

NICK BLAIS

DESIGNER – PRODUCTION, SET, COSTUME, LIGHTING

Associated Designers of Canada

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OVERVIEW

Nick Blais designs across Canada in all manner of discipline and venue: from theatres, parks, abandoned buildings, schools, storefronts, living rooms and concert halls. As Head of Design for Toronto's leading immersive theatre company, Outside the March, Nick specializes in assembling gifted teams, creating and facilitating thematic, impactful designs, and transforming unconventional spaces into immersive, dramatic environments. Nick has received Dora Mavor Moore Awards for both set and lighting design, nominated for the Virginia Myrtle Cooper award in costume design, and various other awards and nominations across the country. His design work was featured in 2011 at the Prague Quadrennial for Theatre design, and showcased in Professional Lighting Magazine for his innovation in off-the-grid lighting design and site-specific scenography.

Nick is currently based in Toronto, ON.

EDUCATION

2007-2011 B.F.A. Theatre Design with Distinction – University of Alberta
2006-2007 Apprenticeship Program, Alberta Theatre Projects – Calgary, AB

SELECT THEATRE DESIGN CREDITS:

YEAR	TITLE	COMPANY	CITY	VENUE	DESIGN	DIRECTOR
2022	Lessons in Temperament	Stratford / OTM	Stratford, ON	Lazaridis Hall	Production Design	Mitchell Cushman
	Into the Woods	Yes Theatre	Sudbury, ON	STC	Set/Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale	Soulpepper / OTM	Toronto, ON	Michael Young	Consultant	Mitchell Cushman
	Trojan Girls	OtM / Factory Theatre	Toronto, ON	Factory Studio	Costume	Mitchell Cushman
	Ghost: the Musical	Starvox	Niagara, ON	Fallsview Casino	Set/Lighting	Chris Bond
	Sweeney Todd	Talk is Free Theatre	Toronto, ON	Glen Rhodes	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	Antipodes	Coal Mine Theatre	Toronto, ON	Coal Mine	Set/Lighting	Ted Dykstra
2021	Magic Immersive	Lighthouse Immersive	Chicago, IL	360 State	Space Design	J. Allan & T. Bond
	Follies	R. Conservatory of Music	Toronto, ON	Koerner Hall	Lighting	Richard Ouzounian
	Concord Floral	Randolph College	Toronto, ON	Site Specific	Set/Costume	Jay Northcott
	Van Gogh	Lighthouse Immersive	Toronto, ON	1 Yonge	Set/Lobby	M. Siccardi
2020	Mundane Mysteries	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Worldwide	Designer	Mitchell Cushman
	Curious Voyage	Talk is Free Theatre	Toronto, ON	Site Specific	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	OIL	ARC	Toronto, ON	Geary Lane	Lighting	C. Stanton/A. Armour-Ostroff
	Marjorie Prime	Coal Mine Theatre	Toronto, ON	Coal Mine	Lighting	Stewart Arnott
	Consumption Patterns	Next Stage	Toronto, ON	Factory Studio	Set	Jillian Harper
2019	Golem's Mighty Swing	OTM/WJT	Winnipeg, ON	Berney Theatre	Production	M Cushman / M. Jamin
	The FLICK	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Streetcar Crowsnest	Set/Lighting	Mitch Cushman
	The Tape Escape	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Tape Escape	Production	Cushman / Smythe / Bottomley
	Hand to God	Coal Mine Theatre	Toronto, ON	Coal Mine	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	Four Chords and a Gun	Starvox	Toronto, ON	Fleck Theatre	Set/Lighting	Richard Ouzounian
	Kiss of the Spider Woman	Eclipse Theatre Co.	Toronto, ON	Don Jail	Production	Evan Tsitsias
	Human Animals	ARC	Toronto, ON	East End Arts	Set / Lighting	Christopher Stanton
	1979	1979 Group	Toronto, ON	Berkeley Downstairs	Lighting	Miles Potter
2018	A Community Target	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	The Regent Theatre	Production	M.Cushman / Willis / McInnes
	Ghostbusters :	Secret Sessions	Toronto, ON	Redwood Theatre	Set	Mandy Roveda
	Dr Silver	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Heliconian Hall	Production	Mitchell Cushman
	Princess Bride	Secret Sessions	Toronto, ON	Redwood Theatre	Set	Mandy Roveda
	Dissidents	ARC	Toronto, ON	Site Specific	Set/Lighting	C. Stanton, Tamara Vuckovic
	Glass Menagerie	Grand Theatre	London, ON	McManus Theatre	Production	Megan Watson
	Jerusalem	OTM / Company	Toronto, ON	Guloein Theatre	Set	Mitchell Cushman
	Bang Bang	Factory Theatre	Toronto, ON	Factory Mainstage	Set	Kat Sandler
2017	The Sea	Humber College	Toronto, ON	Black Box	Set / Lighting	Christopher Stanton
	Aliens	Coal Mine Theatre	Toronto, ON	Coal Mine	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman

	<u>Midsummer Night's Dream</u>	Shakespeare in the Ruff	Toronto, ON	Withrow Park	Set / Lighting	Megan Watson
	<u>Lessons in Temperament</u>	Tunesmith/Soulpepper	NYC, NY	Touring	Production	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Vespers</u>	Royal Winnipeg Ballet	Winnipeg, MB	Manitoba Centennial	Set	James Kudelka
	<u>A Flea in Her Ear</u>	George Brown	Toronto, ON	Michael Young	Lighting	Jordan Pettle
	<u>The Penelopiad</u>	George Brown	Toronto, ON	Michael Young	Lighting	Sue Miner
	<u>Receiver of Wreck</u>	Pat the Dog	Sudbury, ON	Touring	Set / Lighting	Trevor Copp
2016	<u>Pomona</u>	ARC	Toronto, ON	Geary Lane	Set / Lighting	Christopher Stanton
	<u>TomorrowLove</u>	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Site Specific	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Follow Your Heart</u>	Evolution Dance	Richmond Hill	RHCPA	Lighting	Armineh Keshishian
	<u>The Unending</u>	Convergence Theatre	Toronto, ON	Site Specific	Production	Aaron Willis
	<u>West Side Story</u>	Citadel Theatre	Edmonton, AB	Maclab Theatre	Set / Lights	Bob Baker
	<u>The Suicide</u>	George Brown	Toronto, ON	Young Centre	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Hound of Baskervilles</u>	Globe Theatre	Regina, SK	Globe Theatre	Set / Costume	Kelli Fox
2015	<u>Domesticated</u>	Company Theatre	Toronto, ON	Downstairs Berkley	Set	Philip Riccio
	<u>All Shook Up</u>	Globe Theatre	Regina, SK	Globe Theatre	Set / Costume	Stephanie Graham
	<u>Madama Butterfly</u>	Saskatoon Opera	Saskatoon, SK	Persephone Theatre	Set / Lighting	Marilyn Gronsda, J. Jamison
	<u>Mr Burns</u>	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Aztec Theatre	Lighting	M. Cushman, Simon Bloom
	<u>Brantwood</u>	Sheridan College	Oakville, ON	Brantwood School	Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Laws of Thermodynamics</u>	Theatre Yes	Edmonton, AB	Westbury Theatre	Set / Lighting	Heather Inglis
	<u>The Prince of Homburg</u>	TalkisFreeTheatre	Barrie, ON	Mady Centre	Set / Lighting	James Kudelka
2014	<u>I, Claudia</u>	TalkisFreeTheatre	Barrie, ON	Mady Centre	Set/Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Moment</u>	ARC	Toronto	Site Specific	Lighting	Christopher Stanton
	<u>Much Ado About Nothing</u>	Globe Theatre	Regina, SK	Globe Theatre	Costume / Set	Marti Maraden
	<u>The Magic Flute</u>	Saskatoon Opera	Saskatoon, SK	Persephone Theatre	Set / Lighting	Rob Herriot
	<u>East of Berlin</u>	Punctuate Theatre	Edmonton, AB	C103	Set / Lighting	Simon Bloom
	<u>New Jerusalem</u>	Harold Green	Toronto, ON	T. Centre of the Arts	Set / Lighting	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Terminus (Tour)</u>	Outside the March	Victoria, BC Whitehorse, YK Montreal, QC	Belfry Theatre Yukon Arts Centre Centaur Theatre	Production	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Romeo and Juliet</u>	TalkisFreeTheatre	Barrie, ON	Mady Centre	Production	Mitchell Cushman
2013	<u>The Sneeze</u>	TalkisFreeTheatre	Barrie, ON	Mady Centre	Production	Marti Maraden
	<u>Murderers...</u>	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Summerworks	Production	Simon Bloom
	<u>Girls! Girls! Girls!</u>	Present Danger Prod	Toronto, ON	Summerworks	Set / Lighting	J. Carmichael & DM Baratta
	<u>Don Giovanni</u>	Opera Nuova	Edmonton, AB	Timms Centre	Set / Lighting	Rob Herriot
	<u>Elixir of Love</u>	Opera Nuova	Edmonton, AB	Timms Centre	Set / Lighting	Brian Deedrick
	<u>Fiddler on the Roof</u>	Opera Nuova	Edmonton, AB	Timms Centre	Set / Lighting	Kim Mattice-Wanat
	<u>Susanna's Secret</u>	Calgary Opera	Calgary, AB	Arrata Opera Centre	Set / Lighting	Rob Herriot
	<u>A Spanish Hour</u>	Calgary Opera	Calgary, AB	Arrata Opera Centre	Set / Lighting	Rob Herriot
	<u>Merrily We Roll Along</u>	Theatre Sheridan	Oakville, ON	Macdonald-Heaslip	Set / Lighting	Richard Ouzounian
	<u>Les pecheurs de perles</u>	Opera Hamilton	Hamilton, ON	Theatre Aquarius	Set	Brian Deedrick
	<u>Les 7 peurs d'Emilie</u>	L'UniThéâtre	BC and Alberta	Tourng TYA	Production	Brian Dooley
2012	<u>A Christmas Carol</u>	Theatre Prospero	Alberta	Touring TYA	Production	Liz Hobbs & Adam Cope
	<u>Terminus</u>	OTM / Mirvish Prod.	Toronto, ON	Royal Alexandra	Production	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Jack Goes Boating</u>	Sage/Shadow	Calg/Edmo, AB	J.Doolittle / Varscona	Set/ Lighting	Kelly Reay
	<u>POOF!</u>	Capitol Theatre	Edmonton, AB	Capitol Theatre	Lighting	Amanda Bergen
	<u>A Steady Rain</u>	Ground Zero Theatre	Calgary, AB	Motel Theatre	Production	Kevin McKendrick
	<u>The Cave Painter</u>	NotaBle Acts Festival	Fredericton, NB	Black Box, STU	Costume	Kim McCaw
	<u>Terminus</u>	Outside the March	Toronto, ON	Factory Mainspace	Production	Mitchell Cushman
	<u>Albert Herring</u>	Opera Nuova	Edmonton, AB	Timms Centre	Set	Kelly Handerek
	<u>Alcina</u>	Opera Nuova	Edmonton, AB	Timms Centre	Set/Lighting	Kim Mattice Wanat
	<u>Ariadne auf Naxos</u>	Opera Nuova	Edmonton, AB	Timms Centre	Set/Lighting	Brian Deedrick
	<u>Spring Awakening</u>	Citadel/FooteTheatre	Edmonton, AB	Rice Theatre	Lighting	Bridget Ryan
	<u>Cloud 9</u>	Citadel/FooteTheatre	Edmonton, AB	Rice Theatre	Lighting	David Horak
	<u>RACE</u>	Ground Zero Theatre	Calgary, AB	Vertigo Studio	Set/Lighting	Kevin McKendrick
	<u>Death of the Freak Show</u>	Swallow-a-Bicycle	Calgary, AB	EPCOR Centre	Costume	Charles Netto & Mark Hopkins
	<u>The Magic Flute</u>	Calgary Opera	Calgary, AB	Touring	Set/Costume	Mark Bellamy
	<u>Merrily We Roll Along</u>	Grant MacEwan	Edmonton, AB	Haar Theatre	Set/Costume	Jim Guedo
2011	<u>Performing Book</u>	Brian Webb Dance	Edmonton, AB	Ledcor Theatre	Lighting	Lin Snelling

