

# 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

Prop fabrication: sculpting, sewing, 3D printing

Stage collaboration with designers & directors

Attention to detail, organization, communication

Scenic painting & finishing techniques

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), *Cosi 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