DESNE P. WHARTON

MEDIA DESIGNER

whartondesne@gmail.com
www.desnepwharton.com

Multimedia designer with over ten years of experience in live performance and installation. Interested in designing site-specific exhibitions that reimagine how people engage with Black visual and aural cultures.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Curator, Memory Lane Skate | THEARC Theater | 2026

- Activated the archive of the National African American Roller Skating Association by curating an interactive skating rink exhibition utilizing music, media, and lighting, and live performance.
- Managed a team of 20 students through a collaborative, co-curatorial framework to execute the installation from concept to completion.

Exhibit Production Intern | Smithsonian National Museum of American History | 2025

- Contributed to the production and installation of the Mi Corazón y Vida exhibition
- Maintained complex museum audio and video playback equipment, ensuring flawless daily operation and a seamless audience experience.

Media Design Teaching Assistant | UT Austin | 2024 – Present

- Instructed students in the Adobe Creative Suite, advancing digital media workflows of designers.
- Developed and delivered targeted lessons focused on visual and aural storytelling through time-based media.

Post Graphics Artist & Video Playback Utility | Modern Motion Pictures | 2021 – 2024

- Led the creation, preparation, and on-set operation of digital graphics for high-profile television productions.
- Supported video playback systems, ensuring the accurate, seamless real-time integration of graphics during live-action production

Production Assistant | THEARC Theater | 2019 – 2022

- Served as projection designer, projection operator, and mixer for corporate events and theatrical productions
- Experienced with Venue SC48 and Yamaha QL1 Mixers
- Strike and setup for touring shows

Lead Fabrication Intern Smithsonian Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage Feb 2020 - Jun 2020

- Drafted, designed, and fabricated five sculpture and furniture pieces using AutoCAD
- Transported and scheduled catering for 8 interns, weekly

Sound Intern Eugene O'Neill Theater Center · Internship Jun 2017 - Aug 2017

- Constructed, focused, and maintained audio equipment packages
- Attended 24 work calls, 25 rehearsals, and 10 production meetings · Load in, live mixing, and strike of open mic nights

Sound Design Intern Adventure Theatre MTC · Internship May 2016 - Aug 2016 · 4 mos

- Collaborated with sound designer and director to create 200+ sound cues
- Attended production meetings, created cue sheets, and programmed cues
- Recorded audio of rehearsals and programmed cues in QLab

THEATER - MEDIA DESIGN

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Ain't No Mo	Mikala Gibson	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2026
fuckin' loud	Jackie Mates	Hollywood Fringe Festival	Los Angeles, CA	2023
Colored Museum	Dr. Lamar Bagley	Center for Performing Arts	Largo, Maryland	2023
American Idiot	Erin Farrell-Speer	Penn State Center Stage	University Park, PA	2019

THEATER - ASSOCIATE MEDIA DESIGN

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Bulrusher	Nicole A. Watson	McCarter Theater	Princeton, NJ	2023

THEATER - NEW WORK - MEDIA DESIGN

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Fanny Packs	Aysha Upchurch	F.L Winship Building	Sweden	2023
A Drop of Midnight	Jonathan Reynolds	Oscar Brockett Theater	Sweden	2023

THEATER - SOUND DESIGN

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Me Duniya	Sinclair Emoghene	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2025
Songs of the Uproar	Risikat Okedeyi	August Wilson Center	Pittsburgh, PA	2022
Legally Blonde	Aysha Upchurch	Cohen New Works Fest	Austin, Texas	2019

INTERNATIONAL TOURING - VIDEO COORDINATOR + PROGRAMMER

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
A Drop of Midnight	Jonathan McCrory	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2025

DANCE - MEDIA & SOUND DESIGN

PRODUCTION	DIRECTOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Me Duniya	Sinclair Emoghene	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2025
Cyphers	Gesel Mason	Oscar Brockett Theater	Austin, Texas	2024

INSTALLATION - DESIGN & CURATION

PRODUCTION	CURATOR	VENUE	LOCATION	YEAR
Memory Lane Skate	Desne P. Wharton	THEARC Theater	Washington, DC	2026
ShoePRINTS	Violet Clemons	F.L Winship Building	Austin, Texas	2025
Big Back	Desne P. Wharton	F.L Winship Building	Austin, Texas	2024
Echoes of Legacy	Desne P. Wharton	F.L Winship Building	Austin, Texas	2024
Re-Imagining Black	Genel Ambrose	Waco Theater Center	Los Angeles, CA	2023

FILM + TELEVISION - VIDEO PLAYBACK UTILITY

PRODUCTION	CREATOR	NETWORK	LOCATION	YEAR
Outcome	Jonah Hill	Apple TV	Los Angeles, CA	2026
Big Shot	Jonah Hill	Disney+	Los Angeles, CA	2023

MUSIC VIDEO- VIDEO ASSIST

PRODUCTION	ARTIST	COMPANY	LOCATION	YEAR
We Can't Be Friends	Ariana Grande	Vibe + Vision	Los Angeles, CA	2026
Big Shot	Jonas Brothers	Vibe + Vision	Los Angeles, CA	2023
It's Beginning...	Michael Bubble	Vibe + Vision	Los Angeles, CA	2023
On Me (Remix)	Meg The Stallion	Vibe + Vision	Los Angeles, CA	2021

TELEVISION - POST-GRAPHICS ARTIST

PRODUCTION	CREATOR	NETWORK	LOCATION	YEAR
Forever	Mara Brock-Akil	Netflix	Los Angeles, CA	2024
Rapshit	Issa Rae	HBO Max	Los Angeles, CA	2026
True Story	Eric Newman	Netflix	Los Angeles, CA	2023
Insecure	Issa Rae	Disney+	Los Angeles, CA	2022
The Woman In The House, Next Door....	Rachel Ramras	Netflix	Los Angeles, CA	2021

SKILLS

Microsoft Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, Vectorworks, Event Management, Community Outreach, Object Research, Object Handling, Projection Mapping, Projector Mounting, Sound Mixing

EDUCATION

M.F.A Integrated Media for Live Performance
The University of Texas at Austin, 2027

B.F.A Theatre Design & Technology
Minor, Film Studies
The Pennsylvania State University, 2019

AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

Member, IATSE Local 695
Treasurer, Live Design & Production Grad Org
Camera Operator, Made in Her Image
Art Team Lead, Leimert Park Juneteenth Festival

AWARDS

Creative Achievement Award, Penn State College of Arts & Architecture
Oliver Smith Award for Excellence in Design & Production, Penn State School of Theater