

## RICHARD M. ISACKES

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### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

1998-2006

- Chair; Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

1996-1998

- Associate Chair; Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

1995-97

- Producing Artistic Director; Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

1990-1996

- Area Head; Design/ Technology Area, Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

1991-1992

- Director of Design and Production for the College of Fine Arts, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

1982-1990

- Head of Scene Design Program; Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

1974-1976

- Set and Lighting Designer/ Technical Director/ Costume Coordinator; Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.

1973-74

- Technical Director/ Set and Lighting Designer; Dusquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

1973

- Curriculum Coordinator; City of Pittsburgh Park Players and Classes; Pittsburgh PA.

1969-1972

- Chair, Senior School Art Department, Sewickley Academy; Sewickley, PA.

1969

- Technical Director/ Set and Lighting Designer; College Light Opera Company; Falmouth MA.

### TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

- 1992 -2008

Holder: Joanne Sharp Crosby Chair in Theatrical Design and Technology; University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

- 1991 –1992

Holder: Jamail Regent's Professor in Theatre; University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

- 1987 – 1991

Professor of Theatre; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana IL.

- 1982—1987

Associate Professor of Theatre: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, IL.

- 1978 – 1982 Assistant Professor of Theatre; Boston University, School of Theatre, School of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.
- 1974 – 1976 Assistant Professor in Theatre, Bucknell University, Department of English, Lewisburg, PA.
- 1969 – 1972 Senior School Art Teacher, Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, PA.

#### ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2000 Appointed: Susan Menefee Ragan Regents Professor in Fine Arts: University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX.
- 1992 Appointed: Joanne Sharp Crosby Chair in Theatrical Design and Technology: University of Texas, Austin. TX.
- 1990 Appointed: Lee Hage Jamail Regents Professorship in Fine Arts: University of Texas, Austin, TX.
- 1985 Named: University Scholar: University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. Awarded for, “outstanding scholarly or creative achievement.” Member of inaugural class of thirty-eight professors chosen by peer review from combined faculties of University of Illinois at Urbana and University of Illinois at Chicago.
- 1973-1974 Duquesne Fellow: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA.

#### PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- 2004-Nominated, Austin Critics Table Award for “best scene design”, Metamorphosis, Mary Moody Theatre
- 2004-Nominated, B Iden Payne Award for “best direction of a play for children”, The Honorable Urashima Taro, Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas
- 2001-Nominated, B Iden Payne Award for “best scene design”, Beauty Queen of Leane, State Theatre, Austin Texas
- 1983 - Boston Circle Critics "HUB Award" for “scene design” in a regional theatre for Huntington Theatre Company's production of Translations
- 1985 - "HUB Award" for Huntington Theatre Company's production of Uncle Vanya

#### MEMBERSHIPS ON BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

- Austin Music Theatre—1999-2001
- Actors Repertory of Texas—1999 to 2001
- National Association of Schools of Theatre—2001 to 2003
- University Resident Theatre Association—2002 to 2004

## MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- United Scenic Artists of America
- National Theater Conference (elected)
- University/ Resident Theatre Association
- Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- National Association of Schools of Theatre
- United States Institute for Theatre Technology
- Texas Educational Theatre Association
- National Chairs Conference (founder)

## EDUCATION

- 1964-1966  
Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, Major: Painting and Sculpture
- 1967-1969  
New School for Social Research, New York, NY, Graduated B.A. Degree, Major: Philosophy/Painting
- 1973-1975  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, Graduated M.F.A. Degree, Concentration: Scene Design
- 1977  
New York University, New York, NY—Post-graduate study with stage designer, Oliver Smith

## EXHIBITIONS

### Juried Exhibitions:

- 1967---Cleveland Museum May Show; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Ohio
- 1986---United States Institute for Theatre Technology Biannual Sceneography Exhibit; Anaheim, CA
- 1987---United States Institute for Theatre Technology Biannual Exhibit, Milwaukee WI.
- 1991---Prague Quadrennial for Theatre Design and Architecture
- 1994---United States Institute for Theatre Technology Biannual Sceneography Exhibit
- 1999---Featured Designer Texas Educational Theatre Association Design Show

### Other Exhibitions:

- 1995—Department of Theatre and Dance Faculty Design Show; University of Texas at Austin
- 1995—Department of Theatre and Dance Faculty Design Show; Alley Theatre, Houston Texas
- 1996—Austin Artists Alliance Theatrical Design Show; Austin TX

#### ARTICLES

- 2009\_\_ “The Design Dilemma,” American Theatre January 2009, 34-36, 125-130 (invited)
- 2008—“On the Pedagogy of Theatre Stage Design: A Critique of Practice,” *Theatre Topics* 18:1 (2008) 41-53.
- 2009—“The Design Dilemma,” American Theatre Vol.26: 1 (2009) 34-35,125-130.

