

# **PHILIP WITCOMB - SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER**

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Philip is a prolific and versatile set and costume designer nominated for multiple awards nationally and internationally. With over twenty years experience, Philip has designed over 75 productions on every scale from intimate studio theatres to opera house stages and from multi venue tours to large scale open-air productions. His designs have an epic and operatic sense of scale and ambition with a central emphasis on visual story telling. Integral to Philip's working practice is the value and importance he places on collaboration. Philip is committed to consistently engage and inspire the teams he works with and values the fundamental relationships that are essential to the integrity of the design and success of a production.

## **PRODUCTIONS: 2008 - 2019**

### **2019**

#### **MAME**

Director: Nick Winston  
Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester, UK and National Tour

★ **NOMINATED FOR 7 WHATSONSTAGE THEATRE AWARDS INCLUDING...**

★ **'BEST COSTUME DESIGN'**

★ **'BEST REGIONAL PRODUCTION'**

★ **'BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL'**

#### **STONES IN HIS POCKETS**

Director: Hannah Chissick  
The Minack Theatre, Cornwall UK

#### **CATS**

Director: Nick Winston  
Kilworth House Theatre, Leicestershire, UK

★ **The first reimagined non-replica production of Cats since 1981**

#### **HER NAKED SKIN**

Director: Carol Harvey  
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London UK

#### **CRY BABY**

Director: Hannah Chissick  
ArtsEd, London UK

### **2018**

#### **GUYS AND DOLLS**

Director: Nick Winston  
Kilworth House Theatre, Leicestershire, UK

#### **LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR**

Director: Jose Maria Condemi  
IU Opera Theatre, Bloomington, Indiana U.S.A

### **2017**

#### **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**

Director: Mark Clements  
Milwaukee Rep Theatre, Wisconsin U.S.A

★ **'BEST DESIGNER'**

**Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - USA TODAY Network**

#### **RODELINDA**

Director: Tom Diamond  
IU Opera Theatre, Bloomington, Indiana U.S.A

## 2016

**THE GOOD PEACHES** Director: Laura Kepley  
Cleveland Play House, Ohio U.S.A  
*\* Collaboration with the The Cleveland Orchestra and Quiara Alegegría Hudes.*  
★ **'OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN'**  
**Broadway World Regional Theatre Tributes**

**MOMENT** Director: Ethan McSweeney  
Studio Theatre, Washington DC U.S.A

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** Director: Amanda Dehnert  
Cleveland Playhouse, Ohio U.S.A  
*\*2015 Tony Award Regional Theatre of the year*

## 2015

**LEGALLY BLONDE** Director: Mitch Sebastian  
Kilworth House Theatre, Leicestershire, UK

**SINGIN' IN THE RAIN**

## 2014

**SOUTH PACIFIC** Director: Mitch Sebastian  
Kilworth House Theatre, Leicestershire, UK

## 2013

**THE WINTER'S TALE** Director: Guy Hollands  
Peoples Light and Theatre Company, Pennsylvania U.S.A  
★ **Designs and Production featured on the front cover and lead article in 'American Theatre' Magazine.**

## 2012

**A WIND IN THE WILLOWS CHRISTMAS** Director: Amanda Dehnert  
Two River Theatre Company, New Jersey U.S.A

**AMADEUS** Director: Michael Gieleta  
The Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Florida U.S.A  
★ **'BEST SCENIC DESIGN'** Nomination  
**Carbonell Awards for Theatre**

**9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL** Director: Richard Stafford  
The North Shore Music Theatre, Massachusetts U.S.A

**DEATH TAX** Director: Ken Rus Schmoll  
The Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky USA  
*\*The Humana Festival of New American Plays)*

**IN THE NEXT ROOM OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY** Director: Laura Gordon  
The Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky and Milwaukee Rep Theatre, Wisconsin U.S.A

**HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES** Director: Hannah Chissick  
Scottish and English National Tours

## 2010

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Director: Guy Hollands  
The Citizens Theatre, Glasgow UK  
★ **'BEST PRODUCTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'** Nomination  
**Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland**

**WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Director: Hannah Chissick  
Derby Live Theatre, UK

**OTHELLO** Director: Ben Crocker  
Ludlow Festival Theatre, UK

**KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN** Director: Hannah Chissick  
Hull Truck Theatre, UK

**TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT** Director: Gary Sefton  
The Royal Theatre, Northampton UK

## 2009

**ALADDIN** Director: Phil Lowe  
Harrogate Theatre, UK

**OTHELLO** Director: Guy Hollands  
The Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow UK

**THE TEMPEST** Director: Liam Steel  
Regents Park Open Air Theatre, London UK

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Director: Timothy Sheader  
Regents Park Open Air Theatre, London UK

**WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?** Director: James Brining  
Dundee Rep Theatre, UK  
★ **'BEST PRODUCTION'** Nomination  
**Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland**

**EDUCATING RITA** Director: Jeremy Raison  
The Citizens Theatre, Glasgow UK

## 2008

**DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT** Director: Hannah Chissick  
Salisbury Playhouse, UK

**THE WHITE DEVIL** Director: Jonathan Munby  
The Menier Chocolate Factory, London UK  
★ **'BEST OFF WEST END PRODUCTION'** Nomination  
**WhatsOnStage Theatre Awards**

**RICHARD III** Director: Ben Crocker  
Rougemont Gardens, Exeter and Ludlow Castle, UK

**LONDON ASSURANCE** Director: Nikolai Foster  
The Watermill Theatre, Newbury, UK and National Tour

★ Between 1996-2007 Philip designed a further 40 productions for regional theatres, commercial tours and opera companies.

## HONOURS, AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS:

★ **'BEST COSTUME DESIGN'** - Nomination - *MAME* for Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester UK.  
2019 – *WhatsOnStage Theatre Awards 2020*.

Annual awards recognising performers and productions of British theatre.

★ **'BEST DESIGNER'** - *THE GLASS MENAGERIE* for Milwaukee Rep Theatre, USA.  
2017 - *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* - *USA Today Network*.

Annual tribute to artists and designers.

★ **'OUTSTANDING SCENIC DESIGN'** - *THE GOOD PEACHES* for Cleveland Playhouse and Cleveland Orchestra, Ohio USA.  
2016 - *Broadway World Regional Theatre Tributes*.

Annual tribute to artists and designers.

★ **'BEST SCENIC DESIGN'** - Nomination - *AMADEUS* for The Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Florida U.S.A.  
2012 - *Carbonell Awards*.

Annual award ceremony recognizing excellence in theatre for the South Florida region of the United States.

★ **'BEST DESIGN'** - Nomination and 'Best Production for Children' - *CINDERELLA* for Dundee Rep Theatre.  
2005/6 - *Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland*.

Annual ceremony awarded by the theatre critics of Scotland to celebrate the best Scottish theatre achievements in the theatre.

★ **'BEST DESIGNER'** - Nomination - *LOVE IN A MAZE* for The Watermill Theatre, Newbury.  
2002 - *T.M.A Theatre Awards*.

Premier theatre award ceremony celebrating theatre and is the only nationwide awards scheme to honour creative excellence and the outstanding achievement seen on and off stage throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

★ **'BEST DESIGN'** - *LOVE IN A MAZE* for The Watermill Theatre, Newbury.  
2002 - *Richard Price Design Award*.

An independent annual award celebrating the best of The Watermill Theatre productions.

★ **FINALIST** - Linbury Prize for Stage Design.  
1999 - *Linbury Prize*.

The U.K's most prestigious award for Stage Design. This biennial prize, the most important of its kind, brings together the best of emerging designers with professional theatre, dance and opera companies.

## **OTHER EMPLOYMENT:**

**THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF ART** 2019 **VISITING SPEAKER**  
PRODUCTION DESIGN FOR STAGE & SCREEN  
HARTLEPOOL, UK

Contracted to hold a day seminar and Q & A on design process and practices for Theatre.

