

James Clotfelter

Lighting and Transdisciplinary Designer

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EDUCATION

PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN

MFA dual degree, Transdisciplinary Design and Lighting Design, 2015
Summer Studies in Constructed Environments, 2013

TULANE UNIVERSITY

BFA Lighting Design and Technical Direction, New Orleans, 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING DESIGN

My freelance work as a project assistant includes the creation of digital and physical models, renderings, fixture layouts, and calculations.

Buro Happold Engineering, Gabe Gilliams, Associate Principle, 2015-present
Derek Porter Studio, Derek Porter, Principle, 2013-2015
Tillet Lighting Design, Linnaea Tillett, Principle, Summer/Winter 2014

THEATRICAL LIGHTING DESIGN (notable premiers)

I have premiered work in venues ranging from Off-Broadway and 3,000 seat opera houses to abandoned Rite Aids and the Pennsylvania forest. Most of these performances have toured internationally and I have coordinated and advanced the lighting and often the entire production. My work supports dance, theatre, and many other forms of ensemble-generated performance.

EXODUS, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Rennie Harris, Koch Theatre, Lincoln Center, 2015
CANYON, John Jasperse, Brooklyn Academy of Music, 2012
HEAVEN, Rennie Harris, Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, 2011
TRIBES, Sarah Shelton Mann, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, 2010
PROGRESSIVE COMA, Johannes Wieland, ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany, 2010
ENJOY, Toshiki Okada, The Play Company, NYC, 2010
THE BREAK/S, Michael John Garces, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, 2009
NEWYOU, Johannes Wieland, Staatstheater Kassel, Germany, 2009
NN, Ryszard Kalinowski, Lubelski Teatr Tanca, Lublin, Poland, 2008
CHEKOV LIZZARDBRAIN, Dan Rothenberg, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Philadelphia, 2007
CIVILIAN / WARRIOR, Tobin Rothlein, The Grand Theatre, Groningen, Holland, 2007

"OFF-THE-GRID" AND ALTERNATIVE-PERFORMANCE-SYSTEM DESIGN

This work involves the design and construction of complete lighting and power systems that support performance using alternative energy such as bicycle power, foot pedals, and solar panels. Enabling productions to operate sustainably allows them to operate efficiently and ultimately reach a more diverse audience.

RED, BLACK & GREEN: A BLUES, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, 2011
CAPSULE 33, Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental, Barrow Street Theatre, NYC, 2010
GENERATE / DEGENERATE, Miro Dance Theatre / Mlab, Philadelphia, 2009
BLACK WHOLE, Black Mountain College, Food Lion Skate Park, Asheville, NC, 2009
"OFF-THE-GRID" FESTIVAL (Production Manager), Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Painted Bride Gallery, 2009

INSTALLATION AND PERFORMANCE ART

Installation and performance maintain an interesting and unpredictable relationship. To both curate and design work in this context requires a re-imagining of the gallery as a performance space. Each of these works were designed to integrate into a more formal environment while maintaining the flexibility and fluidity that live performance requires.

FROM THE SPOT WHERE WE/YOU/I STAND (STOOD), Miller Rothlein, Crane Arts Center, 2014
TRAFFIC, Bill Shannon, Dance New Amsterdam, mobile bus, NYC, 2010
AFTERHOURS: Bill Shannon - what is what, Hirshhorn Gallery, Washington, D.C., 2010
SELF PORTRAIT, Miro Dance Theatre, Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2008
PITCH BLACK, Prism Quartet, Whitney Museum of Art, Altria, NYC, 2007

PRODUCTION AND STAGE MANAGEMENT (select positions)

Throughout my career I have been responsible for the success of various types of productions as a manager and technical liaison between artists and venues. This has involved complex logistics, planning and execution in everything from outdoor spaces to large union theaters.

Fleet Moves Dance Festival, Wellfleet, MA, 2012
DanceMotion USA (BAM / US State Department), Middle East tour, 2012
HOW PHILLY MOVES, Philadelphia Mural Arts, 2011
Lighting and Technical Director, PICA's TBA Festival, Lincoln Hall, Portland, OR, 2004
US Dance Showcase, Tokyo Performing Arts Market, Tokyo, 2003
Cedar Lake Ensemble, NYC, 2004-2005
Spymonkey, UK, international tour, 2001-2002

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS, HONORS, AND AFFILIATIONS

INSTRUCTOR

Leading High-Performance Teams, Wharton School of Business; Philadelphia, 2008-present

COMPANY MEMBER

Pig Iron Theatre Company, Philadelphia, 2007-present
Miller Rothlein / MIRO Dance Theatre, Philadelphia, 2004-2012
johannes wieland, NYC, 2008-2011
Rennie Harris Puremovement, Philadelphia, 2003-2006

CO-FOUNDER

Mlab design laboratory; Philadelphia, 2005-2011

PANELIST

USITT National Conference, Lighting for Ensembles and Devised Work, 2011

AWARDS

Travel Grant Recipient, Theatre Communications Group, 2007

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (PARSONS)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Summer Studies in Constructed Environments, Parsons The New School for Design, Summer 2014

WORKSHOP SERIES AND PANEL ORGANIZER

Moving to Design: Movement Models for Design Practice, University-wide workshop series, The New School, Fall 2014

PRESIDENT

Illumination Engineering Society, Parsons chapter, 2013-14 academic year

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Derek Porter, Director MFA Lighting Design, School of Constructed Environments, Summer 2013-present
Alaiyo Bradshaw, Course Coordinator for Drawing and Imaging, School of Design Strategies, Fall 2012-present
Alice Min Soo Chun, Solight Design, Fall 2014

GUEST APPEARANCES

Light Years, Panelist, Parsons School of Design, Fall 2015
Open Locast Symposium, Guest Speaker, Desis Lab / MIT Experience Lab, Boston, Winter 2013

AWARDS

Thesis Prize, presented by IESNYC, Spring 2015
IDEO / Knight Foundation Civic Design Fellow, Winter/Spring 2015
IALD Education Trust Scholarship, International Association of Lighting Designers, Spring 2014

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

MEDIA	Adobe Premier, Qlab, Isadora, A/V systems and components
SOFTWARE	Adobe Creative Suite, Revit, AutoCAD, SketchUp, AGi32, Ecotect Climate Analysis, MS Office
SHOP	model making, carpentry, electrics, audio, welding (stick, MIG, oxy-gas)
DESIGN	workshops, knowledge brokering, systems thinking, participatory design, co-design, service design
TRAVEL	extensive international experience