

# JIM BILLINGS

Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Teacher

## PROFILE

Work includes a wide variety of scenic and lighting design experience including academic and professional theatre, dance, video, film and assistant scenic design as well as freelance set, lighting, exhibit and interior design.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Over 300 designs realized in a variety of venues and mediums  
Extensive work with world premier plays by current American playwrights including Robert Boswell , Tom Smith, and Mark Medoff  
One of 13 MFA scenic design candidates in the nation invited to New York for 1984 League of Professional Theatre Training Programs Portfolio Review  
Artistic Director for the American Southwest Theatre Company 1991-95  
Artistic director for summer programming, NMSU , 1996  
Commissioned for privately funded environmental sculpture, "Relationship" 1996, Joe and June Lee, Las Cruces,NM  
Designed a renovation of Historic Fountain Theatre, Mesilla, NM  
Park Designer for Renaissance Craft Fair '98-03 -attended by over 30,000 people  
Nominated to Governor's Arts revue board '98  
Exhibit Designer, Lobo to Lassie, the Natural History of the Dog, Southern NM Museum of Natural History  
Exhibit Designer: "To Get The Job Done "at New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum 2002  
Design of re-theme-ing and look of restaurant @ NMF&RHM  
Participant in ART PRIZE, 2010, Grand Rapids ,MI large scale sculpture "Sturgeon Soiree"

## EDUCATION

California Institute of the Arts M.F.A. Scenic Design 1982-1984  
University of Wyoming B.S. in Theatre and Dance 1977-1979  
Casper College, 1975-1977

## EMPLOYMENT

Resident Scenic and Lighting designer for The American Southwest Theatre Company 1985-present  
Scenic and lighting design instructor for New Mexico State University 1985-present  
Scenic Design and Fabrication : KRWG TV new interview set. ,2014  
Scenic Design and Fabrication : Radio days set for South West Senior Expo.,2014  
Exhibit Design: "To Get The Job Done" at New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum  
Exhibit Fabrication: "Casa Colonias", "The Roadside View", "Adventure Corral, NMF&RHM  
Exhibit design, Lobo to Lassie, the Natural History of the Dog, Southern NM Museum of Natural History  
Artistic Director, American Southwest Theatre Company 1991-'95  
Art Director, Skyline Entertainment, 1994, *Homage*  
Guest Scenic and Lighting Designer, Creede Repertory Theatre, 1985,'86,'87,'93,'94,'97,'00  
Scenic Designer, Dona Ana Lyric Opera, 1989,'90,'92,'93,'94  
Scenic Designer, Scenic Artist, Stage One, Louisville, KY 1991,'92  
Guest Scenic Designer, New Mexico Repertory Theatre, 1986,'87,'88,'90  
Guest Lighting Designer, New Mexico Repertory Theatre, 1986,'87,'90  
Scenic Designer, Las Cruces Symphony, 1988,'91,'92  
Guest Scenic Designer, Hawaii Performing Arts Company, 1987  
Guest Scenic Designer, The Bowrey Theatre, San Diego, CA,1987  
Misc. product, industrial, graphic and store designs

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Star of Theatre Arts, awarded by College of Arts and Sciences  
Awarded design of Mesquite Gateway Project, Piro, Mansu, Tiwa gateway by Las Esperanzas and the City of Las Cruces, 2006 - On going  
Dona Ana Arts Council's Community Arts Award 2006

Ralph B. Crouch Award for outstanding contributions to the NMSU community  
President of Dona Ana Arts Council '02-03  
Chair, Rio Grande Theatre Steering Committee ( DAAC )  
Created and maintained 10 seat - networked classroom for the creation of computer graphics courses -  
NMSU League of Professional Theatre Training Programs portfolio review, 1984 .  
Founder, Artistic Director, Stage III Community Theatre, Casper ,Wy 1980-82  
Sole proprietor, Design inK, a design company.  
Class I, II, III and IV laser certification.  
Departmental Award for Excellence in Technical Theatre, University of Wyoming, 1977-79  
Full assistantship, California Institute of the Arts  
Exhibit: To Get The Job Done awarded National History Award 2002

#### COURSES TAUGHT

##### **Scenic**

Scenic design  
Advanced scenic design  
Problems in design  
Scene painting  
Model making  
Rendering techniques  
Portfolio preparation  
Computer Sceno-graphics  
Advanced Computer Sceno-graphics

##### **Lighting**

Fundamentals of lighting design  
Advanced lighting design  
Problems in lighting design  
Lighting Practicum

##### **Other Theatre**

Theatre production  
Introduction to theatre  
Theatre practicum  
Senior seminar

##### **Guest lecturer**

ME 166 introduction to design  
performance art  
introduction to theatre  
script analysis  
directing

Distinguished member, Teaching Academy, 2005-2006  
appointment to Graduate Faculty 2008-2016

My teaching approach in design classes is a student driven classroom which through a series of projects, leads the student through a series of discoveries while informing and building skills.

#### COMMITTEE SERVICE

Member, Recruitment, retention and outreach committee 2005-present  
Chair, scholarship committee 1994-2005  
member , scholarship committee 1991-present  
chair , season selection committee 1991-95  
member , season selection committee 1987-99  
Served on virtually every departmental search committee 1988-present  
Served as outside member on four Art Department MFA thesis committees.  
Student Academic Advisor 1985-present  
Member, CMI development  
Building Committee, New Performing Arts Complex – NMSU

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board Member: Dona Ana Arts Council 1998-2004  
President, Dona Ana Arts Council, 2004  
President Elect, Dona Ana Arts Council, 2003  
Rio Grande Theatre Steering Committee 2005-2007  
Canvas and phone bank work for numerous causes

#### PUBLICATIONS

*True West* rendering used as an illustration in *Theatrical Design and Production* by J. Michael Gillette, Second Edition, page 84.  
Illustrations for *The Magic of Theatre* by Claudia Billings  
Illustrations for *Theatre Arts, Fundamental Theory and Practice* by Frank Pickard  
Original designs published in playscripts: *Stefanie Hero*, *Stumps*, *The Homage That Followed*, *The Heart Outright*, *Kringle's Window*

#### OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Computer graphics, decorative and historical painting, travel, beer brewing, gardening, wood and metal working.