

DOUG COTTRELL

PROPS & SCENIC ARTIST - THEATRE & OPERA

448 Pinetree Drive, London, ON | (519) 619-7620 | dougmcottrell@gmail.com | www.dougcottrell.ca

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

Head of Props, Theatre Aezir

2026

- Led the properties department for *The Shark is Broken*, overseeing all hand props, furniture, and set dressing.
- Conducted in-depth historical and film research to accurately replicate props from *Jaws* (1974).
- Designed and fabricated bespoke period-specific pieces to meet directorial vision.
- Managed procurement, budgeting, and build schedule independently.
- Coordinated with director, scenic designer, and stage management to ensure seamless prop integration throughout rehearsals and performance.

Properties Manager, Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University

2024-2026

- Managed properties for multiple large-scale operatic productions, including *Sweeney Todd*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Die Zauberflöte*.
- Oversaw research, fabrication, sourcing, tracking, and rehearsal-to-performance prop flow.
- Built custom specialty items and supervised student assistants where required.
- Collaborated closely with directors Theodore Baerg, Jennifer Tarver, and Anthony Rodrigues.
- Maintained continuity and department standards across concurrent productions.

Assistant Set Designer, Port Stanley Festival Theatre

2024-2025

- Assisted lead designers in crafting physical sets and visual staging.
- Assisted lead designers in developing scenic concepts for mainstage productions.
- Built white models and contributed to design presentations and visual storytelling.
- Participated in designer runs and production meetings.
- Mentored by Joshua Quinlan and Joe Recchia.

Props Builder & Buyer, Port Stanley Festival Theatre

2023-2025

- Created, sourced, and modified props for 4–5 professional productions per season at an Equity theatre.
- Managed vendor relationships and coordinated rentals with regional theatres.
- Fabricated specialty items including replica fossils, faux food, custom paper goods, and sculptural elements using 3D printing, painting, sewing, and sculpting techniques.
- Supported scenic painting, install, strike, and cross-department collaboration.
- Worked with directors including Julie Tomaino, Murray Furrow, Liz Gilroy, and Simon Joynes.
(Production list available upon request.)

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

2024

- Led set dressing for *A Crooner Christmas with Rick Kish*.
- Interpreted design sketches and coordinated furniture, textiles, and decorative elements for live performance staging.

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