

JESS BUTTERY

Theatrical Designer • Interdisciplinary Artist • Educator • Production Manager

jess.buttery@gmail.com • (970) 531-9042 • jessbuttery.com

EDUCATION

Prescott College

2026

MFA, Transformative Arts

- Capstone research: What We Are Not Meant to Keep: Memory, Refusal and Voyeurism into the Past.
- Capstone installation: Archive//Body: A Post-Digital Séance — an immersive, post-digital environment integrating slide and video projection, sound, objects, audience movement, and interactive technologies.

University of Colorado Boulder

2010

BA, Theatre Design and Technology

Additional Graduate Study

Goddard College

2023–2024

MFA study, Interdisciplinary Arts — Performance Creation emphasis; study ended with institutional closure.

Concordia University

2019–2020

M.Ed. study, Career and Technical Education; study ended with institutional closure.

University of Missouri–Kansas City

2011–2012

Graduate study, Lighting Design and Projection.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING

Hamilton College — Assistant Professor of Instruction in Theatre / Production Manager

2022–Present

Clinton, New York

- Teach design, production, and technical theatre in an undergraduate liberal arts program; mentor student designers, stage managers, technicians, and production students from introductory through advanced work.
- **THETR 105 — Introduction to Production and Design** (regularly taught, 2022–Present): interdisciplinary foundation course covering scenic, costume, sound, lighting, and projection design together with the production practices, technologies, tools, and collaborative processes that support each area.
- Use hands-on projects, visual research, discussion, and production-based learning to introduce composition, color, scale, texture, design history, stagecraft, digital tools, and the relationship between concept and execution.
- **THETR 213 — Lighting Design** (Fall 2024): advanced study of lighting and projection for live performance, including composition, color theory, design process, collaboration, equipment, electricity, programming, and realization.
- **THETR 141/142 — Production** (every semester, 2022–Spring 2026): supervise and mentor students engaged in management, technical work, crews, and realized faculty-directed productions.
- **THETR 398 — The Study of Theatre through Production** (every semester, 2022–Spring 2026): mentor advanced students undertaking major production responsibilities including stage management, dramaturgy, and design.
- As Production Manager, coordinate the department production season, calendars, guest artists, budgets, design/production communication, technical planning, student assignments, and production mentorship while also serving as a faculty designer.

Denver School of the Arts — Lighting Design & Technology Instructor, Stagecraft & Design 2014–2021

Denver, Colorado

- Taught and mentored students in a highly diverse public arts-magnet and Career & Technical Education environment, with an emphasis on inclusive, hands-on, collaborative learning and student ownership of the design process.
- Worked within a multidisciplinary Stagecraft & Design program spanning lighting, scenery, costumes, projections, sound, props, digital media, and production technologies; supported students as they translated ideas into realized work for school productions.
- **Intermediate Lighting Design** (2014–2021): introduced younger designers to lighting theory, visual storytelling, fixtures, dimming/control systems, safety, electrics, and console operation.
- **Advanced Lighting Design** (2014–2021): mentored junior and senior students through self-directed design projects and production assignments, including research, concept development, documentation, programming, advanced electrical work, and realized design.
- **Introduction to Digital Arts** (2018–2021): eighth-grade elective introducing Adobe Lightroom, Illustrator, InDesign, and Photoshop as tools for visual communication and digital creative practice.
- Designed and/or supervised lighting for major productions including *Chicago*, *Shrek*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Producers*, *Oliver!*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, and *Hairspray*.

SELECTED DESIGN & CREATIVE PRACTICE

Academic Theatre

Hamilton College Theatre Department — Lighting Designer 2023–Present

Lighting Design: *Concord Floral*; *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches*; *Our Lady of 121st Street*; *Ubu Roar*.

Denver School of the Arts— Lighting Designer 2014–2021

Lighting Design: *Hairspray*, *Oliver*, *The Producers*, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Shrek*, *Chicago*, *Spring Awakening*, twice yearly *Dance Showcase's*

Colgate University — Lighting Designer 2024

Lighting Design: *Toliver & Wakeman*.

University of the South (Sewanee) — Lighting Designer 2022

Lighting Design: *The Revolutionists*.

Whitman College — Lighting Designer 2019

Lighting Design: *Ripe Frenzy*.

University of Colorado — Lighting Designer 2016

Lighting Design: *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*.

University of Denver — Lighting Designer 2014

Lighting Design: *Nina Variations*.

Naropa University MFA Program — Lighting Designer / Technical Director 2014

Lighting Design: *On the Edge Performance Festival*.

Professional Theatre

square product theatre — Company Lighting Designer 2010–Present

Selected Lighting Design: *Things We Will Miss*; *Dance Nation*; *Everything Was Stolen*; *Celebration, Florida*; *House of Gold*; *She Rode Horses Like the Stock Exchange*; *The Box Marked Black*; *This Aunt Is Not a Cockroach*; *How I*

Learned to Drive; Ranch Dressing & Other Coping Mechanisms; Ham McBeth; SLAB; 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche; Gidion's Knot; Bruiser; The Ding Dongs; 44 Plays for 44 Presidents; This Show Might Be Terrible; The Great Goddess Bazaar; HOWL; Songs of Meat and Cake; One Woman Show.

