

## About me



Toby Tao  
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I am a second-year MFA student in Lighting Design at Ohio University, Athens, with a diverse background spanning nearly eight years of work experience across China, the US, UK, and Japan. My passion lies in seamlessly blending creativity with technical expertise to enhance the theatrical experience. Proficient in creating lighting plots using 3D simulation software, I excel in programming and operating various lighting control systems for performances. With extensive experience in lighting design at large-scale music festivals and concerts in China, I am skilled in timecode programming and coordination of lighting with video production.

Moreover, I possess the capability to fulfill the role of Lead Electrician, with experience in electrical calculation, welding, and LED light strip production. Additionally, I have served in various capacities such as assistant director, sound director, and stage manager for theatrical productions in China. My expertise extends to video shooting and editing, as well as the installation and configuration of control systems for live LED screens.

In my academic and professional endeavors, I have been commended for my focus, self-motivation, and problem-solving skills. I am proficient in a wide range of lighting control consoles and theater planning software, enabling me to craft compelling lighting experiences. Furthermore, as a freelance editor and photographer, I hold certifications as an Adobe Certified Professional in Video Design, Visual Design, and Digital Video.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to collaborate with you.



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# Resume

## Selected Theatre Lighting Design Experience

Production	Director:	Venue:	Date:
Tipping the Velvet	Caitlin Lopez	Ohio University - Baker	2024
9 to 5 The Musical	Shanna VanDenwerker	Tantrum Theatre - Forum	2024
Miracle The Musical	Yibei Ning	Goldsmith, University of London	2023
The Secretaries	Caitlin Lopez	Ohio University - Play space	2023
The Alien Abduction Case	Haidai Feng	Nanjing Agricultural University, China	2021
Count of Wulong Mountain	Fei Yan	Tour - Mahua Funage	2017-2021
The Groom-to-be	Kun Liu	Tour - Mahua Funage	2017-2021
Queen Of Proposing The Musical	Jianhua Wang	Tour - Mahua Funage	2017-2021
Love, Oh Humans! The Musical	Xiaolin Yu	Tour - Mahua Funage	2017-2021
A Midsummer Night's Dream - The Musical	Jin Hua	Communication University of China, Nanjing	2017
The Seventh China Pingtan Art Festival	Zihua Li	Suzhou Song and Dance Troupe	2017

## Selected Assistant Lighting Design Experience

Production	Designer:	Venue:	Date:
A Christmas Carol	Michael Lincoln	Indiana Repertory Theatre	2023
Twelfth Night	Michael Lincoln	Tantrum Theatre - Forum	2023
Carrie The Musical	Alejandro Ridolfi	Tantrum Theatre - Baker	2023

## Selected Lighting Programming Experience

Production	Designer:	Venue:	Date:
The Berry Hotel	Madeleine Hebert	Tantrum Theatre - Forum	2022
Julius Caesar	Gabriel Hrin	Ohio University - Hahne	2022

## Selected Live event / Music / Busking Experience [Lighting Designer&Programmer]

Production	Console:	Collaborator:	Date:
Creekside Festival - Music Festival	ONYX	Dewey Decibal System	2023
Hookahville - Music Festival	Grand MA2	Dewey Decibal System	2023
Jiang Xiaobai YOLO Youth Culture Festival - Music Festival	Grand MA2	Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	2019
World Wushu Championships - Sports Event	Grand MA2	Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	2019
School Opening Ceremony - Event	Grand MA1	Sichuan University of Commerce	2019
World Wushu Championships - Sports Event	Grand MA2	Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	2019
HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000 - Sports Event	Grand MA2	Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	2018 & 2019
League of Legends 7th Anniversary Celebration	Grand MA2	Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	2018
SongNiYiKeHuaMeiTang - School Event	Avolites Titan mobile & Avolites Tiger Touch	Communication University of China, Nanjing	2018
Oriental Garden Marathon - Sports Event	Avolites Pearl 2010	Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	2017
Elite Time - TV Program Recording	Avolites Titan mobile	Henan TV, China	2017

## Related Employment

Tantrum Theater	Lighting Designer	2022.11 - Present
Nanjing Xinglu Stage Design - Nanjing, China	Director of Lighting Department	2015.03 - 2021.06
Nanjing Mahua Funage culture media Co., Ltd - Nanjing, China	Lighting Designer	2017.06 - 2021.06
DMO Daoxiang Live house - Nanjing, China	Lighting Designer	2017.08 - 2021.06

