

# Curriculum Vitae

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Michael Commendatore

401-474-2696

www.MichaelCommendatore.com

Mcommendatore@gmail.com

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## EDUCATION

Yale School of Drama  
MFA 2017–Projection Design  
Pierre-André Salim Prize

University of Rhode Island  
BFA Theatre–Directing, BA Film Media Studies  
Summa Cum Laude 2012, Film Excellence Award

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## PROJECTION DESIGN

LUCHA TEOTL  
My Whorizental Life  
Beauty and the Beast  
Another Marriage  
Rock Of Ages  
An American in Paris  
The Magic Flute  
Murder On The Orient Express  
Invisible Cities  
The Wizard of Oz  
It Came From Outer Space\*  
Unholy Wars  
Uphill Climb  
When Harry Met Rehab  
Searching for Mr Moon  
Grease  
Oh Colonizers  
Today and Tomorrow,  
*Hamlet the Sponger*  
For Z  
An American In Paris  
Oresteia  
The Rape of Lucretia  
A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder  
Mozart and Me  
The Seagull  
Freaky Friday  
Mlima's Tale  
Die Fladermaus  
Let's Explore!  
Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical  
Encounter Series  
The Silent Lyre  
Little Red Cyrano  
Just Not That Woman  
ODIN Alive  
Assassins  
The Other World

Goodman Theatre  
Rose Colored Glasses Productions  
Music Theatre Wichita  
Steppenwolf Theatre  
Music Theatre Wichita  
Musical Theatre West  
Arizona Opera  
The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis  
The Great Northern Festival  
Music Theatre Wichita  
Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
Spoleto Festival USA  
Berklee NYC  
Pemberley Productions  
Portland Stage  
Music Theatre Wichita  
Collaboraction  
Williams College  
Colgate University Theater  
Colgate University Theater  
Music Theatre Wichita  
Depaul University  
Boston Lyric Opera  
Le Petit Theatre  
Nagelberg Theatre  
Colgate University Theater  
Music Theatre Wichita  
The Public Theater  
SUNY Stony Brook  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Emerald City Theatre  
Collaboraction  
Lighten Theater  
Red Theatre  
Vancouver Fringe Festival  
Yale School of Drama  
Yale Repertory Theatre  
Yale Cabaret

Co-design Rasean Davonte Johnson, 2023  
Jim Ortlieb, 2023  
Brian Marcum, 2023  
Terry Kinnery, 2023  
Eric Sciotto, 2023  
Jeffry Denman, 2023  
Tara Faircloth, 2023  
Hana Sharif, 2023  
Kevork Mourad, 2023  
Debra Walton, 2022  
Co-design Rasean Davonte Johnson, 2022  
Kevin Newbury, 2022  
Julianne Wick Davis, 2022  
Jackson Gay, 2021  
Julia Gibson, 2021  
Wayne Bryan, 2021  
Anthony Moseley, 2021  
Shanti Pillai, 2021  
Adrian Giurgea, 2021  
Simona Giurgea, 2020  
Jeffry Denman, 2019  
April Cleveland, 2019  
Sarna Lapine, 2019  
Christina Pellegrini, 2019  
Wan Zhao, 2018  
Adrian Giurgea, 2018  
Wayne Bryan, 2018  
Jo Bonny, 2018  
Brenda Harris, 2018  
Jon Weber, 2018  
Aileen McGroddy, 2018  
Anthony Moseley, 2018  
Lynda Paul, 2017  
Aaron Sawyer, 2017  
Sara Holdren, 2017  
Michael Commendatore, 2017  
James Bundy, 2017  
Baize Buzan, 2017

<b>Collisions</b>	Yale Cabaret	Fred Kennedy, 2016
<b>Somebodies Travel</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Margot Bordelon, 2016
<b>Amy and the Orphans</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Leora Morris, 2016
<b>A New Domestic Architecture</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Luke Harlan, 2016
<b>The Oresteia</b>	Yale School of Drama	Yagil Eliraz, 2015
<b>I'm with you in Rockland</b>	Yale Cabaret	Kevin Hourigan, 2015
<b>The Winter's Tale</b>	Yale School of Drama	Luke Harlan, 2015
<b>Macbeth</b>	The Gamm Theatre	Fred Sullivan, Jr., 2014
<b>A Very Merry Unauthorized</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	David Tessier, 2014
<b>Children's Scientology Pageant ‡</b>		
<b>It's a Spaceship Now</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	Susie Schutt, 2013
<b>The Threepenny Opera</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	David Tessier, 2013
<b>The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	Josh Short, 2012
<b>Singin' in the Rain</b>	University of Rhode Island	Paula McGlasson, 2012
<b>The Pillowman</b>	University of Rhode Island	Michael Commendatore, 2012

