

ABBEY LYNN SMITH

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curriculum vitae

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a lighting designer primarily, I think of lighting as a medium to create connection and understanding. It is my job to ensure that the audience is engaged--looking where they need to look and really hearing what the performance is saying--whether that is through lines of text, song, or dance. I find I focus a great deal on moments--making sure that each important moment is getting the attention it deserves. Even if the moment requires a very minor shift, it is in these moments that we find clarity of message. Lighting can establish tone, help with comedic timing, or transport us to a new world depending on how we choose to utilize it. Sometimes the most effective shifts are ones that go unnoticed by the audience. Lighting is all around us on a daily basis, and that is why it such a wonderful tool for connection. Most of us have had the experience of a sunset or a gloomy, rainy day and how the atmosphere feels different. We make associations between these aesthetics and emotions. It is my job to understand what these associations are so that I can recreate them and manipulate them to enhance the audience's experience. Connection is the reason I love what I do. I thoroughly enjoy the collaborative aspect of working in theater and problem solving together. There is something special about being part of the reason a room full of strangers are having a shared experience and leave having laughed, questioned, and/or explored something together.

EDUCATION

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Master of Fine Arts | Stage Design, Emphasis: Lighting Design
May 2023
Thesis Project: Lighting Design for *Death of a Salesman*

University of Kansas

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Theatre Design
Bachelor of Arts | Theatre
Program Completion | University Honors Program
May 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Denison University

Theatrical Designer

August 2023-Present

- My position at Denison is fulfilled through design and instruction. I often am working on multiple design processes at once—primarily in lighting design, but in scenic and projection design as well. I work with students throughout these design processes, whether as my assistant designer, as run crew, or as the teams I collaborate within the lighting and scenic shops.
- As an instructor, I teach a course each semester. As of now, I have taught Elements of Scenic and Lighting Design and am currently building a Workshop in Lighting Design course.
 - In Elements of Scenic and Lighting Design, students are introduced to the basic elements and principles of design and are asked to engage with the world around them using this terminology—whether through photo diary submissions or through design reflections. Once we have established the basic terminology, we dive deeper into the design process for both scenic and lighting designers—from concept creation to communicating design ideas and collaborating with a team. In the latest iteration of this course, I have collaborated with a colleague who teaches Costumes and Makeup, to allow our students to collaborate with a design team of differing design areas—not unlike you would experience in a real-world design process.
 - In my Workshop in Lighting Design course, I am focusing on building confidence in students when it comes to lighting technology. The course will use 3D models and ETC's Augment3D software to allow students to program lighting cues confidently, without the added pressure of a tech week time crunch. Students will leave understanding light systems and cue structure, as well as feel confident they can create the cues their designs ask for using ETC Eos software.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Graduate Assistant

August 2020-May 2023

- My assistantship at UNL was fulfilled in two ways—through time working in the light shop and teaching undergraduate courses. I spent a great deal of time working with undergraduates from various backgrounds in the light shop, teaching them new skills through applied practice—hanging, focusing, programming, and other various small projects.
- As an instructor, I have taught two courses—Lighting I and Principles of Design. Both courses are open to students outside of the design/technical theatre program, which meant varying levels of experience with the subject.
 - In Lighting I, I taught the basics of being a theatrical electrician as well as the basics of lighting design. During the class we learned about electricity, color theory, and the different types of equipment and then went on to read two scripts to apply a short design process—from research to light plot. For their final, we collaborated with an acting class to design lights for short performances. By the end, each student had accomplished a realized lighting design on a small scale.
 - Principles of Design is an introduction to basic design principles for students with varying levels of experience. The goal of this course is for students to leave with an understanding of basic design elements such as line, color, etc. and the ability to apply them to a project to get their message across. By the end of the course they will have applied each of these principles throughout multiple projects, including a project where they analyze a song and represent it through a custom design.

