

DOUG COTTRELL

PROPS & SCENIC ARTIST - THEATRE & OPERA

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PROFILE

Resourceful and detail-driven props artist with hands-on experience across live theatre and opera. Known for turning creative vision into tangible stage-ready elements through sculpting, scenic finishing, and collaborative design. Brings a background in publishing and visual communication, now fully immersed in theatrical production environments. Known for consistently being on time and under budget with projects.

CORE SKILLS

Faux food, set dressing, replica builds	Attention to detail, organization, communication
Prop fabrication: sculpting, sewing, 3D printing	Scenic painting & finishing techniques
Stage collaboration with designers & directors	Cross-departmental support (wardrobe, scenic, install)

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Props Builder & Buyer, Port Stanley Festival Theatre

2023-2025

- Created, sourced, and modified hand props, furniture and set decoration for 4–5 productions per season at an Equity theatre.
- Collaborated with production and stage management teams to realize creative vision.
- Oversaw rentals of prop pieces from local theatres such as the Grand and the Palace.
- Built items including faux food, custom paper goods, replica fossils, bones, and more.
- Used 3D printing, sculpting, painting, and sewing techniques.
- Assisted with scenic painting, set installs, strikes, and wardrobe breakdown.
- Productions include: *goldfish*, *The Kitchen Witches*, *Dump Guys*, *Liars at a Funeral*, *Doris and Ivy in the Home*, *The Perils of Persephone*, *Bigfoot!*, *Hurry Hard*, *They're Found in Trees*, *Where You Are*, *The Beaver Club*, *On the Air*, and *Wrong for Each Other*.
- Worked alongside directors including: Julie Tomaino, Murray Furrow, Theodore Baerg, Jennifer Tarver, Liz Gilroy and Simon Joynes.

Assistant Set Designer, Port Stanley Festival Theatre

2024-2025

- Assisted lead designers in crafting physical sets and visual staging.
- Built a white model and contributed to design presentations.
- Participated in designer runs and feedback sessions for *goldfish* and *Hurry Hard*.
- Mentored by set designers Joshua Quinlan and Joe Recchia.

Props Master & Set Decorator, Odesa Theatre Company, Princess Ave. Playhouse

2025

- Stepped into the production of “Misery” late in the rehearsal process to ensure continuity and quality of props and set design
- Sourced, fabricated, and modified props and set dressing to meet production needs and artistic standards
- Collaborated closely with the Designer and Directors to dress the set in alignment with the creative vision

Props Manager, Opera at Western, Don Wright Faculty of Music**2024-2025**

- Created and managed props for *Die Fledermaus* (2024), *Die Zauberflöte* (2025), *Così fan tutte* (2025)
- Conducted research, built bespoke items, and ensured prop flow across departments.

Set Lead, LINK Theatre & Concerts – Grand Theatre, Auburn Stage**2024**

- Dressed the set for *A Crooner Christmas with Rick Kish*.
- Interpreted design sketches and coordinated furniture, textiles, and decorative elements.

TRAINING & EDUCATION**Certificate: Scenic Art – Facades Workshop**

Off the Wall Stratford Artists' Alliance – Stratford, ON

Master of Arts – English

Western University – London, ON

Bachelor of Arts – English Literature

Western University – London, ON

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**Editor & Partner, Douglas Cottrell and Associates****2005-2023**

- Oversaw graphic design and publishing, with skills in layout, editing, and branding.
- Created print materials, managed an online storefront, and led digital campaigns.

**Fundraising & Creative Support, Aeolian Hall
& Aeolian Pride Choruses London (Volunteer)****2020-2022**

- Developed branding materials and coordinated community events.

SOFTWARE & TOOLS

- Adobe Photoshop, QuarkXPress
- WordPress, Shopify, MailChimp
- Audacity, Sound Forge, Final Cut Pro (basic)
- Mac Office: Keynote, Numbers