



BENJO VERGE

Production Designer

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Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

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benjoverge.com

EDUCATION

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
Masters – Journalism & Creative Media, 2025

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
Masters – Fine Arts in Technical Theatre & Design, 2023

Auburn University Montgomery, Montgomery, AL
Masters – Public Administration, 2019

Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL
Bachelor of Science – Psychology, 2016

INTERSHIPS

Alabama Adaptive Athletics, Tuscaloosa, AL – November 2024-Present

Producer/Statistician

- Oversee the entire production process of basketball-related media content
- Manage all aspects of filming, editing, and distribution, while ensuring engaging storytelling that captures the excitement of the game
- Ability to consult with other reporters, editors, media partners, camera operators, and assistants on how scenes should be shot.
- Accurately record all relevant statistical actions during a basketball game, including points scored, rebounds, assists, steals, turnovers, fouls, and other pertinent details.
- Provide a box score to coaches, league officials, and media at the conclusion of each game.
- Aid with choosing, assembling and setting up equipment.
- Planning, preparing, and responding quickly to directions.
- Following camera scripts while creatively framing and capturing action.

Southeastern Theatre Conference 2024, Mobile, AL – March 2024

Operations Team Member

- Ability to troubleshooting issues, manage volunteers, and report incidents .
- Ability to manage oneself in high-stress situations, responding to attendees, and performing maintenance tasks as needed.
- Oversee day-to-day operations in the front of house.
- Ensure patron and artists satisfaction by quickly responding to issues.
- Facilitate quick and efficient communication between front and back-of-house.
- Advise and interact effectively with technical and non-technical students, volunteers, and audience members.

- Operates a variety of lighting and sound consoles.
- Ability to move equipment around the event location.
- Perform other assigned duties.

Alabama Adaptive Athletics, Tuscaloosa, AL – January 2024-March 2024

Camera Operator Intern

- Ability to consult with other reporters, editors, media partners, camera operators, and assistants on how scenes should be shot.
- Aid with recording/producing interviews.
- Aid with choosing, assembling and setting up equipment.
- Planning, preparing, and responding quickly to directions.
- Following camera scripts while creatively framing and capturing action.

Southeastern Theatre Conference 2023, Lexington, KY – March 2023

Student Volunteer Intern

- Provide a signature guest experience with general information about the SETC, including orientation and wayfinding, exhibits, special programming, membership, educational opportunities, and other amenities.
- Ability to actively engage guests to enhance their experience to understand why guests are visiting and make suggestions to guests based on their interests.
- Respond promptly to guest needs including communicating their concerns to the Guest Experience Assistant Managers.
- Assist with managing crowds during high visitation times.
- Develops, maintains and promotes positive and professional relationships with internal staff, volunteers, members, vendors, contractors, media and the public to achieve organizational goals.

WVUA-23 News, Tuscaloosa, AL – January 2023-May 2023

Production Intern

- Ability to work in a demanding environment, juggling multiple projects and deadlines.
- Collaborate with other reporters, editors, and media partners.
- Strong familiarity with and enthusiasm for the entertainment world.
- Duties may include assisting with recording/producing interviews, audio mixing, and teleprompter operating.
- Aid with special projects and other office duties as assigned.

Design Productions, Birmingham, AL – May 2022-September 2022

Intern, Independent Contractor

- Aid in the load-in, run, and load out events involving lights, sound, carpentry, props, and drapery.

Alabama State University Athletics (Football), Montgomery, AL – August 2017-May 2019

Photography Intern

- Ability to work in a demanding environment, juggling multiple projects and deadlines.
- Digitize, edit, organize, and maintain an extensive database of photos.
- Take initiative in identifying good shots as they happen.
- Communicate effectively and be punctual and dependable.
- Establish and maintain effective and cooperative working relationships with athletic department supervisors, coaches, student athletes, and the public.
- Ability to use programs and platforms used to build video and photo galleries, slide shows, and other multi-media storytelling elements.
- Ability to take live fast-action photos at outdoor and indoor sporting events; photographs individual athletes, game/stadium action, fans, practices, and community events.
- Provides fast turnaround of images for web, social media, and news media requests.
- Travels to various games and events to capture shots and video footage.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Samford University (Performance Management), Homewood, AL – August 2023-Present

