

NIKOLETTA SZEDENICS

Set and Costume Designer

+44 770 7076 094

szedenics.niki@gmail.com

www.szedenics.com

A hardworking, energetic person with a good dash of practicality who enjoys working both independently and within a team. Skilful at implementing ideas and designing quality materials. Always in search of new, inventive ideas, approaches and techniques. Has high knowledge about the whole design process. Expert at site-specific and interactive theatre and performances. Worked as assistant to Paul Burgess for two years.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2006-2009

University of the Arts London

Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, UK
BA (Hons) Theatre Design: Design for Performance

1999-2003

University of West Hungary

Apáczai Csere János Teacher Training College, Győr, Hungary
Double BA in Teacher of Art History and History and Cultural Management

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design

Final Year Award 2009

Richard Reeves Foundation Award

Research Support Grant 2008

The Stanley Picker Charitable Trust

Research Support Grant 2007

WORK EXPERIENCE

Scene & Costume Designer

2010

La Fille a la Mode - Conceived and created by Blayne George and Daphna Attias & Terry O'Donovan from dANTE OR dIE Theatre, Theatre Royal Haymarket, part of Masterclass: Festival 10, London

A site responsive piece devised and created over four days through the collaborative efforts of 11 artists using challenging contemporary theatre practices to interpret the theatre's history and its first production.

Sketched the dancers during the device process, created their costumes to suit their personalities both the played and the real one, adjusted and hired costumes.

2009

Interactive Game Design - Site-specific commission, Collaboration with Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

Commission for creating a plan for a site-specific theatrical decoration and design for summer 2010. We carried out the design plans to transform the centre into a blooming field by sticking colourful windmills on the glass surfaces. Our idea was based on the fact that Birmingham is the windiest city in the UK.

Conducted research about the location and with the costumers, took measurements of the building, attended weekly meetings, made models, prepared samples, drawings, technical drawings, animation and photographs, presented the ideas to the client.

What does it represent? - Degree project - based on The Shape of Things by Neil Labute, collaboration with Iwona Soczewka, Back Hill, Performance Laboratory 2, London. The piece was taken to the Association of Courses in Theatre Design (ACTD) conference in 2009 Wales.

Created and performed an inventive multimedia performance about how students work within an academic environment.

Wrote the script, made models, drew and designed costumes and set, performed, experimented with different equipments (printer, camera, television, Polaroid camera, projector, microphone, speech recognition software), attended weekly meetings, technical and other rehearsals, documented everything on video, edited the film.

Don't Juan! - Degree project - *Outdoor fire dance* performance and a short film as an adaptation of Don Juan by Tierso de Molina, Camera: Howie Baily, London

Fire represented the sexual desire of Don Juan and juggling reflected on the tricky nature of the main character, while layers of skirts were peeled off from female performers during their deadly dance.

Directed the performance, organized castings and location scouting, designed the set and costumes, made clothes protective and fireproof, created storyboard and props and edited the film.

Mendelssohn, The Nazis and Me - documentary film by Sheila Hayman, BBC, collaboration with Iwona Soczewka, London

Designing a handmade mask for the donkey character from "A Midsummer Nights Dream".

Took measurements of the head, purchased materials from different shops and handcrafted the mask.

2008

A Dog Has Died Inside Me - Play by David Christopher, Director: Stamatina Papamichali, The Miller (pub theatre), Part of the Festival of New Writing, London

An intimate play of a man's memoir whose love jumped under the moving underground to commit suicide.

Re-designed the furniture of the pub for the set, bought some props, bought, hired and adjusted the costumes.

Associate Designer

2008-2009

A Christmas Carol - Musical by Charles Dickens, Director: Joe Fredericks, Designer: Paul Burgess, Kings Head Theatre, London

Musical adaptation of the inspirational novel in the joy of Christmas with a vibrant cast of multi-talented actors, musicians, children and puppet actors.

Built a model of St Paul's Cathedral in dolls house version, which was used in the play as a set and lit from inside.

