

A brief history - and what influences me

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA

After graduating from Point Park University I toured with The New Shakespeare Company, based in San Francisco at the time, and played various roles including Lysander in Midsummer Nights Dream, Feste in Twelfth Night and MacDuff in The Scottish Play. During this time I also directed productions of Brecht's Mother Courage, and Sylvia Plath's Three Women. My deep passion for directing emerged during this time.

My decision to work with - and learn from - great directors led me to New York and stage management, which I knew was how Harold Prince got his start. In my early career I was fortunate to work closely with directors such as Anne Bogart and Richard Foreman where I learned to look upon, and analyze, things in a very different way. As my Stage Managing career progressed I worked briefly with the late, great Bob Fosse on the last tour of Dancin'. I joined Broadway's Starlight Express while it was into its run, but still got to see the genius of the director, Trevor Nunn, in action. I also worked with the choreographer, Arlene Phillips on replacement casts and the Las Vegas production. Next, during my four years of working on Jerome Robbins's Broadway, I was honored to work with the man who I consider to be the greatest choreographer of all time, Jerome Robbins. When I was asked to work on Kiss of The Spider Woman I had no idea how it would change my life. Having been a huge fan of Harold Prince for most of my life, it was a dream come true. After assisting with the replacements on Broadway of Chita Rivera with Vanessa Williams, Tony Crivello with Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Brent Carver with Howard McGillan, I was privileged to then become Hal's assistant on the national tour and direct the international companies to great critical acclaim. These productions were choreographed by Rob Ashford. During this association Hal asked me to work on the Broadway revival of Candide and assist and stage manage on Parade. Hal encouraged me to finally bring my own voice forward as a director. I will always see him as a friend and a mentor.

I have been blessed to be influenced by incredible writers, such as John Kander and Fred Ebb, Terrence McNally, Jason Robert Brown, Alfred Uhry and John Pielmeier, to name a few. My collaboration with choreographers such as Pat Birch, Rob Ashford, Andy Blankenbuehler, Wayne Cilento and Ken Roberson have also had a great influence on my vision.

I continue to learn and grow with every actor, writer, producer, choreographer, singer and dancer that I work with. I keep my eyes and ears, but more importantly my heart, open to each and every moment and trust that will guide me. Picasso once said that "Art washes from the soul, the dust of every day life". I believe that is even more true of the Performing Arts.