



### **Artist Statement**

Lee@LeeBurckesDesign.com | 812.606.8619

Theatre never ceases to amaze me by continually pushing the boundaries of art and technology year after year in order to encourage people to look beyond the everyday and reflect upon humanity. Theatre not only engages the senses and challenges the mind but also has the ability to impart skills useful far beyond the theatre doors.

Uniquely suited to the creative mind, theatrical design and production explores the development of an entire world and brings wholeness to a production. Lighting alone has the ability to affect the human nervous system, direct our eyes and minds along a chosen path, and not only enhance our sensory perceptions, but change them. For several years, I focused upon my passion for art and theatre through the medium of stage lighting by designing lights for regional theatre in Memphis, Tennessee. I then moved to Bloomington, Indiana where I discovered an equal interest in expressing my art through scenic design, scenic construction, and scenography by designing and building entire theatrical environments and integrating lighting with scenic and projection designs. I discovered firsthand that the best work weaves all of the elements of a production together seamlessly to create something greater than any one part and have thoroughly enjoyed being an integral part of the creation of each element at different times throughout my career.

During my undergraduate education, I found confidence through theatre by trying, failing, and learning from my mistakes. I explored all elements of theatrical design and production to have as thorough an understanding as possible of what it takes to put together a work of art with a wide variety of talent. I not only discovered my own unique set of skills but I learned that all disciplines are connected. I discovered that to succeed is to share a part of myself with others in hopes of making the world a better place one production at a time!

After working professionally as a theatrical designer and technician for nearly ten years, I chose to continue my formal training towards a Master of Fine Arts degree in order to perfect my craft as much as possible while exploring the endless possibilities that come with imagination and dedication; to research, discover new styles, and explore developing technologies. I further pursued my research interests and developed a broader understanding of how advancing technologies and interdisciplinary study affects the present and future of theatre. The safety of a learning environment encouraged me to reach outside my comfort zone by exploring new ideas and trying new methods. During my tenure at Indiana University, I worked with a wide variety of equipment, identified alternative approaches to design, fine-tuned my design and construction processes, and discovered a passion for teaching. I have chosen to focus my foreseeable future upon continuing to educate the youth of today in order to help provide them with the opportunity to imagine, explore, create, and change the world in their own unique way.