\*=Jeff Award Winning Projection Design ‡= Motif Award

#### **ASSISTANT / ASSOCIATE / CONTENT CREATOR / ENGINEER**

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<b>Medea</b>	The Metropolitan Opera	Katy S. Tucker, Designer 2022
<b>Measure For Measure</b>	Chicago Shakespeare Theater	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2022
<b>Aladdin</b>	Disney Theatrical	Daniel Brodie, Designer 2022
<b>Persephone</b>	Virgin Voyages	Parker Langvardt, Designer 2022
<b>Until The Flood</b>	Alabama Shakespeare Festival	Nicholas Hussong, Designer 2022
<b>Yemandja</b>	The Office/Mass Moca	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2022
<b>Fannie</b>	Goodman Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2021
<b>Constellations</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	Andy Russ, Designer 2020
<b>The Effectors</b>	Royal Caribbean	Daniel Brodie, Designer 2020
<b>The Nutcracker</b>	Atlanta Ballet	Finn Ross, Designer 2019-present
<b>Summer: The Donna Summer Musical</b>	Summer First National Tour LLC	Sean Nieuwenhuis, Designer 2019
<b>Matilda</b>	The Muny	Nathan W. Scheuer, Designer 2019
<b>Paint Your Wagon</b>	The Muny	Caite Hevner, Designer 2019
<b>Footloose</b>	The Muny	Greg Emetaz, Designer 2019
<b>Cinderella</b>	The Muny	Nathan W. Scheuer, Designer 2019
<b>Djembe! The Show</b>	Apollo Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2019
<b>Sylvia</b>	Houston Ballet	Wendall K Harrington, Designer 2019
<b>La Ruta</b>	Steppenwolf Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2018
<b>Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</b>	Virginia Repertory Theatre	Daniel Brodie, Designer 2018
<b>A Bright Room Called Day</b>	The Juilliard School	Joey Moro, Designer 2018
<b>Vietgone</b>	Writers Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2018
<b>A Mob Story</b>	The Plaza Hotel	Daniel Brodie, Designer 2018
<b>Fidelio</b>	Heartbeat Opera	Joey Moro and Nicholas Hussong, Designer 2018
<b>The Burn</b>	Steppenwolf Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2018
<b>You Got Older</b>	Steppenwolf Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2018
<b>Tent Revival</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Brittany Bland, Designer 2018
<b>The Girls is Chained</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Brittany Bland, Designer 2018
<b>Marty and the Hands That Could</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Brittany Bland, Designer 2018
<b>Motown: The Musical</b>	Worklight Productions	Daniel Brodie, Designer 2017
<b>Rock of Ages</b>	Drury Lane Theater	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2017
<b>Midsummer Night's Dream</b>	Yale School of Drama	Wladimiro Woyno, Designer 2016
<b>The Stone Witch</b>	Berkshire Theatre Group	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2016
<b>Carmina Burana</b>	Chautauqua Institution	Christopher Ash, Designer 2015
<b>Deer and the Lovers</b>	YSD Carlotta Festival	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2015

Preston Montfort	YSD Carlotta Festival	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2015
The Children	YSD Carlotta Festival	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2015
Don Juan	Yale School of Drama	Yana Biryukova, Designer 2015
War	Yale Repertory Theatre	Kristen Ferguson, Designer 2014
HackPolitik	HERE Arts Center	Joey Frangieh, Designer 2014

## **DIRECTION / OTHER DESIGN**

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Salt Pepper Ketchup	Lighting Designer	Yale Cabaret 2016
A Journey Through Time and Space	Projection Designer	LUX: Ideas Through Light Installation 2015
Hearing Rothko	Projection/Light Designer	Yale University Art Gallery Installation 2015
Body Awareness	Set Designer	The Wilbury Theatre Group 2013
7 Inches*	Director	Technocratic Realists 2012
The 411 on the 401	Director/Editor	University of Rhode Island 2012