Breckenridge Backstage Theatre — Lighting Designer 2017

Lighting Design: *The Producers; The Witches; Buyer & Cellar; Red.*

Catamounts Theatre Company — Lighting Designer 2011, 2013

Lighting Design: *Failure, A Love Story; Mr. Spacky...The Man Who Was Continuously Followed by Wolves.*

Band of Toughs — Lighting Designer 2012

Lighting Design: *Moulin Scrooge.*

Performance Now Theatre Company — Lighting Designer 2012

Lighting Design: *Camelot.*

Unicorn Theatre — Assistant Lighting Designer 2011

Lighting Design: *Iggy Scrooge.*

Kansas City Repertory Theatre — Assistant Lighting & Projection Designer 2011

Lighting Design: *A Christmas Carol.*

Dance and Movement-Based Performance

Komo Danceworks Company — Lighting Designer 2022

Lighting Design: *Runelight.*

Davis Contemporary Dance Company — Lighting Designer / Stage Manager 2018, 2019

Evolving Doors Dance — Lighting Designer 2013–2019

Lighting Design: *Skin; Sum of Our Parts; A Rip in the Sky & Mending the Moon.*

Cindy Brandle Dance Company — Lighting Designer 2014

Lighting Design: *In Transit.*

Hoarded Stuff Experimental Dance Theatre — Lighting Designer 2013

Lighting Design: *The Great Green.*

Striding Lion Performance Group — Lighting Designer 2010

Lighting Design: *Birdsongs.*

CREATIVE RESEARCH, PRESENTATIONS & FESTIVALS

PhysFest NYC — Presented original work Things We Will Miss January 2026

- Stella Adler Dance Studios, New York City.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe — Presented original work Things We Will Miss August 2024

- C Aquila Studios, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mid-America Theatre Conference — Presenter March 2024

- “Moving the Work Forward: Criticality in Community,” Practice and Production Symposium session “Involvement & Invitation: Cultivating Engaged Communities,” with Emily K. Harrison and Nathaniel Klein.

Signal to Noise Podcast — Interview June 1, 2023

- Episode 207: Kyle Jensen & Jess Buttery, RENT — Rock Musical in the Round.

CONFERENCES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Scandlight 2026 – “In the Context of Light”

June 7–9, 2026

Stockholm University of the Arts, Stockholm, Sweden

- International lighting-design conference bringing together designers, artists, researchers, educators, students, and technical specialists across theatre, dance, music, circus, television, visual art, and multimedia practice.

Conference by Candlelight

June 4–6, 2026

Stockholm, Sweden

- International forum on the artistic, technical, historical, and cultural dimensions of candlelit performance, including programming at Drottningholm Court Theatre, Gripsholm Castle Theatre, and Confidencen Palace Theatre.

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) Annual Conference

2016–Present

- Attended: 2016 Salt Lake City; 2018 Fort Lauderdale; 2019 Louisville; 2021 Virtual; 2023 St. Louis; 2024 Seattle; 2025 Columbus; 2026 Long Beach.
- 2026 – Co-chair/presenter, “Business of Making Art: Careers in Theater Management,” sponsored by the USITT Management Commission.
- 2026 – Editor, Management Commission poster session “Stage Management and Parade Puppets.”
- 2026 – Juror, USITT Management Commission poster-session submissions.
- Faculty-led student participation at national conference, including Hamilton College student groups in 2024 and 2026.

Upstate New York Projection Symposium / LUMA Festival

September 2025

- Attendee; regional USITT projection-focused professional development and networking.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

OnStage Colorado Award – Excellence in Lighting Design

2023

- Things We Will Miss, square product theatre.

BroadwayWorld Denver Award – Nominee, Best Lighting Design

2023

- Celebration, Florida, square product theatre.

BroadwayWorld Denver Award – Nominee, Best Lighting Design

2023

- Things We Will Miss, square product theatre.

Henry Award – Nominee, Best Lighting Design

2022

- Dance Nation, square product theatre.

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT & ARTS LEADERSHIP

Hamilton College Theatre Department – Production Manager

2022–Present

Selected productions: *Measure for Measure*; *RENT*; *Concord Floral*; *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches*; *Our Lady of 121st Street*; *The Underlying Chris*; *Ubu Roar*; *A Doll’s House, Part 2*, *Cabaret*.

Redhouse Arts Center – Production Manager

April–May 2025

Production: *Fun Home*.

Dairy Center for the Arts – Technical Venue Manager

2012–2020

Boulder International Fringe Festival – Technical Venue Manager

2010–2014

Naropa University MFA Program – Technical Manager

2012–2014

Wesley Foundation Performance Space – Technical Director

2012–2014

Colorado Shakespeare Festival — Master Electrician
Lakewood Cultural Center — Electrician / Programmer / Designer

2012
2014–2020

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Peak to Peak Charter School — Lighting Advisor	2018
Graland Day School — Lighting Upgrade Advisor / Manager	2017
Denver School of the Arts — Guest Artist, Stage Manager	2014
Naropa University — Lighting Coordinator, Summer Writing Program	2013
Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company — Assistant Stage Manager	2013
Production: <i>Santaland Diaries</i> .	
University of Denver — Undergraduate Lighting Advisor	2013
Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre — Youth Theatre Workshop Staff	2006–2010
University of Colorado Theatre & Dance — Electrician / Scene Shop Staff	2007–2010
Macky Auditorium — Stage Crew / Assistant Stage Manager	2008–2010
University of Colorado — Master Electrician / Student Technical Director	2008–2010
Colorado Shakespeare Festival — Properties Master	2009
Production: <i>A Christmas Carol</i> .	
Colorado Shakespeare Festival — Light Board Operator / Electrician / Deck Crew	2007–2008

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), member since 2014.
- Upstate New York Regional Section of USITT, member since 2023.
- square product theatre, company member since 2010.

CREDENTIALS

- Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education — Career and Technical Education credential for Postsecondary Performing Arts Instruction.
- State of Colorado — Secondary Career and Technical Education credential, CTE Performing Arts (7–12).