PJ Library Book Club for Kids

Jordan and the Dreadful Golem Costume Workshop Instructor

January 2021

- Through a collaboration with Two River, I worked with PJ Library to create a virtual workshop to supplement the reading the kids did for the book club. I created outline drawings for each character in the book and after discussing a basic idea of costume design, the students took time to design costumes for the characters they read about.

Two River Theater Company

Backstage Teaching Artist

Summer 2020

- For Two River Theater's Summer Intensives program, I taught multiple classes in 3 week long sessions alongside another teaching artist. The intensives cover all areas of design/technical theatre, though it came with challenges when we had to move to a virtual format due to COVID. At the end of each week, students put together their work—from both the performance and backstage sections—to present in a virtual show that we presented to their friends and family. Projects included virtual scenic design using SketchUp, scenic painting with supplies we sent to them, and lighting design using online visualizers.

LIGHTING DESIGN

Denison University | Granville, OH

<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Dir: Alison Morooney	Sharon Martin Hall	April 2026
<i>Picasso at the Lapin Agile</i>	Dir: Cheryl McFarren	Hylbert Studio Theater	April 2026
<i>Macbeth</i>	Dir: Aviva Neff	Sharon Martin Hall	March 2026
<i>Lucky Stiff</i>	Dir: Brad Frenette	Hylbert Studio Theater	December 2025
<i>Rare Birds (Fall Dance Concert)</i>	Various Choreographers	Sharon Martin Hall	November 2025
<i>The Grown-Up</i>	Dir: Eleni Papaleonardos	Sharon Martin Hall	October 2025
<i>Fish Sing/Pez Canta (Spring Dance Concert)</i>	Various Choreographers	Thorsen Dance Studio	April 2025
<i>9 to 5</i>	Dir: Brad Frenette	Sharon Martin Hall	April 2025
<i>Dance Senior Research: Rhythms in AbunDANCE</i>	Various Choreographers	Thorsen Dance Studio	March 2025
<i>Tartuffe</i>	Dir: Aviva Neff	Sharon Martin Hall	March 2025
<i>Love Fail (Premiere Designer)</i>	Lorelei Ensemble & Pilobolus	Sharon Martin Hall	February 2025
<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Dir: Brad Frenette	Sharon Martin Hall	December 2024
<i>Timeless/Eterna (Fall Dance Concert)</i>	Various Choreographers	Sharon Martin Hall	November 2024
<i>Lobby Hero</i>	Dir: Jim Dennen	Sharon Martin Hall	October 2024
<i>Mareas/Tides (Remount Showing)</i>	Choreo: Ojeya Cruz Banks Marion Ramirez	Sharon Martin Hall	September 2024
<i>The 39 Steps</i>	Dir: Cheryl McFarren	Hylbert Studio Theater	April 2024
<i>Crescendo (Spring Dance Concert)</i>	Various Choreographers	Thorsen Dance Studio	April 2024
<i>She Loves Me</i>	Dir: Brad Frenette	Sharon Martin Hall	April 2024
<i>Mareas/Tides</i>	Choreo: Ojeya Cruz Banks Marion Ramirez	Sharon Martin Hall	March 2024
<i>Dance Senior Research: Unraveling Roots</i>	Various Choreographers	Thorsen Dance Studio	March 2024
<i>Here Us '24 (Devised Student-Written Production)</i>	Dir: Jim Dennen	Sharon Martin Hall	February 2024
<i>LMNOP</i>	Dir: Brad Frenette	Sharon Martin Hall	December 2023
<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Dir: Aviva Neff	Hylbert Studio Theater	November 2023
<i>Student Choreography Fall Festival</i>	Various Choreographers	Thorsen Dance Studio	October 2023
<i>Eurydice</i>	Dir: Eleni Papaleonardos	Sharon Martin Hall	October 2023

Available Light Theater | Columbus, OH

<i>Lunch Bunch</i>	Dir: Eleni Papaleonardos	Riffe Center Studio 2	September 2024
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Wexner Center for the Arts | Columbus, OH

<i>Like Leaves, Like Carrots</i>	Dir: Jim Dennen	Wexner Center Studio	January 2024
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Bay Street Theater | Sag Harbor, NY

<i>Music Monday with Julie Benko</i>	Dir: Julie Benko	Bay Street Mainstage	July 2023
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Midwest Ballet Company | Lincoln, NE

<i>Nutcracker (Associate LD)</i>	Dir: Shari True LD: Michelle Harvey	Lied Center	December 2022
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Peru State College | Peru, NE

<i>Proof</i>	Dir: Laura Lippman	Jindra Fine Arts	Oct 2022
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Rider University High School Musical Theatre Intensive | Princeton, NJ

<i>Pippin</i> (Associate LD)	Dir: Nathan Brewer LD: Ethan Steimel	Westminster Conservatory	Aug 2022
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Forestburgh Playhouse | Forestburgh, NY

<i>Pageant the Musical</i>	Dir: Roque Berlanga	Forestburgh Mainstage	July 2022
<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	Dir: Jessica Barkl	Forestburgh Mainstage	June-Aug 2022

TheaterWorksUSA | Forestburgh, NY

<i>El Otro Oz</i>	Dir: Elena Araoz	Forestburgh Mainstage	June 2022
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Theatrix | Lincoln, NE

<i>Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons</i>	Dir: Hannah Mason	The Lab Theatre	April 2022
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Opera Omaha | Omaha, NE

<i>Sweeney Todd</i> (Lighting Assistant) ALD: Michael Rathbun	Dir: Susan Clement LD: Pablo Santiago	Orpheum Theatre	Feb 2022
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Nebraska Wesleyan University | Lincoln, NE

<i>Into the Woods</i>	Dir: Anne McAlexander	McDonald Theatre	April 2023
<i>25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee</i>	Dir: Ryan Kathman	McDonald Theatre	Oct 2022
<i>Seussical</i>	Dir: Anne McAlexander	McDonald Theatre	April 2022
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Assistant LD/Programmer)	Dir: Ryan Kathman LD: Michelle Harvey	McDonald Theatre	Dec 2021

Glenn Korff School of Music | Lincoln, NE

<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>	Dir: William Shomos	Studio Theatre	Dec 2022
<i>Mozart's Magic Flute</i>	Dir: William Shomos	Kimball Recital Hall	Nov 2021

Nebraska Repertory Theatre | Lincoln, NE

<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Dir: Jacqueline Thompson	Howell Memorial Theatre	Nov 2022
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Dir: Christina Kirk	Howell Memorial Theatre	Oct 2021

University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Lincoln, NE

<i>American College Dance Association</i> (Milwaukee, WI)	Choreo: Lanie Allen	Univ. of Wisc-Milwaukee	Mar 2022
<i>Senior Capstone Performances</i>	Various Performers	Studio Theatre	Dec 2021
<i>Student Dance Project</i>	Various Choreographers	Studio Theatre	Dec 2021
<i>Evening of Dance</i>	Various Choreographers	Lied Center	May 2021
<i>Senior Capstone Performances</i>	Various Performers	Studio Theatre	Dec 2020
<i>Student Dance Project</i>	Various Choreographers	Studio Theatre	Dec 2020

KU School of Music | Lawrence, KS

<i>Candide</i> (Assistant LD)	Dir: Jerry Jay Cranford LD: Nate Wheatley	Crafton-Pryor Theatre	Jan 2018
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Interlochen Center for the Arts | Interlochen, MI

<i>Interlochen Dance Ensemble</i>	Various Choreographers	Upton-Morley Pavilion	Aug 2017
<i>Rock N Roll Showcase</i>	Various Performers	Kresge Auditorium	July 2017
<i>Capitol Steps</i> (Interlochen Tour Stop)		Corson Auditorium	July 2017