	Brake	HeartMeat Prod.	Edmonton, AB	Walterdale Theatre	Production	Mark Vetsch
	Seasons	Stage Lab -U of A	Edmonton, AB	SPS- Timms Centre	Costume/LX	Andrea Boyd
	Jane Austen, Action Figure	Stage Lab -U of A	Edmonton, AB	SPS- Timms Centre	Costume/LX	Kate Weiss
	The Cave Painter	Stage Lab -U of A	Edmonton, AB	SPS- Timms Centre	Costume/LX/ Proj.	Kim McCaw
	Twelfth Night	University of Alberta	Edmonton, AB	Corner Stage	Costume	Harry Judge
	Rebel Without a Cause	Ross Sheppard	Edmonton, AB	R.S. Theatre	Lighting	Darolyn McCrostie
	Lights, Music, Dance	University of Alberta	Edmonton, AB	Media Room	Lighting	Lin Snelling, Marie Nychka
2010	A Musta Be Maskihkiy	Old Earth Prod.	Edmonton, AB	SPS- Timms Centre	Prod/Projection	Jane Heather
	Vultures	NextFest 2010	Edmonton, AB	L. Room Playhouse	Production	Mitchell Cushman
	Characters and Violence	NextFest 2010	Edmonton, AB	The Roxy Theatre	Production	Ben Janko
	Little Dog Laughed	University of Alberta	Edmonton, AB	Media Room	Set	Leigh Rivenbark
2009	June Moon	University of Alberta	Edmonton, AB	Media Room	Lighting	Dave Horak
2008	Nothing Like the Sun	Sage: IGNITE!	Calgary, AB	Joyce Doolittle	Set	Peter Boychuk