Showtime Challenge 3 - Me and My Girl - Musical by John Aizlewood- Director: John Sheerman, Set Designer: Ben Gerlis, London Palladium

A musical created, rehearsed and performed within 48 hours from choreography and lighting to set-building and costumes.

Helped the designer with the animation and design and searched for appropriate props.

On the Rocks - Comedy by Amy Rosenthal, Director: Clare Lizzimore, Designer: Paul Burgess, Hampstead Theatre, London

An uplifting and passionate comedy about four friends and a group of writers (D H Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield) striving for creativity in the midst of war.

Attended meeting with Terry Murphy Scenery, a major set builder company in South London, ordered and bought materials from Flints, CosProps, J & C Joel Limited. Designed and prepared an exact replica of the writers' cottage in Cornwall.

The Only Girl in the World = Contemporary play by Glyn Maxwell, Director: Alexander Clifton, Designer: Paul Burgess, Arcola Theatre, London

A play based on a true story of the final victim of Jack the Ripper.

Searched, collected and recycled house particles for the set, designed and painted walls and floors, stained furniture to look old and prepared costumes used as part of the set.

Triptych - Play by Edna O'Brien, Director: Sean Mathias, Designer: Paul Burgess, Southwark Playhouse, London

A portrait of a man through the eyes of his three women perfectly fit into traverse stage, the scenes of confrontation.

Made a plan for inexpensive set design, painted and installed hundreds of wood tiles to create a realistic tiled floor, bought and hired costumes.

Black Stuff - Comedy by Shams Collaboration Director: Jonathan Young, Designer: Paul Burgess, Shams Theatre, Touring

A piece about the global oil and financial crisis through a couple's holiday.

Made and designed several props and set items from recycled materials for the play.

Future Worlds Tricorn Init! - Exhibition opening performance by Julia Lee Barclay, collaboration with Scale Project led by Paul Burgess and Simon Daw, Lorem Ipsum Gallery, London

This piece and the exhibition reflected on The Tricorn Centre's building (Brutalist Shopping Centre in Portsmouth) and its history just before its demolition.

Prepared and ordered the slides, set up the room and the background for the slideshow and the performance.

2007

The Masque of the Red Death - Site-specific theatre by Punchdrunk, inspired by Edgar Allan Poe, Director: Felix Barrett, Designer: Alexa Reed, Battersea Art Centre, (BAC), London

A unique theatrical experience by decorating 50 rooms for the dressed-up mobile audience, who also wear masks. Punchdrunk immersed the old grandiose Victorian Battersea Town Hall in Poe's imagination where you could be easily lost.

I was close assistant to Alexa Reed. My duties included dyeing and breaking down fabrics, wrapping the entire building in red and purple velvet, searching for the largest stock of fabrics in London.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

2007

Steward at Faust – Site-specific theatre by Punchdrunk, Director: Felix Barrett, Designer: Punchdrunk Faust Company

Immersive productions in which the audience were free to choose what they watched and where they went but stewards needed to take care of fire exits, while they were built-in dumb characters of the play.

2003

Etyeki Katlan Festival - Site-specific set design in a cave for a music festival, Etyek Forest, Hungary

Giant kites were placed at the entrance of the cave while the indoor walls were decorated with illuminated modern figures in order to create a contrast to ancient cave paintings.

Designed, fabricated and painted props from trees and fabrics and installed them in the cave.

2000 - 2002

Co-editor, layout design, artist, performer at "DROT"

An innovative and contemporary art magazine, published at Mediawave festival in Hungary

SKILLS

Languages: English (*fluent*) Hungarian (*native*) German (*intermediate*) Japanese (*beginner*)

Theatre Skills: Model making, Storyboarding, Technical Drawing, Mask / Prop / Light Set Making, Lighting Operation

Computer: MS Office (*Excel, Word, PowerPoint*) Adobe (*Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects*), CAD drawing, Final Cut Pro,

Driving License: B (*UK*)