## **WATCHOUT PROGRAMMING**

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Seachange	<b>Miami Ballet</b>	<b>Camilla Tassi, Designer 2023</b>
Chicken and Biscuits	Asolo Rep	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2023
Petrichor	Miami Ballet	Jason Carpenter, Designer 2023
The Source	Miami Ballet	Alex Basco Koch, Designer 2022
Her Honor Jane Byrne	Lookingglass Theatre Company	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2020/21
The Great Leap	Steppenwolf Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2019
The Who's Tommy	Memorial Hall Cincinnati	Wendall K. Harrington, Designer 2018
Candide	Carnegie Hall	Wendall K. Harrington, Designer 2018
Die Fladermaus	SUNY Stony Brook	Brenda Harris, Director 2018
The Burn	Steppenwolf Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2018
You Got Older	Steppenwolf Theatre	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2018
Sleep	Octopus Theatricals	Rachel Dickstein, Director 2017
Rock of Ages	Drury Lane Theater	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2017
Pipeline	Lincoln Center	Lilliana Blaine Cruz, Director 2017
Hunchback of Notre Dame	Music Theatre Wichita	Wayne Bryan, Director 2017
ODIN Alive	Yale School of Drama	Michael Commendatore, Director 2017
The Hour of Great Mercy	YSD Carlotta Festival	Wladimiro Woyno, Designer 2017
Everything That Never Happened	YSD Carlotta Festival	Wladimiro Woyno, Designer 2017
If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must be a Muhfucka	YSD Carlotta Festival	Wladimiro Woyno, Designer 2017
Assassins	Yale Repertory Theatre	James Bundy, Director 2017
The Other World	Yale Cabaret	Baize Buzan, Director 2017
Somebodies Travel	Yale School of Drama	Margot Bordelon, Director 2016
Amy and the Orphans	Yale School of Drama	Leora Morris, Director 2016
A New Domestic Architecture	Yale School of Drama	Luke Harlan, Director 2016
The Stone Witch	Berkshire Theatre Group	Rasean Davonte Johnson, Designer 2016
War	Yale Repertory Theatre	Kristen Ferguson, Designer 2014
The Winter's Tale	Yale School of Drama	Luke Harlan, Director 2015

## **OTHER PROGRAMMING**

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I and You	Bristol Riverside Theatre	Isadora 2022
The Winning Side	Epic Theatre Ensemble	Isadora 2018
Let's Explore!	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Isadora 2018
Stone Soup	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Isadora 2018
Silent Lyre	Yale Baroque Opera	Millumin 2017

<b>Just Not That Woman</b>	Vancouver Fringe Festival	Qlab 2017
<b>I'm with you in Rockland</b>	Yale Cabaret	Arena 2015
<b>Macbeth</b>	The Gamm Theatre	Qlab 2014
<b>A Very Merry Unauthorized</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	Isadora 2014
<b>Children's Scientology Pageant</b>		
<b>The Threepenny Opera</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	Qlab 2013
<b>The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity</b>	The Wilbury Theatre Group	Isadora, 2012
<b>Singin' in the Rain</b>	University of Rhode Island	Qlab 2012
<b>HackPolitik</b>	HERE Arts Center	Isadora 2014

## IMPORTANT SKILLS

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Proficient in Adobe After Effects, Photoshop, Premiere, Dragon Frame, Microsoft Office, PowerPoint, Keynote, Isadora, Qlab, Millumin, and Watchout.

Experience in Vectorworks, AutoCAD, TouchDesigner, Resolume, Unity, Unreal Engine, Blender, Maya, Cinema 4D, sensor integration, virtual reality, and 3D printing.

## RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Freelance Projection Designer 2014 - Present

Design, engineer, and implementation of ideas from conception to realization.  
Assistant and associate to Global designers.  
Content creation and show programming making other designers dream's a reality.

### Freelance Video Technician 2014 - Present

Engineering and implementing video systems for live events.  
Talent manager for corporate events.  
Content creation and event programming.

### Studio Manager 2016-2017

Purchasing, updating, and maintaining projection design equipment and software.  
Stocking library and checking in and out equipment.  
Assisting students in personal art projects.

Yale School of Drama

### Video and Creative Services Coordinator 2012-2014

Position created for expansion of video business.  
Designing and managing video systems for large corporate clients such as Hasbro and Metlife.  
Choosing playback software and equipment.  
Capturing and disseminating meetings.  
Creating content for various clients including video, photography, graphic design, and web design.

