



Jack Mehler, Scenery & Lighting Designer

Mainstage Musical Team Feature

Where do you currently live, and what do you do?

I live just outside of New York City, and I am a professional theatre designer.

Have you ever worked at or been a part of Trollwood previously?

This is my 22nd show with Trollwood.

In one sentence, describe your job.

In collaboration with the director, I conceive of the physical environment for the show and then create drawings and other information the various production team members use to create the show.

What skills are necessary for a person in your position?

Script Analysis, Imagination, Researching, Sketching, Drafting, painting/photoshopping, 3D Tetris, value engineering, and being able to compromise without losing the core vision of the show.

What is your background in the performing arts?

BFA from University of Illinois; MFA from NYU; 30 years of making my living as a designer, been doing this since I was 14.....

Why do you think theatre is important?

Because it is communal story telling. Story telling is the most effective form of communication. We create it communally and the audience experiences it communally.

What's the most challenging part of your position?

Maintaining focus over the months it takes for a project to go from first idea to opening night.

What makes you most excited about this particular show?

Coming back to something that was originally conceived almost two years ago and seeing if the ideas will work. Also, gorgeous Rodgers & Hammerstein music.

What do you enjoy most about working at Trollwood so far?

The scale, the students, and the sky.

Favorite song from Cinderella?

No one particular favorite - the lushness of the score is my favorite part.