

## Michael Schweikardt Scenic and Costume Designer

## Biography

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### ■ SCENIC AND COSTUME DESIGNER, MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT

Born and raised in New Jersey, Michael chose to combine his love of theater, painting and architecture by studying set and costume design at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. He studied with John Jensen, Desmond Heeley, R. Michael Miller and David Murin. During his time there, Michael worked professionally as a scenic artist. He was awarded his B.F.A in 1993 and moved to the West Coast where he worked for the Disney Company as a painter and a draftsman.

Feeling too far removed from the New York and the Regional Theater Scene, he left Disney in 1994 and spent the summer with the acclaimed Williamstown Theater Festival. Having the opportunity to work closely with Broadway caliber actors, designers and directors encouraged him to seek work in New York City and before the summer had ended Michael was already employed by Playwright's Horizons as Charge Painter for A.R. Gurney's "A Cheever Evening" (John Lee Beatty, designer). He enjoyed several successful months as a scenic artist before he moved on to assisting other designers

While working in the studios of Jim Noone, Allen Moyer and Ken Foy, Michael was fortunate enough to be hired by set and lighting designer Peter Dean Beck and he spent the bulk of those next two years in his studio. It was during this time that William Doble, General Manager of Blue Light Theater Company, invited Michael to design the set for his first Off-Broadway show, Clifford Odets' "Golden Boy" directed by JoAnne Woodward. It was a hit and the first of three productions he would design for Ms. Woodward, including Odets' "Waiting For Lefty" which starred Marisa Tomei, and "The Big Knife". Michael continued his association with The Blue Light Theater Company designing memorable productions of "The Seagull" directed by Austin Pendleton, and Michael Cristofer's "Amazing Grace" starring Marsha Mason. He went on to design "All Under Heaven", Valerie Harper's one woman show about Pearl S. Buck, Tovah Feldshuh's "Tallulah Hallelujah!" and two successful Theaterworks U.S.A. tours for director Ted Pappas who brought Michael to The Pittsburgh Public Theater

For Mr. Pappas, Michael has designed acclaimed productions of "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum", "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf", "H.M.S. Pinafore", "The Pirates Of Penzance" and "You Can't Take It With You". He also designed the critically acclaimed production of "Tea" for director Pamela Berlin.

In 2003 Douglas Fisher invited Michael to make his professional debut as a Costume Designer at Florida State Opera. He has since designed sets and costumes for the Baroque Opera "Semele" and for Rossini's "Le Comte Ory".

Michael has designed for Syracuse Stage, Florida State Opera, New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, HB Playwrights Foundation, SoHo Rep., The Workhouse, Sacramento Music Circus, Theaterworks in Hartford, TheaterVirginia, Merrimack Rep., Barrington Stage Company, The Emelin, Westchester Broadway Dinner Theater, The Williamstown Theater Festival, Julliard, Philadelphia Theater Company, and others.

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Resume

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### EDUCATION

BFA, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 1993

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

U.S.A. Local 829, Set Design

### NEW YORK DESIGN CREDITS

#### HB Playwrights:

**Another Vermeer**, By Bruce J. Robinson, Directed by Billy Cardin and Starring Austin Pendleton, 11/04;  
**New World Rhapsody**, By Allen Kraar, Directed by Billy Cardin, 4/03; **"The Subway Plays"**, 2003; **"The Beach Plays"**, 2002; **"The Hospital Plays"**, 2001.

#### Beyond Recognition

By John Petrick, Abingdon Theater Company, Directed by Kate Bushmann, 9/03.

#### Roman Nights

By Franco D'Alessandro, DR2, Directed by Bick Goss, 9/02.

#### The Watercoolers

Richard Frankel Productions at Dillon's, Directed by William Wesbrooks, 2002.

#### New York University School of Music:

**A New Brain, Fiorello!, Blood Work, Godspell, Like You Like It**, all directed by John Simpkins; **Ragtime, Street Scene**, both directed by William Wesbrooks.

#### Tallulah Hallelujah!

Douglas Fairbanks Theatre, Directed by William Wesbrooks, 2000.

#### All Under Heaven

Starring Valerie Harper, Century Theatre By Dyke Garrison and Ms. Harper, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 10/98.

#### Seagull

Directed by Austin Pendleton, Blue Light Theater Company, NYC, 4/98.

#### Amazing Grace

NY Premiere, By Michael Cristofer, Directed by Edward Gilbert, Blue Light Theater Company, NYC, 2/98.