#### PLAY SCRIPTS

- Marathon: A West Texas Song Cycle, script by Isackes, music by Darden Smith: two performances at Cactus Café Austin Texas and two performances Lamberts Restaurant Austin Texas.

#### DESIGNS INCLUDED IN BOOKS

- Scene Technology; 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; Richard L. Arnold, Prentice Hall 1990
- The Essential Theatre; 5<sup>th</sup> Edition; Oscar Brockett, Harcourt Brace, 1992
- The Essential Theatre; 6<sup>th</sup> Edition; Oscar Brockett, Harcourt Brace, 1996
- The Essential Theatre; 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: Oscar Brockett, Harcourt Brace, 2000
- The Essential Theatre; 8<sup>th</sup> Edition: Oscar Brockett, Thomson Wadsworth, 2004
- Theatre; 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition; Robert Cohen, Mayfield 1994

#### PROGRAM REVIEWS

2009

- UR/TA Review for the University of Connecticut
- Internal Review for Oklahoma State University

2008

- UR/TA Review for California State University at Long Beach Department of Theatre, Long Beach, CA

2007

- Internal Review for the Florida State School of Theatre, Tallahassee FL, Sarasota FL

2005

- Internal Program Review for The University of Buffalo Theatre and Dance Department, Buffalo, NY

2004

- Internal Program Review for The University of Texas at Tyler Theatre Program, Tyler, TX

2003

- Internal Program Review for the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Theatre Program
- UR/TA Review for the University of Washington

2002

- Internal Program Review for the Department of Theatre, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- Internal Program Review for the Department of Theatre and Dance, the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- Program Review for the Department of Theatre, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

2001

- National Association of schools of Theatre, Accreditation review for UCLA, Department of Theatre, Los Angeles, CA

- National Association of Schools of Theatre, Accreditation Review for the New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL.

INVITED LECTURES, RESIDENCIES, SYMPOSIA, ADJUDICATIONS,  
2009

- Contesting the Imperial Viewpoint in Design Pedagogy, ATHE, New York Convention (invited paper)
- Undergraduate Design Training in America, A symposium conceived and moderated in Austin Texas.

2001

- The Practice of Stage Design in America: Then and Now: Invited Plenary Session, ATHE, Chicago Convention
- Designers and Dramaturges View Space: Invited Panel, ATHE, Chicago Convention

2000

- Is There an Administrative Crisis in Theatre Departments? Invited panel, NAST, Albuquerque, NM.
- Production Review: Texas Tech University. Lubbock TX.
- Respondent: Lincoln Center Portfolio Review, New York, NY.

1999

- Preparing Students for Graduate Training: invited panel, ATHE Convention, Toronto, Ont.
- Envisioning The Future of Theatre Education: invited panel, ATHE Convention, Toronto Ont.
- Production Review: invited guest reviewer, University of Texas Pan American, McAllen, TX.

1998

- How Space Means: An Interrogation: Conceived and organized (with Rhonda Blair of Southern Methodist University) a national symposium dealing with the theoretical discourse of space in performance.

1997

- Picking a Season for the Academic Theatre; ATHE National Convention, invited panelist.
- Respondent; Lincoln Center Portfolio Review: New York, NY.

1996

- Respondent; Lincoln Center Portfolio Review: New York, NY.

1995

- Visiting Professor; *Instituto Cultural Peruano Nortamericano*; Lima Peru.
- Adjudicator; Texas Educational Theatre Association Design Competition, Plano, Texas
- Respondent; Lincoln Center Portfolio Review: New York, NY
- Rendering for the Theatre: Lecture Demonstration; South West Texas State University; San Marcos, Texas

1994

- Adjudicator; Texas Educational Theatre Association Design Competition
- Respondent; Lincoln Center Portfolio Review; New York, NY

1992

- Intersections of Training Methodologies for the Designer and Actor :Invited Panel; New York University, New York, NY
- Respondent; Lincoln Center Portfolio Review, New York, NY.

