

Manuel Ortiz

Technical Director. Production Manager. Teaching Artist. Actor

Teaching Artist: Facilitating the development of identity, relationships, and personal confidence through theatre arts. Instructor of musical theatre performance skills: Acting, Vocal Performance, Construction, and Creative expression through multiple mediums.

Production Manager: Extensive experience collaborating with directors, performers, designers, technical staff, theatre administration, and the community to accomplish production goals and present engaging, professional, equitable and meaningfully inclusive theatrical experiences.

Technical Director: 10 years Leading crews and staff through an efficient and collaborative work environment. Teaching and cultivating new techniques through dialogue and team building with youth and adults.

EXPERIENCE

- **Artistic Direction:** Identifying themes relevant to learners (performers) and audiences and engaging in innovative creative processes to bring these themes to light. Selecting and devising productions that facilitate an authentic portrayal of the human experience. Provide engaging, real, effective and affective theatrical experiences for performers and audiences alike.
- **Program Development:** Co-creation of in-house training programs that support identity development while providing high quality technical training in play analysis, acting, Co-creating of after-school programs for learners in Chicago Public Schools through a partnership with Columbia College's Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP).
- **Community Outreach:** Curating and managing partnerships with local theaters, venues and artists. Curating ensemble volunteer opportunities for enrolled learners.
- **Staff Management:** Hiring. Training. Providing supplies and resources. Lesson plan development. In-class support. Payroll. Mentoring. Positive discipline through trust and incentive experience building methods.
- **Administrative and Production Management:** Venue management. Marketing. Website creation, development, and maintenance. Writing all copy for website and paper materials. Communications with staff and crews. Audience development.
- **Teaching:** Developing and implementing classroom structure. Cultivating the true spirit of ensemble within the cast and/or classroom. Developing and facilitating original, innovative performance training lesson plans for learners ages 5-40 in a myriad of performance disciplines including acting, vocal performance, puppetry, basic stage combat, improvisation, dance fitness, tap dance, ballet, modern dance, play writing and script development, and Shakespeare. Creating avenues and opportunities for learners and young performers to be validated and empowered. Aiding in identity development and actualization of adolescents and their individuality as valid and vital components of the evolution of society, collectively. Developing and exercising skills of self-presentation with all learners: posture & alignment, diction & projection, body language and breathing. Student discipline and classroom management.
- **Fabrication:** 10+ years of fabrication through multiple mediums such as 3D Printing, CNC, furniture, and large installation with a focus on carpentry. Maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for myself and new team members. Facilitating the onboarding and continual education through experiential learning opportunities for new carpenters in the larger theater communities while practicing continual personal growth and knowledge in new mediums such, as sound, lighting, rigging, automation and welding.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

STUDIO BE, NFP, Chicago, IL 2008-2015
Teaching artist– Leading and developing ensembles/classes through positive reinforcement teachings.

COLLABORATION THEATER, Chicago, IL 2018- 2019
Facilities and Rentals Manager – Maintaining a welcoming and clean work environment for all theater and workspaces. Cultivating relationships through open dialogue of equity, inclusion and diversity with Chicago artists and potential renters.

PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS, Chicago, IL 2016-2018
Technical Director, Site Director, Facilities Manager– Maintain and cultivate an open dialogue within the queer community through theater. Maintained facilities by implementing a rental and storage system in collaboration with staff and crews.

YORK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, Elmhurst, IL 2019-2022
Technical Director and Teaching artist- Collaboratively creating and cultivating a safe and welcoming environment for young artists to educate and execute comprehensive scenic designs after school. Maintaining and building upon past teaching artists to keep a safe and clean scenic shop. Managing and organizing all theatrical elements (props, lights, stock and costumes).

North Shore Country Day School 2020-2022
Technical Director and Performing Arts Teacher- Collaboratively creating and cultivating a safe and welcoming environment for young artists to educate and execute comprehensive scenic designs throughout the school year. Designing, constructing all scenic elements for a 4-show season. Engaging and empowering 6th-12th grade students in stagecraft and design.

Cabaret ZaZou-Teatro ZinZanni 10/22-01/24
Technical Director and Site Manager Collaboratively creating and maintaining a safe working environment with an 8+ production team. Maintaining a strong cross departmental communication through open and collaborative dialogue. maintaining facilities by implementing systems by continuing cross departmental communication and implementing facilities systems and weekly check ins.

FREELANCER, Chicago, IL 2016-PRESENT
Technical Director, Facilitator, Designer, Photographer and Performing artist- Cultivating an equitable and safe environment for fellow ensemble members and production staff through crucial conversations and collaborative leadership.

ORIGINAL/ADAPTED WORKS

Letters To Antonio – The Sonnet Projects
Collaborative adaptation of Shakespeare’s sonnets. Exploring queer themes within communal relationships with family and forbidden lovers through death.

Midsummer Night’s Dream– The James Downing Theater
A look at one of Shakespeare’s funniest love stories and the challenges that the Vietnam war presents in a time of division and conflict.

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN THEATER
DePaul University, Chicago IL

May 2012

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

Sondheim Tribute Review	Scenic Designer	Theo Ubique	Fred Anzevino (Dir.)
Children of Eden	Scenic Designer/TD	Loyola Academy	Katie Roach (Dir.)
Household Spirits	Scenic Designer	Theater Wit	Matthew Chase (PM)
Wise Guys	Scenic Designer	Factory Theater	Becca Holloway (Dir.)
Romeo and Juliet	TD/Scenic Designer/M.C.	Loyola Academy	Geoffrey Arndt (Dir.)
Blues for an Alabama Sky	Technical Director/M.C	Remy Bumpo	Addoris Davis (PM)
Kinky Boots	Technical Director/M.C	Highland Park Players	Lauren Nichols (Designer)
SpongeBob the musical	Technical Director/M.C	Kokandy Productions	Nicholas Reinhart (PM)
Evolution of a Sonero	Scenic Designer/ATD	Urban Theater	Miranda Gonzalez (Dir.)
LA Remount			
3Penny Opera	Technical Director	Theo Ubique	Fred Anzevino (Dir.)
Alice in Wonderland	Scenic Designer/ TD	Loyola Academy	Geoffrey Arndt (Dir.)
Kelly Girls	Scenic Designer/ TD	Factory Theater	Spencer Davis (Dir.)
Mama Mia	Technical Director/ Charge	Loyola Academy	Geoffrey Arndt (Dir.)
Best little whorehouse in Texas	Scenic Designer	Theo Ubique	Landree Fleming (Dir.)
Mama Mia	TD/Scenic Charge	Loyola Academy	Geoffrey Arndt (Dir.)
Evolution of a Sonero	Scenic Designer/ATD	Urban Theater	Miranda Gonzalez (Dir.)
HOA	Scenic Designer/TD	Factory Theater	
Alma	Technical Director/Charge	American Blues	Shandee Vaughan (PM)
Fences	Technical Director/MC	American Blues	Shandee Vaughan (PM)
High School Musical	Scenic Designer/TD/LD	NSCDS	Julia Macholl (Dir.)
Brujaja	Technical Director/M.C	Urban Theater	Miranda Gonzalez (Dir.)
Drop Dead	Scenic Designer/TD/LD	NSCDS	Julia Macholl (Dir.)
American v2.1	Technical Director/M.C	Definition Theater	Neel McNeil (PM)
Hershel and the Hanukkah goblins	Props designer	Strawdog Theater	Paul Cook (PM)
Welsley Gurl *	Technical Director/M.C	Compass Theater	Robert Salazar (PM)
Welcome to Keene*	Technical Director/M.C	Strawdog Theater	Paul Cook (PM)
Jesus Christ Superstar*	Technical Director/M.C.	York High School	Rebecca Maranetti (Dir.)
Last night in Karaoke Town*	Scenic Designer	Factory Theater	Kim Bowler (Dir.)
Roan at the gates	Technical Director/M.C.	American Blues	Shandee Vaughan (PM)
Pegasus youth festival	Technical Director/M.C.	Pegasus Theater	Kelly Butler (PM)
It's a Wonderful Life	Technical Director/M.C.	American Blues	Shandee Vaughan (PM)
Twelfth Night The Musical	Technical Director/M.C.	York High School	Rebecca Maranetti (Dir.)
The Effect	Technical Director/M.C.	Strawdog Theater	Paul Cook (PM)