KU University Theatre | Lawrence, KS

Perfect Arrangement
Seminar

Dir: James L. Dick
Dir: Drew Hafling

William Inge Theatre
William Inge Theatre

April 2018
Feb 2017

PROGRAMMING

<i>Tales...Gutenberg Bible</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Joe Saint	Bay Street Theater	August 2023
<i>Dial M for Murder</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Don Holder	Bay Street Theater	July 2023
<i>ShakesFEAR '22</i>	ETC Eos Classic	LD: Various Designers	Nebraska Repertory Theatre	Oct 2022
<i>Traveling Shoes</i>	ETC Element 2	LD: Francisco Hermsillo III	Nebraska Repertory Theatre	Mar 2022
<i>ShakesFEAR '21</i>	ETC Element 2	LD: Michelle Harvey	Nebraska Repertory Theatre	Oct 2021
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Caitlin Smith Rapoport	Two River Theatre Company	Jan 2020
<i>Belle of Amherst</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Andrew F. Griffin	Two River Theatre Company	May 2019
<i>Theo</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Yuki Nakase	Two River Theatre Company	Mar 2019
<i>Noises Off!</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Ken Billington	Two River Theatre Company	Jan 2019
<i>King Hedley II</i>	ETC Ion	LD: Kathy A. Perkins	Two River Theatre Company	Nov 2018

SCENIC DESIGN

Denison University | Granville, OH

<i>Rules for Living</i>	Dir: Braxton Rae	Hylbert Studio Theater	October 2025
<i>Here Us '25 (Devised Student-Written Production)</i> (Scenic & Projections)	Dir: Braxton Rae	Hylbert Studio Theater	May 2025
<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Dir: Brad Frenette	Sharon Martin Hall	December 2024
<i>Invincible Summer (Scenic & Projections)</i>	Dir: Cheryl McFarren	Hylbert Studio Theater	November 2024
<i>Here Us '24 (Devised Student-Written Production)</i>	Dir: Jim Dennen	Sharon Martin Hall	February 2024
<i>She Kills Monsters</i>	Dir: Aviva Neff	Hylbert Studio Theater	November 2023

Wexner Center for the Arts | Columbus, OH

<i>Like Leaves, Like Carrots</i>	Dir: Jim Dennen	Wexner Center Studio	January 2024
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RELATED EXPERIENCE

Columbus Children's Theater | Columbus, OH

<i>Mr. Scrooge</i>	Head Electrician	December 2025
<i>Junie B. Jones</i>	Head Electrician	July 2025

Weathervane Playhouse | Newark, OH

<i>Elf the Musical</i>	Props Designer/Paint Lead	December 2023
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Forestburgh Playhouse | Forestburgh, NY

<i>Constellations, Kinky Boots, Something Rotten, Mamma Mia!, Pageant the Musical, Celebrating Sondheim, Fully Committed</i>	Head Electrician/ALD	May-Aug 2022
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EKO Crewing | Boise, ID

<i>Eric Church Tour Stop</i>	Down Rigging Crew	April 2022
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Nebraska Repertory Theatre | Lincoln, NE

<i>Stop Kiss (Assistant Production Electrician)</i> <i>The Way to the Way, Dracula: Mina's Quest</i>	Production/Head Electrician	Aug 2020-May 2023
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Nebraska Repertory Theatre | Lincoln, NE

<i>ShakesFEAR '22; Traveling Shoes; ShakesFEAR '21; Our Town; Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea</i>	Electrician	Aug 2020-May 2023
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Two River Theater | Red Bank, NJ

<i>Radio Golf</i>	Lighting & Sound Assistant	Aug 2018-July 2020
<i>A Little Shakespeare: Twelfth Night</i>	Q-Lab Operator & Electrician	March 2020
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	House Technician	Feb 2020
<i>Love in Hate Nation</i>	Programmer & Electrician	Jan 2020
	Spot Operator & Electrician	Nov 2019