#### A Phoenix Too Frequent

By Christopher Frye, Directed by Elysa Marden, Produced by Richard Ryan of Presence Productions, Harold Clurman Theatre, NYC 1/98.

#### Goethe's Persephone

World Premiere, Translated by David Curzon, Directed by Elysa Marden, Produced by Richard Ryan of Presence Productions, Harold Clurman Theatre, NYC 1/98.

#### Dumb Cake

Drama league Director's project at Lincoln Center Institute, 12/97.

#### Home Section

Drama league Director's project at Lincoln Center Institute, 12/97.

#### Counting The Ways

Drama league Director's project at Lincoln Center Institute, 12/97.

#### The Dumb Cake

World Premiere, By Polly Pen, Dir. by Ted Shaffner, Musical Dir. Jan Rosenberg.

**Home Section**

By Janusz Glowacki, Directed by Paul Zablocki.

**Counting the Ways**

By Edward Albee, Directed by Diane Paulus.

**A Common Vision**

By Neena Beber, Directed by Lisa Portes, Soho Rep, 8/97.

**Waiting for Lefty**

By Clifford Odets, Directed by Joanne Woodward, Blue Light Theater Company, 4/97.

**Little Red**

Directed by Ted Pappas, Theaterworks U.S.A., Tour, 1/97.

**Dreamstuff**

Music/Lyrics by Sal Lombarde, Written/Dir. by John Pantozzi, 629 Entertainment, Samuel Becket Theatre, 1/97.

**A Family Man**

By Tom Szentygyorgyi, Directed by Troy Hollar, Seraphim Theater Company and The Workhouse, 9/96.

**Golden Boy**

By Clifford Odets, Directed by Joanne Woodward, Blue Light Theater Company, 11/95.

**Summer of the Sirens**

By Kirk Aanes, Directed by Tony Phalon, Circle Repertory Lab, 9/95.

**Arsenic and Old Lace**

Directed by Dominic Cuskern, Gallery Players, Brooklyn, 11/95.

**Anything Goes**

Directed by Eric Nightengale, Gallery Players, Brooklyn 11/95.

**REGIONAL****Barrington Stage Company, Great Barrington, MA**

**Valley Song**, By Athol Fugard, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 7/97; **Tea**, by Velina Hasu Houston, Directed by Julianne Boyd, 8/99; **Spunk**, by George C. Wolfe, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 7/99.

**Bennington College**

**The Playboy of the Western World** directed by Daniella Varone 11/01.

**Brea Theater League, Brea, CA**

**Let Him Sleep...**, Directed by Patric Walker, 2/95.

**California Musical Theatre, Sacramento, CA**

2003 Summer Season: **Cats, World Goes 'Round, Damn Yankees, Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Brigadoon**; 2002 Summer Season: **Seven Brides For Seven Brothers, Man Of La Mancha, The Unsinkable Molly Brown**; 2001 Summer Season: **The Music Man, Into The Woods, Mame**; 2000 Summer Season: **Evita, Anything Goes, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.**

**Contemporary Theater Company, Wilmington, DE**

**Collected Stories**, by Donald Marguiles, Directed by Kent Paul and starring Lynn Redgrave, 5/04.

**Creative Productions, Aberdeen, NJ,**

**For Love or Money**, Directed by Walter Born, 6/96, **Champion Kid's Foods**, Directed by Walter Born, 6/95.

**Emelin Theatre for the Performing Arts, Mamaroneck, NY**

**Valley Song**, By Athol Fugard, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 8/97.

**Florida State Opera, Tallahassee, FL**

**Semele**, (scenic and costume design) by John Eccels, Directed by Sir Anthony Rooley, 3/03; **Le Comte Ory** (scenic and costume design), By Rossini, Directed by Matthew Lata, 3/04; **The Pirates of Penzance**, directed by Michael McConnell 5/01.

**Florida Studio Theater, Sarasota, FL**

**Olympus On My Mind**, Directed by Marcia Millgrom Dodge, 10/02.

**Julliard School of Drama**

**As You Like It** directed by Paul Mullins 4/01.

**Merrimack Repertory Theater**

**Laughter on the 23rd Floor**, By Neil Simon, Directed by David Zoffoli, 9/97; **Lady Day At Emerson's Bar**

**and Grill**, By Lanie Robertson, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 2/97, Re-mount 4/98; **Picasso at the Lapin Agile**, by Steve Martin, Directed by David Zoffoli, 9/99.