*=denotes shows canceled or affected by COVID-19

+ = denotes shows in production

Blonde Poison	Technical Director/M.C.	The Agency Theater	Teryl Thurman (PM)
5 Presidents	Technical Director/M.C.	American Blues	Shandee Vaughan (PM)
Theater on the Lake 18-19	Assistant PM/TD	Chicago Park District	Angelique Gardone (Dir.)
Spitfire Grill The Musical	Technical Director/ M.C	American Blues	Shandee Vaughan (PM)
Prophet\$	Technical Director/M.C	Factory Theater	Manny Tomayo (PM)
Bright Star the musical	Technical Director/M.C	York High school	Rebecca Maranetti (Dir.)
Hannah and Martin	Master Carpenter	Shattered Globe	Lucille Schuh (PM)
Much Ado About Nothing	Technical Director/M.C	York High School	Rebecca Marianetti (PM)
I wanna tear you apart	Technical Director/M.C	Rivendell Theater	Chatherine Allen (PM)
What were up against	Technical Director/M.C	Compass Theater	Robert Salazar (PM)
Encounter Festival	Technical Director/M.C	Collaboraction	Jenna Meyers (PM)
Three Little Pigs	M.C./Scenic Designer	Chicago Kids Co.	Jesus Perez (Dir.)
Peter and the Starcatcher	Technical Director/M.C	York High School	Rebecca Marianetti (PM)
Crime and Punishment	Technical Director/M.C	Shattered Globe	Judy Anderson (PM)
Tres Bandidos	Technical Director/M.C	The Agency	Jack Shultz (PM)
Peacebook Festival	Assistant PM/TD/M.C	Collaboraction	Sarah Moller (PM)
Theater on the Lake 2018	Assistant PM/TD	Chicago Park District	Angelique Gardone (Dir.)
Blue Island In The Red Sea	Technical Director/ M.C	Collaboraction	Anthony Moseley (Dir.)
Ofrenda	Technical Director/M.C	Albany Park Theater	Trina McGee (PM)
Cinderella	Scenic Designer and TD	Chicago Kids Co.	Jesus Perez (Dir.)
Chicken Little	Lighting Designer/Board op	Chicago Kids Co.	Corey Mills (Dir.)
Encounter Festival	Technical Director	Collaboraction	Anthony Moseley (Dir.)
Yank!	Technical Director	Pride Films and Plays	David Zak (Dir.)
Altered Boy	Scenic Designer	Pride Films and Plays	David Zak (Dir.)
Rapunzel	Board Operator	Chicago Kids Co.	Jesus Perez (Dir.)
His Greatness	Scenic Designer Designer/TD	Pride Films and Plays	David Zak (Dir.)
Perfect Arrangement	Master Carpenter	Pride Films and Plays	Derek Van Barham (Dir.)
The Civility of Albert Cashier	Technical Director/M.C./P.M	Permoveo and PFP	Keaton Wooden (Dir.)
Peacebook Festival	Technical Director/M.C	Collaboraction	Kelly Butler (PM)
The Invisible Scarlet O'Neil	Technical Director/M.C	Babes with Blades	Colleen Layton (PM)
NAUTALINA	Technical Director/ M.C	The Agency Collective	Sommer Austin (Dir.)
The Nance	Technical Director/ M.C	Pride Film and plays	David Zak (Dir.)
Dirty Butterfly	Technical Director/ M.C	Theater On the Lake	Azar Kazemi
For the Love of	Technical Director/ M.C	Pride Film and Plays	Rachel Harwith
Waiting for Godot	Technical Director/ M.C	Tympanic Theater	Christopher Acevedo (Dir.)
Skin 4 Skin	Technical Director/ M.C	The Agency Collective	Michael Menendian (Dir.)
Priscilla, Queen of the Desert	Technical Director/ M.C	Pride and Films Plays	David Zak (Dir.)
A little Princess	Technical Director/ M.C	Windy City Theater	Jerry Foust (Dir.)
Suessical The Musical	Technical Director/ M.C	Windy City Theater	Jerry Foust (Dir.)
Dog Sees God	Scenic Designer/TD	Eclectic Theater	David Belew (Dir.)
Altar Boyz	Technical director	Mayne Stage Theater	Corey Mills (Dir.)
Letters To Antonio	Writer/ Director	Act One Pub	
Zanna Don't!	Technical Director	Mayne Stage Theater	Marty Grubbs (Dir.)
A Midsummer Nights Dream	Director/ Set Designer/ M. C.	James Downing Theater	
Reefer Madness	Set and Props Designer/ M.C.	Mayne Stage Theater	Corey Mills (Dir.)
Zombie Prom	Set and Props Designer/ M. C.	Mayne Stage Theater	Corey Mills (Dir.)
Wizard of OZ	Director/ M.C.and Puppeteer	St. Sebastians Theater	
Charlottes Web	Director/ Master Carpenter	St. Sebastians Theater	

SPECIAL SKILLS AND NOTABLES

Proficient in Vectorworks, Sketchup, Lightroom, Photoshop, Microsoft Word and Excel
 Fluent in Spanish and English. Experience puppeteering, puppet construction, electrical, rigging, makeup and prop fabrication.