Stage Production Technician

- Knowledge of operational characteristics, techniques, principles, and practices used in stage production sound, lighting, video, rigging, management, and/or equipment and tools.
- Follow established backstage health, safety, and operational practices and procedures.
- Manage time effectively and handle workload in an accurate and efficient manner.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions.
- Advise and interact effectively with technical and non-technical workers, faculty, students, outside renters and volunteers.
- Maintain strong detail orientation, be flexible and adaptable under varied conditions and requirements, think quickly and problem-solve, and maintain composure/perform well under pressure.
- Sets up and operates theatrical/stage lighting equipment including light hang & focus, circuiting, cabling, and/or operating a spotlight.
- Operates a variety of lighting consoles and writes cues into board.
- Performs basic troubleshooting and maintenance of equipment being used.
- Sets up sound reinforcement, including microphones, cables and monitors, and in-ear monitors for rehearsals, performances, worship services, lectures, various theatre, opera, meetings, choral and music concerts, dance, variety shows and other university and external events.
- Operates front of house mixing console to maintain appropriate audio-levels and intelligibility of sound for audience and stage, as well as live streams as needed.

Drama Daze 2023 Tech Theatre Camp, Hoover, AL – June 2023

Tech Theatre Camp Counselor (Sound/Lights)

- Supervises campers and ensures their safety, development, growth, skill achievement, and general well-being.
- Serve or supervise as sound designer and lighting designer for the camp's production.
- Evaluating student progress and providing feedback on technique, knowledge, and performance.
- Instructs students in work and safety procedures, including the proper operations of tools and theatrical equipment related to lighting and sound.
- Provides high-quality educational opportunities and enjoyable experiences for camp participants.
- Maintains a schedule for camp participants and participates in all rehearsal meetings.
- Facilitates and creates lesson plans for daily activities.
- Collaborating with other camp staff members to plan and coordinate camp events, including always knowing the whereabouts of your children.
- Reporting and recording details of incidents, such as accidents or rule violations, to parents and camp staff.

Benjo Verge LLC, Tuscaloosa, AL – January 2022-Present

Independent Contractor

- Lifting boxes, lumber, metal, sound equipment, or lighting equipment, etc.
- Move equipment around the event location.
- Setting up the soundboard, playback equipment, lightboard, etc.
- Running power cables proficiently.
- Using a screw gun or crescent wrench repetitively on the floor or overhead.
- Load and unload trucks with lighting and other materials as needed.
- Organize and maintain lighting equipment, lighting storage areas, and setup.
- Cut gel and replace lamps as needed.
- Hang, circuit, focus and troubleshoot theatrical lighting equipment including conventional, LED, and automated fixtures.
- Maintain a clean, safe, and efficient work environment by putting away tools and equipment after use and other related tasks.
- Assistant in the strike process for each event.

Alabama Stage Productions, Birmingham, AL – August 2021-Present

Freelance IATSE Local 78 Stagehand, Independent Contractor

- Aid in the load-in, run, and load out for various national tours as local crew in lights, sound, carpentry, props, and automation.

Theatre of Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa, AL – November 2021-July 2022

Independent Contractor

- Promoted an environment that caused students to enhance their skills of effective communication so they will be able to market themselves in a professional manner.
- Aid in installing, troubleshooting, and loading-out theatrical lighting equipment.
- Organize and maintain lighting equipment, lighting storage areas, and setup.
- Hang, circuit, run power cables, focus, and troubleshoot theatrical lighting equipment including conventional, LED, and automated fixtures.
- Cut gel and replace lamps as needed.
- Maintain a clean, safe, and efficient work environment by putting away tools and equipment after use and other related tasks.
- Move equipment around the theatre and load and unload trucks with lighting and other materials as needed.
- Perform other assigned duties.

Loko Productions LLC, Montgomery, AL – May 2017-Present

Photographer/Videographer

- Provide photography services to clients for individual, family, events, weddings, and graduation portraits.
- Running power cables neatly and efficiently.
- Oversaw all aspects of post-production, from editing pictures and using software to manipulate final picture to resizing/cropping pictures and editing tape footage.
- Process photos, edit and retouch images and restore photos using Adobe Photo programs.
- Technically proficient in camera equipment, film, lenses, filters, and lighting.
- Responsible for setting up and breaking down studio equipment and lighting.
- Undertake contracts for photography jobs and coordinate with clients.
- Recorded, edited, and posted interviews and videos for public consumption.
- Managing all exclusive video content for YouTube page.
- Implemented creative control in the overall interviewing style and process.
- Logistics for the planning and scouting for shoot locations.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

University of Alabama (Theatre & Dance Department), Tuscaloosa, AL – August 2020-May 2021