**THE SPENCE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS** 2016 – 2017 **RESIDENT SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER**  
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL  
NEW YORK, U.S.A

Contracted to design the Sets and Costumes for 4 productions across The Spence School's academic year for the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools, culminating in their annual large scale Dance Show at The Symphony Space in New York.

Designing, managing and budgeting the productions and working alongside the students to create the work.

**BARKING AND DAGENHAM COLLEGE** 2005 **SET AND COSTUME DESIGN LECTURER**  
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT BTEC PRODUCTION ARTS  
BARKING, ESSEX U.K.

Lecturing post within the BTEC Performing Arts Department faculty.

Part time 9-month contract lecturing students at BTEC Level in Theatre Set and Costume Design, model making, prop building and research analysis.

Providing logistic support and management of the student's design work for performance projects.

Maintaining and expanding the practical resources and requirements of the department.

Supervising student field trips to the RSC Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

**LEYTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE** 1999 – 2004 **THEATRE TECHNICIAN / DESIGNER**  
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT BTEC PERFORMING ARTS  
LEYTON, LONDON U.K.

Providing support for the BTEC Performing Arts Department faculty.

Maintaining, running and improving the departments theatre space and resources.

Supporting the diverse practical requirements in delivering the programs within the Drama, Dance and Music Departments.

Supporting, supervising and teaching students in the designing and building of the sets, props and costumes for 4-6 productions per year.

Teaching and supervising the students in maintaining and rigging lighting equipment.

Tutoring students in the running of the lighting board, sound and A.V. equipment.

Supporting the students work through the *National Theatre's Connections Festival* culminating in a performance of their work at the NT's Olivier Theatre.

**THE CITIZENS THEATRE** 1996 – 1997 **SCENIC ARTIST / DESIGNER**  
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND U.K.

Selected from his final degree show at Central Saint Martin's by the director and designer Philip Prowse to work as part of the design and scenic art department on several productions across a season at the acclaimed Citizens Theatre which is world renowned for championing groundbreaking design and performance.

## **SKILLS:**

Philip's extensive industry experience and network allows him to provide a comprehensive range of services in the following mediums:

Theatre, Opera, Dance, Film, Television, Fashion Runway and Editorial, Concept and Styling, Interior Design, Retail, Gaming, Amusement Parks, Events, Installations, Festivals and Music Performance.

**Concept Design** - Creating and delivering fully fleshed concepts, worlds and environments.

**Scenic Design** - Delivering designs from concept creation through to production with a central emphasis on visual story-telling.

**Costume Design** - Concepting and creating designs across all periods, genres and styles. From the historically accurate to unique creations and current trend-driven looks.

**Experience Design** - Creating and delivering from design to production with a 360 degree, holistic view across all mediums and disciplines.

**Concept Illustration/Rendering/Storyboarding/Graphic Design** - Providing both traditional and digital services that illustrate, capture mood, illuminate ideas, and visually story tell. High proficiency in Photoshop.

**Scale Model Making** - Offering both traditional scale model making techniques and 3D digital modelling that empower and articulate the design vision. High proficiency in SketchUp.

**Drafting/Technical Drawing** - Providing hand drawn or digital drafting that communicate every aspect of the designs technical specifications.

**Scenic Art, Prop Building and Puppetry Consultancy** - Bringing world class industry experience and a highly developed attention to detail to the client across all aspects including: specialist paint techniques, sculpting, carving, moulding, casting, special FX and puppetry construction.

## **EDUCATION**

**The Slade School of Fine Art**  
1997 – 1999

M.F.A, Theatre Design, 1st (Distinction)

**Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design**  
1993 – 1996

B.A Hons, Theatre Design, 2.2

**Cleveland College of Art and Design**  
1990 – 1993

BTEC National Dip, Theatre Crafts, 1st (Distinction)

## **REPRESENTATION:**

### **U.K.**

#### **SAM DAY**

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Much of Philip's design work can be seen at: [www.philipwitcombdesign.com](http://www.philipwitcombdesign.com)