<i>Cyrano</i>	Q-Lab Operator & Electrician	Oct 2019
<i>Oo-Bla-Dee</i>	Spot Operator & Electrician	June 2019
<i>The Belle of Amherst</i>	Programmer & Electrician	April 2019
<i>Theo</i>	Programmer & Electrician	March 2019
<i>Noises Off</i>	Programmer & Electrician	Jan 2019
<i>King Hedley II</i>	Programmer & Electrician	Nov 2018
<i>Pamela's First Musical</i>	Spot Operator & Electrician	Sept 2018
Shawnee Mission Theater in the Park Shawnee, KS	Painter	Summer 2018
<i>High School Musical, The Addams Family, Into the Woods, South Pacific, The Little Mermaid</i>		
Atlantic Theatre Company New York City, NY	Scenic Painter	Dec 2017
<i>The Homecoming Queen</i>		
Interlochen Center for the Arts Interlochen, MI	Lighting Technician	Summer 2017
<i>Diana Ross</i>	Spot Operator & Electrician	
<i>Trace Adkins</i>	Spot Operator & Electrician	
<i>Chris Janson with Davissou Brothers</i>	Spot Operator & Electrician	
<i>Michael McDonald & Boz Scaggs</i>	Spot Operator & Electrician	
<i>Gavin DeGraw</i>	Electrician	
<i>Salt N Pepa</i>	Electrician	
<i>Paul Shaffer & Valerie Simpson</i>	Electrician	
<i>Amos Lee</i>	Electrician	
<i>Nagata Shachu</i>	Electrician	
<i>Shen Wei Dance</i>	Electrician	
<i>King Lear</i>	Electrician	
University of Kansas Lawrence, KS	Scene Shop Assistant	2016-2018
<i>Spring Awakening, Perfect Arrangement, When the Rain Stops Falling, She Kills Monsters, Rhinoceros, ...And Jesus Moonwalks the Mississippi, Metamorphoses, Don Giovanni, Anon(ymous), Company, Seminar, R.U.R., Pooter McGraw Is Not Dead Party, Picnic</i>		
Kansas Repertory Theatre Lawrence, KS	Technical Assistant	Summer 2016
<i>Harvey</i>	Carpenter & Q-Lab Operator	
<i>Angel Street</i>	Carpenter & Light Board Operator	
Lied Center of Kansas Lawrence, KS	Stage Hand	Aug 2015-May 2018
<i>The Acting Company: Julius Caesar & X</i>	Electrician	2017
<i>Russian Ballet</i>	Carpenter	2017
<i>Still Falling</i>	Stage Hand	2016
<i>ClarinetFest</i>	Electrician/Stage Hand	2016
<i>Miss Maria's/Susan Byrd Dance Recital</i>	Lighting Designer/Board Op	2016
<i>Popovich Pet Theatre</i>	Spot Operator	2016
<i>John Mellencamp</i>	Wardrobe	2016
<i>Moscow Ballet</i>	Wardrobe	2016
<i>Mamma Mia! National Tour Stop</i>	Carpenter/Run Crew	2015
<i>Thodos Dance Chicago</i>	Electrician	2015
<i>Joseph...Dreamcoat Tour Stop (Manhattan, KS)</i>	Carpenter	2015
<i>Joseph...Dreamcoat Tour Stop</i>	Electrician	2015
University of Kansas Lawrence, KS	Student Run Crew	
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Assistant Stage Manager	2017
<i>Flora, the Red Menace</i>	Costume Crew	2015
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Costume Crew	2015

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Certifications:

OSHA 30 General Industry, ETC Eos Family Consoles (Essentials, Advanced), Adult First Aid/CPR/AED

Lighting Specific:

ETC Eos programming, Augment3D previsualization, drafting, wiring/soldering, network problem solving, genie lift comfortable, basic rigging, can read music, photography, experience with LED tape & LED pixels

Computer:

Mac/PC, Microsoft Office, ETC eos Nomad, ETC Augment3D, Vectorworks, Lightwright, Q-Lab, RC4 Commander

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Hemsley Portfolio Review Participant 2023

ETC Fred Foster Mentee 2022

KCACTF Region 5 Lighting Design Achievement Award

(2022: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2018: *Perfect Arrangement*)