Graduate Assistantship

- Learning about the Design and Technical Production concentration under the supervision of the head of the department.
- Responsible for obtaining all sound effects, whether recorded or live for specific productions.
- Setting up the soundboard and playback equipment
- Knowledgeable of how to operate a sound board and able to make sure the undergraduate board operator is professionally trained.
- Set up cameras to record productions.
- Loading and unloading trucks with large and heavy items and carrying said items up and down stairs.
- Driving a truck for the purposes of shopping for supplies such as hardware or lumber and obtaining props from the department storage warehouse.
- Using a screw gun repetitively on the floor or over head
- Standing, leaning, walking, and lifting for at minimum 4 hours a day.
- Maintaining and cleaning stock, storage, tools, and shop facilities.
- Build, paint, and rig scenery.
- Support department functions and improvements, studio, workshop, or outside productions

- Sweep, mop, and paint which includes cleaning the theatre seats and lobby after build is complete.
- Assistant in the strike process for each show after the final performance
- Performing other duties as assigned by scene shop supervisor in support of the goals and objectives of the Department of Theatre and Dance Department.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The University of Alabama

Academic Conference/Judge

- Judge – *Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference* – Spring 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Collective

Theatre Lab Facilitator, Technical Theatre & Design

- Teaching Artist – *Theatre Lab with Jefferson County Board of Education* – Fall 2024

Samford University

Adjunct Lighting Professor

- Instructor – *THEA 201 Theatre Production Lighting* – Fall 2023

Vestavia Hills City Schools

Adjunct Technical Theatre Teacher

- Instructor – *Technical Theatre* – Fall 2022

The University of Alabama

Guest Lecturer

- Guest Lecturer – *THE 120 Principles of Design* – March 2022
- Guest Lecturer – *THE 120 Principles of Design* – April 2022

Kelly Services Global

Substitute Teacher

- Substitute Teacher – *Kelly Services-Alabama* – February 2022-Present

SELECTED ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Symphony Q Academy of Dance

December 2024

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *The NutCracker*– Artistic Directed by LaQuangela Lester– 2024
- Lighting Designer – *The NutCracker*– Artistic Directed by LaQuangela Lester – 2024

Train & REO Speedwagon Summer Road Trip Tour 2024

August 2024

Independent Contractor

- RoboSpot Follow Spot – *Summer Road Trip Tour* – Sponsored by Train & REO Speedwagon– 2024

Hootie & the Blowfish Summer Camp with Trucks Tour

August 2024

Independent Contractor

- RoboSpot Follow Spot – *Summer Camp with Trucks Tour*– Sponsored by Hootie & the Blowfish– 2024

Birmingham Festival Theatre

August 2024-Present

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Topdog/Underdog*– Directed by Carlton Bell II– 2024

Druid City School of Ballet

May 2024

Independent Contractor

- Lighting Designer – *Points of Progress 2024*- Artistic Directed by Amy Cole Ahmed– 2024

Fringe Festival (SETC 2024)

March 2024

Operations Team Member

- Sound Engineer – *Why Goodbye?*– Directed by Keith Franklin– 2024
- Sound Engineer – *Journey*– Directed by Jeneen Hammond– 2024

United Negro College Fund

March 2024

Independent Contractor

- Lighting Technician – *2024 UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball Birmingham*– Produced by 2L7 Productions LLC– 2024

Lighting Design Group

December 2023

Independent Contractor

- Lighting Technician – *Republican Primary Debate*– Produced by News Nation– 2023

Virginia Samford Theatre

October 2023

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *The Addams Family*– Directed by Jenna Bellamy– 2023

Birmingham Children's Theatre

September 2023-Present

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Peter Pan*– Directed by Ashley Woods– 2023
- Sound Designer – *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*– Directed by Aija Penix– 2024

Samford University

August 2023-Present

Adjunct Professor

- Sound Supervisor – *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*– Directed by Laura S. Byland– 2023
- Lighting Supervisor – *Lucky Stiff, A Musical*– Directed by Mark Castle– 2023
- Lighting Supervisor – *Dragon's Breath, a Family Opera*– Directed by Dr. Kristin Kenning– 2023

Jason Aldean Highway Desperado Tour

August 2023

Independent Contractor

- RoboSpot Follow Spot – *Highway Desperado Tour* – Sponsored by Wolf Moon– 2023

Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Collective

August 2023-Present

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *The Modern Green Book*– Directed by Aija Penix– 2023
- Lighting Designer – *The Modern Green Book*– Directed by Aija Penix– 2023
- Lighting Designer – *"Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet"*– Directed by Carlton Bell II– 2023 (Canceled)
- Lighting Designer – *"Choir Boy"*– Directed by Carlton Bell II– 2024 (Canceled)
- Lighting Technician – *Ice Cream & Community Conversation*– Produced by Modern Green Book– 2024