## Related Skills

- Live Music Busking
- Vectorworks Drafting (2D&3D)
- LightWright
- Proficient on EOS / Grand MA / Avolites lighting console
- Proficient Using Qlab & Timecode & Midi
- WYSIWYG / VISON (3D Rendering&Offline Programming)
- Photometric Analysis

## Certifications / Licenses

- Adobe Certified Professional Video Design
- Adobe Certified Professional Visual Design using Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Certified Professional Digital Video using Adobe Premiere Pro
- Dante Level 1 certificate
- Valid US Diver License
- Valid China Passport

## Education

MFA - Production Design & Technology	Ohio University - Athens, OH
BA - Broadcasting and Hosting Arts	Communication University of China, Nanjing

## References

Molly Tiede	Head of Lighting, Ohio University	Tiedem@ohio.edu	+1 618 401 5488
Michael Lincoln	Artistic Director, Tantrum Theatre	Lincolnm@ohio.edu	+1 917 301 5173
Nao Nagai	Lighting Designer, Goldsmiths, University of London	n.nagai@gold.ac.uk	+44 020 7717 2283



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[Lighting Designer] 9 to 5 The Musical



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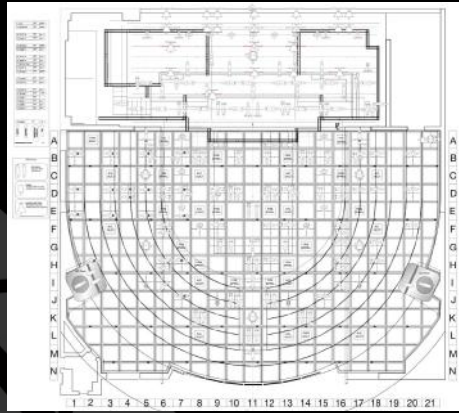
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Director: Shanna VanDenwerker  
Venue: Tantrum Theatre - Forum



# [Lighting Designer] 9 to 5 The Musical

This is the music theater production I worked on during my second year of pursuing an MFA degree at Ohio University, presented by Tantrum Theatre at Ohio University. The musical takes place on a three-sided stage, which was one of the challenges of this production. The musical production utilized an EOS Family console for programming. Additionally, I overlaid cue lists with video recordings and used Moving Light Assistant software to manage performance files.



Channel Number	Channel Name	Channel Name	Channel Name
1	FL1	FL2	FL3
2	FL4	FL5	FL6
3	FL7	FL8	FL9
4	FL10	FL11	FL12
5	FL13	FL14	FL15
6	FL16	FL17	FL18
7	FL19	FL20	FL21
8	FL22	FL23	FL24
9	FL25	FL26	FL27
10	FL28	FL29	FL30
11	FL31	FL32	FL33
12	FL34	FL35	FL36
13	FL37	FL38	FL39
14	FL40	FL41	FL42
15	FL43	FL44	FL45
16	FL46	FL47	FL48
17	FL49	FL50	FL51
18	FL52	FL53	FL54
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20	FL58	FL59	FL60
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22	FL64	FL65	FL66
23	FL67	FL68	FL69
24	FL70	FL71	FL72
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26	FL76	FL77	FL78
27	FL79	FL80	FL81
28	FL82	FL83	FL84
29	FL85	FL86	FL87
30	FL88	FL89	FL90
31	FL91	FL92	FL93
32	FL94	FL95	FL96
33	FL97	FL98	FL99
34	FL100	FL101	FL102
35	FL103	FL104	FL105
36	FL106	FL107	FL108
37	FL109	FL110	FL111
38	FL112	FL113	FL114
39	FL115	FL116	FL117
40	FL118	FL119	FL120
41	FL121	FL122	FL123
42	FL124	FL125	FL126
43	FL127	FL128	FL129
44	FL130	FL131	FL132
45	FL133	FL134	FL135
46	FL136	FL137	FL138
47	FL139	FL140	FL141
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98	FL292	FL293	FL294
99	FL295	FL296	FL297
100	FL298	FL299	FL300



### Bullpen Office

- Office covered by fluorescent light sources - a little bit amber/pinkish look. (Top light) Required color change capacity.
- Big window shadow on the floor - sunlight. (Front light up the faces). Required color change capacity.
- Texture Reference: Rasco 78497
- Some smooth artistic window frame projection.