1990

- The Influence of the 'New Stagecraft Movement' on Contemporary Design: Invited paper, USITT National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
- Respondent: American College Theatre Festival, Southwest Region, Lubbock, TX

1982—1990

- Member United States Delegation to Prague Quadrennial: Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1987
- Visiting Artist: University of Delaware, Newark Delaware
- Visiting Artist: University of California, Irvine: Irvine, CA
- Visiting Artist: Louisiana Tech University: Ruston, LA
- Respondent: American College Theatre Festival, Southwest Region, Fort Worth, TX, 1987
- Respondent: American College Theatre Festival, Southwest Region, Lubbock, TX, 1989
- The Designer/ Director Relationship: Invited Panel, Illinois Theatre Association, Chicago, IL
- Consultant: Springfield Muni-Opera: Springfield, IL
- Designing *The Woodlanders*: Invited Panel, Friends of Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- The Ubermunch: Designed and Executed mural for the Elite Diner, Urbana, IL  
1974—1982
- Developed program for Massachusetts Artists in Residence Initiative: Massachusetts Fine Arts Council, Boston, MA
- Thinking About Design: Invited Lecture, Pennsylvania Teachers Association Convention, Hershey PA.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY

### Stage Design:

2008-2009

- La Curandera, Butler Opera Center, The University of Texas at Austin
- Bastien/ Bastan, Butler Opera Center, The University of Texas at Austin
- Queenie Pie, Butler Opera Center, The University of Texas at Austin

2007-2008

- On the Town: St. Edwards University, Austin, TX.
- Hansel and Gretel: Butler Opera Center, Austin, TX.

2006-2007

- Come Back Little Sheba: Las Vegas Conservatory Theatre, Las Vegas, NV.

2004-2005

- Voices of Valor: Co-produced by The University of Texas at Austin Performing Arts Center and the Performing Arts Center at Arizona State University.

2003-2004

- Metamorphosis: St. Edwards University, Austin, TX.
- A Little Night Music: Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

2001-2002

- Wit: Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Lincoln, NE.

2000-2001

- The Animated Body: Choreography Yacov Sharir; Dance Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas, Austin, TX.

1999-2000

- The Beauty Queen of Lenanne: State Theatre, Austin, TX.
- The Texas Musical Show: Palo Duro Canyon, Canyon, TX.
- My Wall of Names: Ballet by Stephen Mills (Premiere), Ballet Austin, Austin, TX.
- Sockdology: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery AL.

1998

- Measure for Measure: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery AL.

- Ordinary People: Austin Theatre for Youth, Austin, TX.

1997

- The Nutcracker: Ballet Austin, Austin TX.
- The Miracle Worker: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL.
- Three Sisters: Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

1996

- Lucia di Lammermoor: Austin Lyric Opera, Austin, TX.
- To Kill a Mockingbird: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL.
- The Merry Wives of Windsor: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL.
- The Food Chain: Alley Theatre, Houston, TX.

1995

- The Rite of Spring: (Premiere) Ballet Austin, Austin, TX.
- Much Ado about Nothing: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL.
- The Night of the Iguana: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL.
- The Sisters Rosenswag: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL.

1994

- How the Other Half Loves: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL
- Othello: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL
- Dancing at Lughasa: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL
- West Side Story: 1993 Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

1993

- Abduction from the Seraglio: Austin Lyric Opera, Austin, TX
- Dumas: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery, AL
- Chipita Rodriquez: University of Texas Music Department, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

1992

- Tales of Hoffmann: Boston Lyric Opera, Boston, MA
- Midsummer Night's Dream: Live Oak Theatre, Austin, TX
- La Pietra Del Paragone: Austin Lyric Opera, Austin, TX
- Julius Caesar: Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City UT
- Bliethe Spirit: Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City UT
- Cyrano de Bergerac: Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City UT

1991

- What the Butler Saw: Court Theatre, Chicago, IL
- Death of a Salesman: Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City UT
- Misalliance: Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City UT
- The Taming of the Shrew: Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City UT

1990

- Ghosts: Court Theatre, Chicago, IL
- The Cherry Orchard, University of Delaware, Newark DE
- Love's Labors Lost: University of Delaware, Newark DE
- Daughter of the Regiment: Opera Theatre of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