R.F. Bumpus Middle School (Drama Daze Summer Camp)

June 2023-Present

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Double Double* – Directed by Diana Rowe – 2023
- Lighting Designer – *Double Double* – Directed by Diana Rowe – 2023
- Photographer – *Double Double* – Directed by Diana Rowe – 2023
- Sound Designer – *The Audition* – Directed by Diana Rowe – 2024
- Lighting Designer – *The Audition* – Directed by Diana Rowe – 2024
- Photographer – *The Audition* – Directed by Diana Rowe – 2024

Dorothy Jemison Day Theater

June 2023-Present

Independent Contractor

- Follow Spot – *Spring 2023 Recital* – Artistic Directed by Dale Serrano Jr.– 2023
- Follow Spot – *An Evening of Twyla Tharp*– Artistic Directed by Alabama Ballet– 2024

Pace Academy

March 2023

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Something Rotten* – Directed by Sean Bryan– 2023
- Photography – *Something Rotten* – Directed by Sean Bryan– 2023

Georgia Ensemble Theatre

March 2023

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Bright Star* – Directed by Thomas W. Jones II – 2023

Tuscaloosa Community Dancers

March 2023

Independent Contractor

- Sound Engineer– *Spring Concert* – Artistic Directed by Aldon Phillips McShan – 2023

Five Horizons Heath Services

December 2022

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Greater Giving* – Produced by Alpha Psi Omega (Gamma Gamma) – 2022

Nashville Children's Theatre

November 2022

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Wizard of OZ the Musical* – Directed by Ernie Nolan – 2022

UA Student Fashion Association

September 2022

Independent Contractor

- Lighting Engineer – *Bad and Boogie* – Produced by SFA – 2022

The Alabama State Council of the Arts

September 2022

Independent Contractor

- Sound Designer – *Hattie Mae's Juke Joint* – Directed by Aija Penix – 2022

The World Games 2022

July 2022

Independent Contractor

- Stagehand – *Opening & Closing Ceremony* – Artistic Directed by Dr. Henry Panion – 2022

Birmingham Opera

May 2022–Present

Independent Contractor

- Technical Assistant – *Opera Shot* – Directed by Opera Birmingham – 2022
- Sound Designer – *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* – Directed by Kristin Kenning – 2022
- Sound Engineer – *Opera Shot* – Directed by Opera Birmingham – 2023

Theatre of Tuscaloosa

November 2021-July 2022

Independent Contractor

- Production Electrician – *Girls Weekend* – Directed by Charles Prosser– 2021
- Sound Designer – *Mamalogues* – Directed by YaYa Browne – 2022
- Photography – *Mamalogues* – Directed by YaYa Browne – 2022
- Assistant Production Electrician – *Mamma Mia!* – Directed by Stephen Tyler Davis– 2022

The University of Alabama

August 2020-Present

Design/ Tech MFA Candidate (Sound and Lighting Design Emphasis)

- Assistant Sound Designer – *Merchant of Venice* – Directed by Reid Watson – 2020
- Videographer – *Merchant of Venice* – Directed by Reid Watson – 2020
- Sound Designer – *Shooting Star* – Directed by Seth Panitch – 2020
- Sound Designer – *Antigone* – Directed by Matt Davis – 2021
- Photographer – *Antigone* – Directed by Matt Davis – 2021
- Assistant Sound Designer – *Spring Awakening* – Directed by Stacy Alley – 2021
- Photographer – *Spring Awakening* – Directed by Stacy Alley – 2021
- Production Electrician – *Pipeline* – Directed by Ashley White – 2021
- Assistant Sound Designer – *Pippin* – Directed by Matt Davis – 2021
- Sound Designer – *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Directed by Ashley White – 2022
- Photographer – *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Directed by Ashley White – 2022
- Production Electrician – *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Directed by Ashley White – 2022
- Assistant Sound Engineer– *Legally Blonde* – Directed by Stacy Alley – 2022
- Photographer – *Legally Blonde* – Directed by Stacy Alley – 2022
- Production Electrician – *Dai'sla-Hello Friend* – Directed by LaBorn Brown & Margaret Carr – 2022
- Photographer – *Dai'sla-Hello Friend* – Directed by LaBorn Brown & Margaret Carr – 2022
- Sound Designer – *Dai'sla-Hello Friend* – Directed by LaBorn Brown & Margaret Carr – 2022

