

Abby Bender

Technical Director, Carpenter, & Educator

(717) 658-8968

abbymbender93@gmail.com

abbybendertheater.net

Previous Work Experience

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

- ❖ Led crews of undergraduate students in the construction and installation of scenery in three different venues
- ❖ Supervised two sections of THET104 Stagecraft Lab
- ❖ Functioned as Assistant Technical Director for a co-production of *A Christmas Carol* between West Virginia Public Theatre and the WVU School of Theatre & Dance

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

- ❖ Instructed and supervised undergraduate students in safe and effective building practices
- ❖ Aided in developing a new shop space on the Foggy Bottom campus
- ❖ Maintained cleanliness of 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/year with a variety of styles and techniques

Totem Pole Playhouse: Master Carpenter, May 2017-August 2017

- ❖ Constructed scenery for five shows in a shop of two full time carpenters, a TD, and ATD
- ❖ Moved to and organized a newer, larger scenery studio and stock scenery storage space
- ❖ Altered stock scenery to fit the needs of the productions as well as built new pieces

Virginia Shakespeare Festival: Lead Carpenter, Summer 2015 & Carpentry Intern, Summer 2014

- ❖ Supervised interns as a Lead Carpenter in the summer of 2015
- ❖ Built scenery in a shop of two interns and two lead carpenters for a two show season
- ❖ Worked as run crew (fly rail, spot op, and deck crew) for the 2014 Festival while an intern

Education

West Virginia University	M.F.A. Technical Direction	Anticipated Grad. May 2027
Montgomery College	Intro to Fab Lab/Fab Lab CNC Courses	Fall 2017
Olney Theatre Center	Scenic Apprentice	2016-2017 Apprentice Class
Indiana U. of Pennsylvania	B.A. Theater	Summa Cum Laude December 2015

Skills

- AutoCAD (2D/3D)
 - CNC router operation (ShopBot, Laguna SmartShop II)
 - Vectric Ltd CAD/CAM softwares (VCarve, Aspire)
 - Vectorworks (basic 2D/3D)
 - MIG welding
 - Trim/finish carpentry
 - Dead-hung rigging/basic knots
 - 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)
 - Basic crochet/knitting
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References

References are available upon request- thank you for respecting their privacy.