Event Resource Group

### Video Production Assistant 2008-2012

Technical direction of all student run television shows.  
Maintenance and understanding of all video equipment.  
Researching and purchasing new equipment.

University of RI

### Hasbro Video Production Intern 2011

Following the full process of creating a commercial and assisting when necessary.  
Jobs included location scout, production assistant, animation, sound production, camera operation, and more.

Hasbro Pawtucket, RI

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Student Advisor at Depaul University - Winter 2022 Guide student designers through the process of projection design Sit in on production meetings to assist students Observe tech and performance to provide constructive criticism	Depaul University
Adjunct Professor in Projection Technology - Fall 2021 Teach a historical context to projection technology in the theatre Create proficiency in playback software Create proficiency in projection engineering	Depaul University
Adjunct Professor in Content Creation - Fall 2020 Teaching Photoshop, Premiere, After Effects, and Blender. Instructing both Graduate and Undergraduate students. Mentoring and guiding students on various outside projects.	University of Cincinnati
Special Research Fellow 2016-2017 Taught workshop on using sensors in live performance Taught workshop on creating a virtual reality world in Unity and how to see it on your phone. Received HP Grant for Blended Reality project. Researched sensors in virtual reality resulting in a VR space bike that moves as you pedal. Learned various software such as Unity and Touch Designer.	Yale DMCA
Teaching Assistant in Animation – Professor Johannes DeYoung 2016 Prepared software on all computers depending on the lesson. Purchase necessary equipment. Demonstrated various techniques to students in and out of class. Research new software and techniques for animation	Yale School of Drama
Adjunct Professor of Stage Combat 2014 Taught stage combat to undergraduate students. Styles included hand to hand, rapier, dagger, staff, and falls. Students choreographed fights for film and stage.	University of RI
Teaching Assistant in Theatre – 2011-2012 Taught a general education introductory course in theatre. Students produce a one-act play to be performed publicly. Assisted students in study in and out of class.	University of RI

## BOARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2016-2017 Yale Cabaret Artistic Associate in Projection Design  
Read All proposed plays and help choose the current season.

Represent all projection designers to the board as needed.  
Meet and talk with patrons, donors, and students to discuss the current season and goals

#### 2016-2017 DMCA Graduate Fellow

Research various practices including virtual reality, augmented reality, sensors, projection on various materials, pepper's ghost technique, and more.  
Assist and educate students on found research and experience.

### AWARDS/HONORS

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#### 2022 Jeff Awards "Best Projection Design"

Awarded for best projection design with Rasean Davonte Johnson in the Chicago Shakespeare Theater production of *It Came From Outer Space*.

#### 2017 Pierre-André Salim Prize Yale School of Drama - \$1500

Awarded to a third year student whose artistry, professionalism, collaborative energy, and commitment to the community have inspired their colleagues, and who shows distinct promise of raising the standard of practice in the field.

#### 2017 DMCA Interdisciplinary Arts Award - \$5000

A project that demonstrates an ability to collaborate across fields with creative and critical insight, and thereby reflect the interdisciplinary arts research mission of the Digital Media Center for the Arts.

#### 2016 Blended Reality HP Grant - \$2000

Focus on integrating video media with live performance in the theatre, dance, opera, concerts, installations and now virtually reality. An interactive virtual reality installation project will explore the idea of being immersed in the present taking you on a never ending journey through space.

#### 2015 Motif Award "Best Lighting Design"

Awarded for best lighting and projection design with Adam O'Brien in the Wilbury Group's production of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*.

#### 2012 URI Film Excellence Award

The University of Rhode Island honors graduating seniors with superior academic achievement in a particular field with a University Academic Excellence Award. Their selection is based on grade point average, as well as other criteria determined by the individual department.

#### 2012 KCACTF Directing Award

Award created for recognition of exemplifying "truthfulness and specificity in a scene" while directing a scene from Rajiv Joseph's *Gruesome Playground Injuries*.

#### \*2011 URI Visualization Award

1<sup>st</sup> place in "Experimental Film" category by putting to practice a manifesto created in school called the Technocratic Realist Manifesto. The Technocratic Realist believes in the democratization of video and therefore any given scene should be filmed from as many different angles with as many cameras as possible at a time to capture truth.