#### **New Jersey Shakespeare Festival**

**Othello**, Directed by Scott Wentworth, 10/03; **A Child's Christmas in Wales**, Directed by Robert Duke, 12/03; **The Illusion**, directed by Paul Mullins, 8/02; **Tartuffe** directed by Paul Mullins, 9/01; **Hamlet**, directed by Tom Gilroy, 8/01; **Rhinoceros**, 8/00; **Romeo and Juliet**, Directed by Bonnie J. Monte, 11/99; **Measure for Measure**, Directed by Paul Mullins; **Sweet Bird of Youth**, Directed by Bonnie Monte, 11/98; **All's Well That Ends Well**, Directed by Paul Mullins, 7/99.

#### **Philadelphia Theater Company, Philadelphia, PA**

**According to Goldman**, By Bruce Graham, Directed by Pamela Berlin, 3/04.

#### **Pittsburgh Public Theater**

**The Subject Was Roses**, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 2/04; **Driving Miss Daisy**, Directed by Pamela Berlin, 09/02; **H.M.S. Pinafore** directed by Ted Pappas, 2/02; **Tea**, Directed by Pam Berlin, 2001; **You Can't Take it With You**, 9/00; **Pirates of Penzance**, Directed by Ted Pappas, 1/00; **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf**, Directed by Ted Pappas, 2/99; **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by Burt Shevelove & Larry Gelbart, Directed by Ted Pappas, 3/98.

#### **Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ**

**Marat/Sade**, Directed by Charles Marowitz, 5/93, **Bobby**, By Cassie Harris, Directed by Madeline Pabis, 5/92, **Moonchildren**, By Michael Weller, Directed by Vickie Hart, 3/91.

#### **Syracuse Stage, Syracuse, NY**

**Chesapeake**, By Lee Blessing, Directed by Wendy Dann, 4/02.

#### **TheatreVirginia**

**A Wonderful Life** 11/00.

#### **TheaterWorks, Hartford, CT**

**Fully Committed** directed by Steve Campo 2/02; **Snakebit**, 6/00; **Southern Comfort**, 3/00; **Master Class**, 1/00; **Blue Room**, 3/00; **Beauty Queen of Leenane**, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 10/99; **Three Tall Women**, 2/99; **Eleemosynary**, 3/26; **How I Learned to Drive**, 5/99; **Full Gallop**, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 10/99; **Love Letters**, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 6/98; **Paul Robeson**, By Phillip Hayes Dean, Directed by Steve Campo, 7/98; **Cloud Tectonics**, By José Rivera, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 3/98; World Premiere, **Last Lists of My Mad Mother**, By Julie Jensen, Directed by Steve Campo, 1/98; **Molly Sweeney**, By Brian Friel, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 10/97; **Valley Song**, By Athol Fugard, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 6/97; **The Golden Age**, By A.R. Gurney, Starring Elizabeth Franz and Eve Holbrook, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 9/96; **Goblin Market**, By Polly Pen & Peggy Harmon, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, 7/96; **The Size of the World**, By Chuck Evered, Directed by Steve Campo, 3/97; **Spic-O-Rama**, By John Leguizamo, Directed by Steve Campo, 1/97; **Uncle Bob**, By Austin Pendleton, Starring Austin Pendleton, Directed by Steve Campo, 3/96 **The Dragon and the Pearl**, By Marty Martin, Starring Valerie Harper, Directed by Rob Ruggiero, Produced by TheaterWorks, Hartford, CT in association with Tony Cacciotti, TheaterWorks, 7/97; Cambridge Theatre Company at the Hasty Pudding, Cambridge, MA, 8/97.

#### **Westchester Broadway Dinner Theater**

**A Wonderful Life** directed by William Wesbrooks 11/01.

#### **Williamstown Theatre Festival (Nikos Stage)**

**The Big Knife**, Directed by Joanne Woodward, 6/98.

#### **Williamstown Theater Festival's Free Theatre**

**Romeo and Juliet**, By William Shakespeare, Directed by Neel Keller, 7/95.

### **HONORARY BOARD POSITIONS**

#### **Blue Light Theater Company, NYC, NY,**

Associated Artist/Resident Set Designer, 1998

#### **TheaterWorks, Hartford, CT**

Resident Set Designer, 1996/7 Season to present.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST