
- Managed a crew of three to five carpenters with skill levels ranging from novice to intermediate
- Fostered communication and collaboration between departments as pertained to scenery

George Washington University: Instructional Lab Associate, Scene Shop, Oct. 2019-July 2024

- Instructed and supervised groups of students (two to 20+) in safe and effective building practices
- Aided in developing a new scene shop space on the Foggy Bottom campus
- Maintained shop, performance, and storage spaces on all three GW campuses
- Supported the program in all production departments except costuming

Olney Theatre Center: Staff Carpenter, Sept. 2017-Oct. 2019, Scenic Apprentice, May 2016-May 2017

- Served as Interim Assistant Technical Director during a vacancy from Feb.-Jul. 2018
- Became primary programmer/operator of a 4'x8' ShopBot CNC router
- Built 13 shows per year for two venues (400-seat proscenium house and 150-seat black box) and to tour nationally (National Players touring company)

Education

West Virginia University	M.F.A. Technical Direction	2027
Montgomery College	Intro to Fab Lab & Fab Lab CNC Courses	2017
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	B.A. Theater	Summa Cum Laude 2015

Skills

·AutoCAD (2D/3D)
·CNC operation (ShopBot, Laguna SmartShop II)
·Vectric Ltd CAD/CAM softwares (VCarve, Aspire)
·Vectorworks (basic 2D/3D)
·MIG welding
·Trim/finish carpentry
·Static rigging
·Single/double purchase fly system operation
·Driving up to 26' box truck (16' in urban areas)
·OSHA30 certified
·Theatrical electrician experience (basic wiring, hang/focus, basics of ETC Eos software)
·Basics of QLab5
·Sewing experience (basic hand/machine stitching)

References

References available upon request, thank you for respecting their privacy.