Color References:  
 Top: R68, color changeable Top lights.  
 Front: R68, R-132, color changeable front lights.  
 Side: Textures from window, both cold and warm.  
 Cold: L-202, a moonlight look texture.  
 Warm: R-321, a sunrise/sunset look texture.

Top: L-773    Front: L-709    Cold Side: L-202    Color: RGB

### Hart's Office

- Sun/Moon Light.
- Shadows on the floor and walls - natural cool colored.
- Warm colored inner look.
- Texture Reference: Rasco 79014
- The window shadows on floor and walls.


Color References:  
 Side/Back/Top: L-203, Create a little warm white look.  
 Front: R-132, Create a Smooth front look.  
 Texture: L-202, A Little moonlight/cold skylight look.

Top: L-202    Front: R-132    Side/Back/Top: L-203    R-303    Flat: S4 3200K



Director: Shanna VanDenwerker  
 Venue: Tantrum Theatre - Forum

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Director: Belle Ning  
Venue: Goldsmith, UOL – GWT





[Lighting Designer] *The Secretaries*



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Director: Caitlin Lopez  
Venue: Ohio University – Play space



# [Lighting Designer] *The Secretaries*

"The Secretaries" was the first play I designed after coming to the United States. It's a comedy, and I arrived in the U.S. in August 2023 to pursue further studies in theater lighting at Ohio University. This production marked my first year of independent design while studying. It was a small theater comedy, which meant I had limited equipment to work with. For this play, I designed some particles. They achieved excellent results in the performance. Additionally, during the design process, I used VectorWorks to create some 3D rendering images. They were very helpful in my communication with the director and alleviated a lot of the burden, which allowed me to focus more on lighting design and its execution itself.

The image shows two pages of technical lighting design documents. The left page is titled 'Channel Hookup' and 'Statement Schedule'. The right page is also titled 'Channel Hookup' and 'Statement Schedule'. Both pages contain detailed tables of lighting equipment, including item numbers, descriptions, quantities, and technical specifications. The documents are organized into sections for different lighting fixtures and their associated components.

The Magic Sheet diagram is a grid-based layout used for organizing lighting cues. It is divided into several sections: Front, Side, Back, Moving Lights, UV, and Special. Each section contains numerical values representing cue numbers or lighting parameters. For example, the Front section has cues 101 and 102, while the Side section has cues 203, 206, 202, and 204. The Back section has cues 901 and 902. The Moving Lights section has cues 301 and 302. The UV section has cues 501, 502, 503, and 504. The Special section has cue 506.



Director: Caitlin Lopez  
 Venue: Ohio University – Play space



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[Lighting Designer] *The Alien Abduction Case*



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Director: Haidai Feng  
Venue: Nanjing Agricultural University, China



# [Lighting Designer] *The Alien Abduction Case*

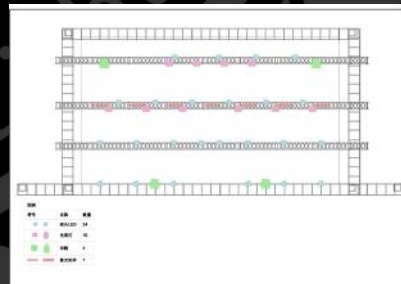
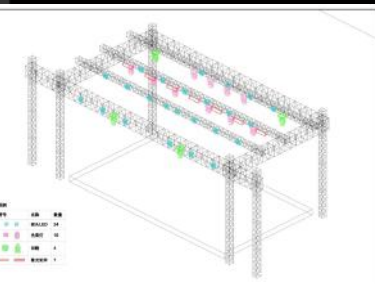
In June 2021, I was invited to complete the lighting design for this production, and I received the first draft of the script. After reading the script, I understood that the production was a heartwarming stage play depicting campus stories and scenes. I collaborated with colleagues responsible for stage design to develop the design for this performance. Considering that the audience consisted mostly of elementary school students, we opted for a more cartoon-like design overall.

Once I received the design sketches from the set designer, I began the lighting design. Prior to designing, I attended multiple rehearsals to understand the actors' positioning on stage and script revisions.

