

# DAVID DENSON

214.893.3181 – DALLAS, TX – [DAVID.DENSON@ME.COM](mailto:DAVID.DENSON@ME.COM) – [WWW.DAVIDDENSON.NET](http://WWW.DAVIDDENSON.NET)

## PROFILE

A proven strategic thinker, and creative leader with a unique background in innovative live event production utilizing over thirty years of experience in both the commercial and nonprofit performing arts.

Adaptable quick study and team player who thrives in a challenging, fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment and excels at identifying strategic opportunities and solutions and coordinating their successful planning and implementation while keeping expenses down. Recognized as a respected leader and facilitator of effective collaborations between departments and individuals from all backgrounds.

## SKILLS

- Strategic Planning and Implementation
- Creative Direction
- Live Event Production
- Talent Acquisition and Management
- Contract negotiation
- Arts Presentation and Promotion
- Team Leadership and Collaboration
- Budget Management
- Educational Program Development
- Customer Service

## EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, concentration Theater Direction ~ Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, concentration Performance ~ East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

## EXPERIENCE

### **Red Tail Entertainment, Ft. Worth, TX (2019-Present)**

Vice President Productions / Producer

- Responsible for the innovative creation, presentation, and promotion of touring commercial entertainment.
- Responsibilities include creative direction, production and general management, artist management, booking/scheduling, tour marketing, talent buying, contract negotiation and administrative oversight across the full spectrum of the performing arts.
- Co-Producer on Broadway engagements of *The Kite Runner* and *Paradise Square*. Produced multi-week engagements of *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* in Boston in 2019 and again in London in 2022, as well as national tours of *Erth's Dinosaur Zoo*, *Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium*, *Double Dare Live! w/ Marc Summers*, and *Lazer Invazion*.

### **AT&T Performing Arts Center, Dallas, TX (2012-2018 – Hired as Programming Manager)**

Director of Programming

- Responsible for a staff of 5 overseeing \$13.2M programming budget in support of over 200 performances per year ranging from Broadway, dance, and speakers to commercial music and comedy in five state-of-the-art performance venues – Winspear Opera House (2,200 seats), Annette Strauss Square (2,000 seats), Wyle Theatre (568 seats), Hamon Hall (200 seats), and Studio Theater (98 seats).
- Booking highlights include Michelle Obama, Bill Murray, David Byrne's *American Utopia* (pre-Broadway), Branford Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Dave Malloy's *Ghost Quartet*, Widespread Panic, Lyle Lovett, Rob Lowe, Joan Rivers, Steep Canyon Rangers, Bonnie Rait, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Lightwire Theater, the Rude Mechs, Mike Daisey, Charles Busch, and Eric Bogosian.
- Developed the long running educational/community service program, *The Elevator Project* which has presented full productions of theater, dance, music and opera in the Center's venues by over 70 local Dallas artists and arts organizations over the 9 years (and counting) of the program's existence.

### **Upstart Productions, Dallas, TX (2014-2016)**

Artistic Director

- Responsible for \$30K annual operating budget covering all aspects of season selection and production for 2 show season of regional and world premieres produced in multiple venues.

**City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Dallas, TX (2010-2012)**

Media/Marketing Coordinator

- Responsible for the successful marketing and promotion of the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture—a city department that includes 5 multi-disciplinary cultural centers, a 1700 seat commercial theater, an active collection of over 300 works of public art, and the country’s oldest municipally owned classical radio station.
- Served as interim Manager of City Performance Hall (now Moody Performance Hall), a \$40M performance venue located in Dallas’ Downtown Arts District. During tenure, increased contracted dates by more than 60% over 5-month period, conceived and managed preparations for 4 day opening festival involving more than 30 local artists and arts organizations, and collaborated with local arts groups to create rental policies, rates, and processes for the facility.
- Managed OCA’s participation in the 2011 Free Night of Theater program including recruitment, marketing, customer service and implementation for 26 groups, 57 performances, 11,000 ticket requests and 456 patrons – the largest participation by audiences and groups in the 4 years of the department’s participation.