FILM / SPECIAL EVENTS / EXHIBITS / PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

YEAR	EVENT	PRODUCER	DESIGN / POSITION
2022	Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale	Outside the March	Production Manager / Design Consultant
2021	Lessons in Temperament (FILM)	Outside the March	Production Designer /Art Director
	Illusionarium Immersive Exhibit	Starvox / Lighthouse Immersive	Design Consultant
	Sacred Fire : Installation	City of Toronto: ArtworxTO	Designer, Coordinator
	Stupidhead: the Musical	Outside the March	Production Manager
	The Pop-Up Experience	Outside the March / Summerworks	Production Manager
2020	Van Gogh Immersive Exhibit	Starvox / Lighthouse Immersive	Lobby, Scenic, and Lighting Design.
	What Will Remain by Robert Davidovitz	FENTSTER	Lighting Design
2019	TAPE ESCAPE: The Escape Room	Outside the March	Escape Room Design and Production Management
	Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale (Toronto)	Outside the March	Production Manager
	Prague Scenography Quadrennial	ADC	Planning Committee Member
2015	Prague Scenography Quadrennial	ADC	Planning Committee Member
2013	Edmonton Fringe Festival	Fringe Theatre Adventures	Assistant Technical Director
2012	Edmonton Fringe Festival	Fringe Theatre Adventures	Assistant Technical Director
2011	Prague Scenography Quadrennial	University of Alberta	Student gallery exhibit and professional portfolio library
	MFA/BFA Portfolio Show	University of Alberta	Space Design
2010	MFA/BFA Portfolio Show	University of Alberta	Assistant Art Director
2009/10	FourPlay : Fundraisers	Catalyst Theatre	Set Design