Due to budget constraints, we selected 10 moving head profile fixtures for the primary lighting design, with six fixtures positioned for front light and the remaining four for stage effects. To create distinct scenes and portray "Chinese hero" characters effectively, we added 10 moving head beam fixtures with haze capabilities for scene effect lighting. For overall coloring and backlight in the main scene, we used 26 computer-controlled LED color fixtures. Computer simulations ensured even and soft coloring across the stage.

Considering the numerous extraterrestrial scenes in the production, we included eight-eye laser matrix fixtures and two air columns in the lighting and stage equipment selection. In May, I completed the construction drawings and computer lighting simulations.

In the overall stage lighting design, we also had to make some concessions to accommodate the fact that the children's play was part of the school's Children's Day celebration event, which included a variety of performing arts.



Director: Haidai Feng

Venue: Nanjing Agricultural University, China



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[Lighting Designer] *Count of Wulong Mountain*



[Lighting Designer] *Love, Oh Humans! The Musical*



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[Lighting Designer] The Seventh China Pingtan Art Festival



[Lighting Designer] The Groom-to-Be



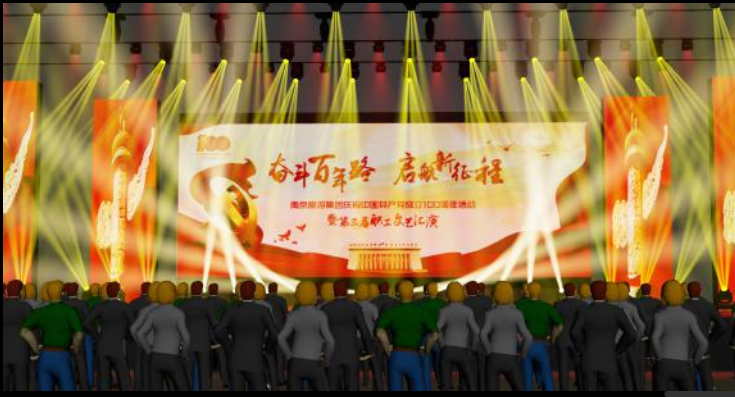
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[Lighting Designer] Party building evening gala.



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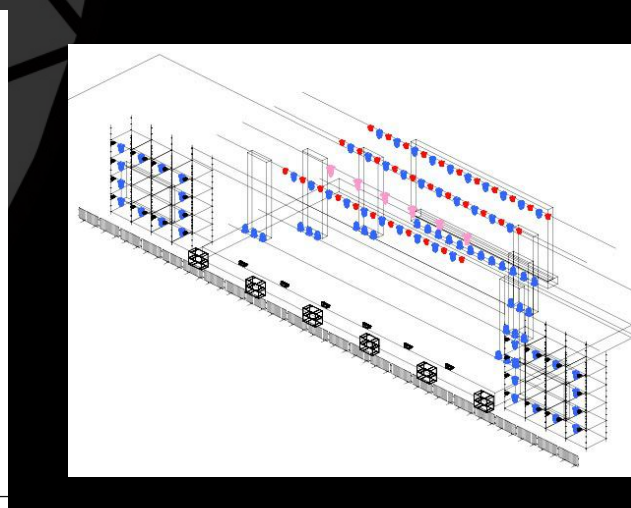
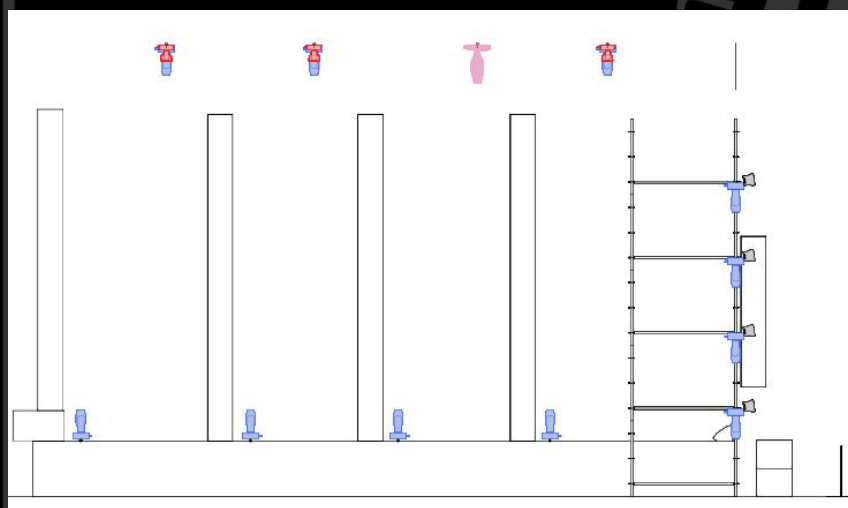
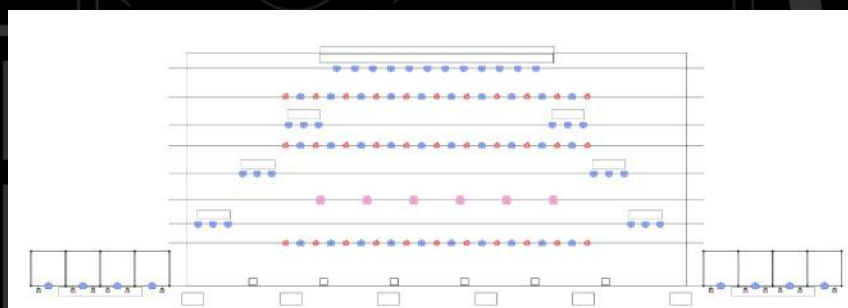