- Lighting Designer – *Dai'sla-Hello Friend* – Directed by LaBorn Brown & Margaret Carr – 2022
- Technical Director – *Dai'sla-Hello Friend* – Directed by LaBorn Brown & Margaret Carr – 2022
- Sound Designer – *The Flick* – Directed by Caitlin Hicks – 2022
- Lighting Designer – *The Flick* – Directed by Caitlin Hicks – 2022
- Production Electrician – *The Flick* – Directed by Caitlin Hicks – 2022
- Photographer – *The Flick* – Directed by Caitlin Hicks – 2022
- Sound Designer – *Imaginary Invalid* – Directed by Kelley Schoger – 2022
- Production Electrician – *Imaginary Invalid* – Directed by Kelley Schoger – 2022
- Photographer – *Imaginary Invalid* – Directed by Kelley Schoger – 2022
- Lighting Designer – *Misogyny* – Choreography by Kyndal Williams – 2022
- Lighting Designer – *Dysfunctional* – Choreography by Olivia Lietelier – 2022
- Photographer – *Dance Alabama! Fall 2022* – Produced by UA Theatre & Dance Department – 2022
- Photographer – *Blood at The Root* – Directed by Trinity Ross – 2022
- Sound Designer – *Blood at The Root* – Directed by Trinity Ross – 2022
- Sound Designer – *Murder Ballad* – Directed by Ashley White – 2023
- Photographer – *Murder Ballad* – Directed by Ashley White – 2023
- Sound Designer – *Dance Alabama! Spring 2023* – Produced by UA Theatre & Dance Department – 2023
- Photographer – *Dance Alabama! Spring 2023* – Produced by UA Theatre & Dance Department – 2023
- Lighting Designer – *Eighteen Percent* – Choreography by Emilia Stuart – 2023
- Lighting Designer – *Freeze Water* – Choreography by Olivia Lietelier – 2023
- Lighting Designer – *Confluence* – Choreography by Thomas Swayze – 2023

Davis Theatre

January 2019

Independent Contractor

- Photographer – *MLK Celebration* – Troy University, & Alabama State University – 2019

Leila Barlow Theatre

March 2017

Independent Contractor

- Assistant Sound Designer – *Streetcar Named Desire* – Directed by Nathan Jacobs – 2017

Alabama State University

August 2013-May 2019

Design/ Tech Undergraduate (Minor) Student (Technical Production Emphasis)

- Assistant Technical Director – *The Color Purple* – Directed by Anthony Stockard – 2013
- Assistant Technical Director – *RENT* – Directed by Brian Martin – 2014
- Assistant Technical Director – *The Piano Lesson* – Directed by Brian Martin – 2014
- Assistant Technical Director – *Flyin' West* – Directed by Dr. Wendy Coleman – 2015
- Actor - *Outpatient* – Directed by Hope Giselle – 2016
- Assistant Sound Designer – *Medea* – Directed by Dr. Wendy R. Coleman – 2016
- Sound Designer – *The Mountaintop* – Directed by Alexandra Davis – 2016
- Sound Designer – *Gray Matter* – Directed by Muriel Purnell – 2016
- Photographer – *I'm Still Rocking* – Arranged by Brian Martin – 2019

SKILLS

Basic Audio Mixing	Basic Adobe Premiere	Adobe Audition	Adobe After Effects
Adobe Lightroom	Adobe Photoshop	Adobe Acrobat DC	Collaboration
SFX	Vectorworks	U.S. Passport	Q Lab
Painting	Organization	Photography	Alabama Driver's License
Show Cue Systems	Microsoft Office	First Aid	Technician

CERTIFICATIONS

- Youth Mental Health First Aid: 2024
- Adult Mental Health First Aid: 2024
- Youth Protection Training (BSOA): 2024
- Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED: 2024
- OSHA 10 – Entertainment Safety: 2023
- Forklift Operator Safety Training: 2022
- Reuters Digital Journalism Certification: 2022
- Certificate in Data Analysis and Public Evaluation: 2019
- QPR Gatekeep Certification: 2019
- NorthStar Digital Literacy Certificate- Basic Computer Skills, Internet Basics, Using Email, Windows 10, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, social media, Information Literacy, Career Search Skills: 2018

LICENSES:

- Substitute Teaching License: 2022

ORGANIZATIONS

- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE): Local 78
- Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)
- Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC)
- The Black Theatre Network (BTN)
- Theatrical Sound Designers & Composers (TSDCA)
- National Drama Association of Trinidad and Tobago (NDATT)
- Crimson Stage: The University of Alabama
- National Sports Media Association: The University of Alabama
- Delta Gamma Phi Theater Fraternity, Incorporated: Alabama State University
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated: Alabama State University
- Nineteen Fifty-Six Magazine (1956 Magazine)