AWARDS / NOMINATIONS / PUBLICITY

YEAR	AWARD	ORGANIZATION	PRODUCTION	COMPANY
2022	Outstanding Set Design (Nominated)	Dora Mavor Moore Awards	The Antipodes	Coal Mine Theatre
	Outstanding Lighting Design (Nominated)	Dora Mavor Moore Awards	Sweeney Todd	Talk is Free Theatre
2020	Outstanding Lighting Design	Dora Mavor Moore Awards	Marjorie Prime	Coal Mine Theatre
	Best Design	Toronto Theatre Critics Award	The Flick	Outside the March/Crows
	Outstanding Lighting Design (Nominated)	Winnipeg Theatre Awards	Golem's Mighty Swing	Winnipeg Jewish Theatre/OTM
2019	Outstanding Design	My Theatre Award	The Flick	Outside the March/Crows
2018	Outstanding Set Design	Dora Mavor Moore Awards	Jerusalem	Outside the March/Company
	Best Design	Toronto Theatre Critics Award	Jerusalem	Outside the March/Company
2017	Outstanding Scenic Design (Nominated)	Dora Mavor Moore Awards	Pomona	Actors Repertory Company
	Outstanding Lighting Design (Nominated)	Dora Mavor Moore Awards	Pomona	Actors Repertory Company
2016	Virginia Myrtle Cooper Award (Nominated)	Ontario Arts Council	Costume Design	Various
	Prize for Production	Summerworks Festival	Lessons in Temperament	Outside the March
2015	Artist Spotlight – Magazine Profile	Professional Lighting & Production	Brantwood / Mr. Burns	Outside the March
	Show Spotlight – Magazine Profile	Professional Lighting & Production	Mr. Burns	Outside the March
	Best Lighting Design (Nominated)	My Theatre Award - Toronto	Mr. Burns	Outside the March
	Best Design	Toronto Theatre Critics	Mr. Burns	Outside the March
	Outstanding Set Design (Nominated)	Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award	Laws of Thermodynamics	Theatre YES
2014	Outstanding Set Design (Nominated)	Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award	East of Berlin	East / West Collective
	Best Set Design	My Theatre Award - Toronto	New Jerusalem	Harold Green Jewish Theatre

2013	Outstanding Set Design (Nominated) Best Design	Betty Mitchell Award Toronto Theatre Critics Awards	<u>A Steady Rain</u> <u>Terminus</u>	Ground Zero and Hit & Myth Outside the March / Mirvish
2012	Prize for Production	Summerworks Festival	<u>Terminus</u>	Outside the March

TEACHING / OUTREACH

YEAR	EVENT	POSITION	DESCRIPTION
2019-21	<u>Theatre Design: Theory & Practice</u> George Brown College	Lecturer	Theory of Theatre Design and Working practices: Set, Costume, Lighting, Production Design, design for opera and music performance, working in professional and amateur theatre.
2021	<u>Set Design Workshop - Lecture/Lab</u> Silverthorn Collegiate Institute	Instructor	Set Design for the theatre. Understanding the play, process to developing a design, prep for execution. Theory of Theatre Design and Working practices.
2019	<u>Theatre Design: Theory & Practice</u> Cardinal Academy for the Arts	Lecturer	Theory of Theatre Design and Working practices: Set, Costume, Lighting, Production Design, Design for opera and music performance, Working in professional and amateur theatre.
2019	<u>Mentorship Program: LX Design</u> Outside the March - Accomplise Program	Mentor	Mentored an individual via the Artistic Accomplise program. Primarily focused on Lighting Design: storytelling with light, photometrics, theory, practical application, script analysis, cueing etc.
2019	<u>Theatre Design: Theory & Practice</u> George Brown College	Lecturer	Theory of Theatre Design and Working practices: Set, Costume, Lighting, Production Design, design for opera and music performance, working in professional and amateur theatre.
2018	<u>Mentorship Program: Set Design</u> Ryerson University	Mentor	Mentored a graduating student for a period of 1 year as part of the Mentorship/Placement program at Ryerson University. Primarily focused on Set Design: concept creation, drafting, sourcing, set decoration.
2017	<u>Design Exchange:</u> Student Design Competition	Adjudicator	Viewed all submissions from Fashion, Industrial, and Theatre Design Categories. Provided feedback and scoring to determine 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and Honourable Mention in all categories.
2015	<u>Mentorship Program: LX Design</u> Sheridan College	Mentor	Mentored a 2 nd year production student for 3 months as part of the Mentorship / Placement program at Sheridan College. Primarily focused on Lighting Design: pre-production, concept, planning, plotting, cueing, working with directors.
2013	<u>Design and Prof. Development</u> University of Alberta	Speaker	Collaborating on new works and the integration of design and playwriting. The Associated Designers of Canada and its growing importance in the community.
2013	<u>Set Design Workshop - Lecture/Lab</u> Storybook theatre / GymFest	Instructor	Set Design for the theatre. Understanding the play, process to developing a design, composition of work into a presentation model.
2012	<u>Drama / Theatre Design:</u> Christmas Carol, Theatre Prospero	Instructor	Travelled to rural community schools for 2 week residency period to immerse students (Grade 1-9) in theatre and drama. Fully staged, designed production of a <i>Christmas Carol</i> .
2012	<u>Design: Working in the Profession</u> Bishop Carroll High School	Instructor	Designing for the theatre. Set Design, Lighting Design, Costume Design, Projected Media Design. Working in professional and amateur theatre.