## [Lighting Designer] *The lighting design for the party building evening gala.*

The gala's design was completed in May 2021, with myself responsible for the lighting equipment design section, providing construction drawings and computer-simulated effect renderings. This was a gala project in collaboration with the Sun Palace Theater and the government. In this project, each communication step needed to be promptly reflected on the drawings.

The design primarily considered its governmental nature and party-building characteristics, thus utilizing a large number of beam lights to fill the stage and envelop the entire surrounding stage. Regarding stage coloring, predominantly moving head LED washes were utilized, capable of producing different coloring effects in various positions, zones, and angles as per the requirements of different program types, enhancing the versatility of the main stage lighting design while meeting the needs of both song and dance performances and short drama types. Additionally, the top lighting design of the stage also incorporated pattern lights. This was because during the actual performance, there would be a camera team recording and broadcasting the entire event live. These pattern lights not only provided spot lighting and floor pattern effects during the program but also served as backlighting throughout the entire gala, adding depth to characters in front of the audience and in camera shots.

The two rectangular broadcast screens on the periphery would receive real-time stage broadcast signals. Hence, some LED color wash lights and beam lights were added around the broadcast screens. This was to extend the overall lighting effects of the stage, preventing the stage from appearing too cramped, while the LED fixtures also allowed for slight coloring and fill lighting on audience faces, ensuring the audience area did not appear overly dark in camera shots.





[Lighting Designer & Operator] Music Festivals



Busking – Creekside Festival - ONYX



Busking – Hookahville – GrandMA2



Busking & Timecode - Jiang Xiaobai YOLO Youth Culture Festival – GrandMA2



Busking – A Rap Performance – GrandMA2



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League of Legends 7th Anniversary Celebration



2019 HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000



2018 HSBC BWF World Tour Super 1000







*World Wushu Championships*



*A cycling race*



*VIVO Mobile Launch*



*A campus party*



*Nanjing International Children's Fashion Week*



*A campus party*



*An award ceremony*



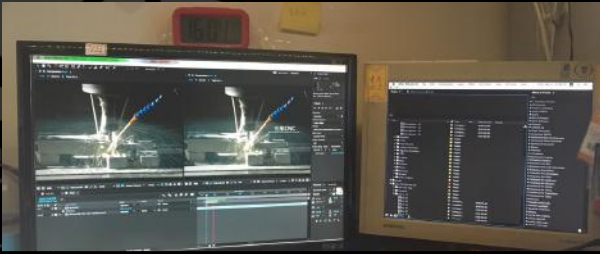
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Other related skills



Television advertisement packaging design with After Effects



"CCTV-9 The Most Beautiful Journey in China" documentary editing



Jiangsu TV's "The Brain" program video editor



Campus solo concert LED screen control



Jeep advertisement color grading



Honeywell factory promotional video filming



A certain symphonic concert sound engineer



Multiple live streaming projects live directing, and live streaming technology



Sun Yat-sen University's symphonic musical "Duxing" Assistant Director and Sound Director



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