1980—1990

- Boston University Theatre: Boston, MA
  - Travesties
  - Duck Hunting
- Charles Playhouse: Boston, MA
  - Three Penny Opera
- Chicago Lyric Opera (Young American Artists): Chicago, IL

- Cosi Fan Tutti
  - Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park: Cincinnati, OH
    - Dark at the Top of the Stairs
    - Orphans
  - Cleveland Opera: Cleveland, OH
    - Madame Butterfly
    - The Fantastiks
  - Colorado Shakespeare Festival: Boulder, CO
    - Two Gentleman of Verona
  - Court Theatre: Chicago, IL
    - She Stoops to Conquer
    - Dr. Faustus
  - GeVa Theatre: Rochester, NY
    - Twelfth Night
    - Dracula
    - The Caretaker
  - Hartman Theatre Company: Boston, MA and Stamford, CT
    - Night Must Fall
  - Hartt School of Music: Hartford, CT
    - The Rape of Lucretia
  - Huntington Theatre Company: Boston, MA
    - Uncle Vanya
    - Cyrano de Bergerac
    - Design for Living
    - Translations (American Premiere)
  - Illinois Opera Theatre: Urbana, IL
    - Only A Miracle (Premiere)
    - Postcard From Morocco
    - Falstaff
  - Illinois Repertory Theatre: Urbana, IL
    - Tartuffe
    - The Beggars Opera
    - The Seagull
    - Little Mary Sunshine
  - Kentucky Shakespeare Festival: Louisville, KY
    - Romeo and Juliet
  - Opera Theatre of Rochester: Rochester, NY
    - L'Elisir d'Amore
  - Opera Theatre of St. Louis: St. Louis, MO
    - The Woodlanders (Premiere)
  - Wilber Theatre: Boston, MA
    - Me and Julie: and Evening with Bobby Short and Julie Wilson (Premiere)
- 1975—1980
- Bel Canto Opera Company: New York, NY
    - Manon Lescaut
  - CBS Television: New York, NY
    - Love of Life ( Produced by CBS Television; Lead Assistant to Lloyd Evans [Art Director])
  - Foundation for the American Musical: New Fairfield, CT
    - Encounter With Murder (Premiere)
    - Blues in the Night (Premiere)

Sunrise (Premiere)  
An Almost Perfect Person  
The Owl and the Pussycat  
Come Blow Your Horn  
Ballroom  
Man of La Mancha  
The Play's the Thing  
Dracula  
Death Trap

- La Mama Theatre Company: New York, NY  
The Silver Queen Saloon (Premiere)
- NBC Television  
Another World ( Produced by Proctor and Gamble; Staff Set Designer)
- New York Lyric Opera Company: New York, NY  
Fedora
- Opera Ebony: Beacon Theatre on Broadway, New York, NY  
Highway One USA (Premiere)
- Opera Theatre of Rochester: Rochester, NY  
Don Giovanni  
The Tales of Hofmann  
Pagliacci  
Il Travatore  
Tosca  
Norma  
Aida  
Gianni Schicci (Reproduced at Wolfrap Music Festival)
- Rochester Philharmonic and GeVa Theatre: Rochester, N Y  
Pacifica (Premiere)

Design Credits before 1975:

- Oberlin Music Theatre: Oberlin, OH (three productions)
- Red Barn Theatre: Pittsburgh, PA (four productions)
- College Light Opera Company: Falmouth, MA (nine productions)
- Oberlin College Gilbert and Sullivan Players: Falmouth, MA (three productions)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre: New York, NY (one production)

Directing:

2008

- Hansel and Gretel: Butler Opera Center at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

2007

- Marathon: A Texas Song Cycle: The Performing Arts Center at The University of Texas, Austin, TX.

2003

- The Honorable Urashima Taro: Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

2000

- The Crucible: University of Texas Opera Program, University of Texas at Austin

1998

- The Mikado: University of Texas Opera Program, University of Texas at Austin

- The Fantastiks: University of Texas Opera Program. University of Texas at Austin  
1997
- Three Sisters: Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX  
1976
- Guys and Dolls: Bucknell University Department of English and Theatre, Lewisberg, PA  
1973
- The Diary of Ann Frank: Sewickley Academy, Sewickley PA.  
1974
- Ahmal and the Night Visitors, Sewickley PA.  
1972
- Trial by Jury: Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, PA
- Cox and Box: Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, PA  
1971
- The Bald Soprano: Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, PA.
- Once is Forever: Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, PA