SUMMARY OF POSITIONS

THEATRE DESIGNER	Freelance, Multiple Companies	2009 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freelance theater designer of scenery, costumes, and lighting for over 90 productions. Engaged by over 50 different companies to design their productions in the last 10 years. - Extensive research and study to develop creative concepts with directors, producers, choreographers, musical directors, designers, performers, technicians, artists and more. Work closely with builders, technicians and artists to execute designs into fully realized and completed scenery, costumes and lighting designs - Sketch, Draft, Render and Model complex material and digital designs in AutoCAD: provide groundplans, layouts, sightlines, construction drawings, polished renders and scale models. - Supervise the execution of designs across Canada and collaborate with hundreds of artists from all over the world. 		
HEAD OF DESIGN	Outside the March	2016 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversee all aspects of design and production on the company's current, ongoing, and future productions and events. Facilitate communication between all members of staff, the creative team, venues, other artists, outside contractors, consultants etc. - Provide informed and accountable oversight to production team members through the pre/post production process. - Conduct interviews, create/execute contracts for design/production team members, and facilitate communication between them throughout production. - Serve as both a member of the design team as well as the production management team. - Advise on and create Budgets and Schedules focused on yearly planning and allocation of resources/timelines. - Participate in mandate conversations, current/ongoing and future productions/events. - Develop relationships with companies, venues, neighbours and volunteers. - Contribute to grant applications, web development, marketing /outreach, and accessibility. 		
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT / INDUSTRIAL DESIGN	Freelance, Various Companies/Events	2009-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed and managed dozens of events for corporate groups, not-for-profits, fundraisers, galleries, and pop-ups. - Engagement with projects from the very start: creative meetings and sketches to layouts and construction drawings to full designs with polished renderings or models to final execution and supervision of the event itself. - Venues have included storefronts, theatres, warehouses, abandoned buildings, art galleries. 		

- Additional duties included site-mapping, creating accurate venue drawings, building 3d model of venue area, concept roughs, reference images, meeting with shops and technicians, creating quotes, budgets, schedules, sourcing, purchasing, rentals, supervision of installation and execution, collecting feedback, liaising with publicity, archival photos, organizing and facilitating post-production evaluations.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Art and Design: creation, discussion, analysis and critique; Theatre: design, construction, production, management : specializing in visual and thematic storytelling, new-work creation, dramaturgy, immersive productions, site-specific scenography, collective creation.

Exemplary in drafting by hand, 2D and 3D drafting in AutoCAD, creating both digital and material models and renderings. Other programs include: Photoshop, Illustrator, After effects, Corel, Microsoft Office Suite. Other skills include scenic painting, set decoration, costume construction, lighting installation, operation, power assessment, and a variety of research and preparatory design techniques, visual art, and photography.

REFERENCES

Available on request.