**Theatre Communications Group, New York, NY (2008-2010)**

National Conference Associate Producer

- Supervised all logistical aspects and served as onsite line producer of the TCG National Conference—an annual four-day event attended by over 1,300 theatre professionals.
- Develop, write, and produce all conference marketing. In 2010, part of a two-person team responsible for a 21% increase in overall conference attendance.

**Dallas Theater Center, Dallas, TX (2007-2008)**

Artistic Associate

- Producer and Director for FRESH INK/Forward Motion new play workshop/reading series.
- Served as the literary manager for Artistic office and Dramaturg for all main stage productions.
- Assisted artistic leadership throughout all stages of production including season planning, local casting and public relations.

**Saint Gertrude Hight School, Richmond, VA (2002-2003)**

Faculty

- Taught “Introduction to Theatre” to all grade levels, 9-12.
- Produced and directed all school plays and musicals.

**Unrehearsed Shakespeare Company, New York, NY (1999-2001)**

Assistant to the Artistic Director

- Assisted in all areas of production, including dramaturgy, design, front of house, wardrobe supervisor and stage management.

**Freelance Director, ongoing**

- Directed and assisted on over 40 plays and musicals for various institutions nationally including the Dallas Theater Center, LAByrinth Theater Company, Kitchen Dog Theater, Water Tower Theater, Upstart Productions, Firehouse Theater Project, Southern Methodist University, Illuminatus Productions, University of North Texas, and the University of Dallas. Full credits available upon request and at [www.daviddenson.net](http://www.daviddenson.net).

REFERENCES

Stan Wojewodski, Jr.  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Theater  
Southern Methodist University  
stanw@mail.smu.edu  
203-640-2023

Erica Lynn Schwartz  
VP of Theatrical Programming  
North America  
Ambassador Theatre Group  
ericaschwartz@theambassadors.com  
(917) 363-6735

Kara Gebhart  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Booking Group  
KGebhart@thebookinggroup.com  
(646) 245-2406

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### Director

#### NEW YORK:

<i>LEMONADE: A Play of World Domination</i>	World Premiere (Jais Brohinsky – Author)	2010 New York International Fringe Festival 2010
<i>The Resurrectionist</i>	World Premiere (Kate Chell – Author)	The Gershwin Hotel Yazoo City (Prod.) 2001
<i>Someone Who'll Watch Over Me</i>		The Basement Yazoo City (Prod.) 1999
<i>Song of the Speechless Whore</i>	World Premiere (Harold Levitt - Author)	The Raw Space Sage Theatre (Prod.) 1998
<i>Sleeping Dogs</i>	(John Shearin – Author)	The Anomalous Collective 1997
<i>Some Things You Need To Know Before The World Ends (A Final Evening With The Illuminati)</i>		The Sanford Meisner Theatre Illuminatus Productions (Prod.) 1997
<i>A Private Conversation</i>	World Premiere (Jeff Hirsch – Author)	The Anomalous Collective 1997

#### REGIONAL:

<i>The Liar</i>	Pierre Corneille Adapted by David Ives	University of Dallas (Irving, TX) 2017
<i>The Realistic Joneses</i>		WaterTower Theatre (Addison, TX) 2016
<i>The Philadelphia Story</i>		University of North Texas (Denton, TX) 2015
<i>All My Sons</i>		WaterTower Theatre 2015
<i>Year of the Rooster</i>	Best Director – 2014 DFW Critics Forum Awards	Upstart Productions (Dallas, TX) 2014
<i>The Aliens</i>		Upstart Productions
<i>Sex, Drugs, Rock &amp; Roll</i>		Firehouse Theatre Project (Richmond, VA) 2010
<i>Hot Georgia Sunday</i> (Workshop Reading)	Catherine Trieschmann – Author	Dallas Theatre Center (Dallas, TX) 2008
<i>Cowboy Mouth</i>		Dallas Theatre Center 2008
<i>[SIC]</i>		Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX) 2007
<i>Hamlet</i>		S.M.U. 2007
<i>The Good Person of Setzuan</i>		S.M.U. 2006
<i>The Underpants</i>		S.M.U. 2006
<i>Slaughter City</i>		S.M.U. 2005
<i>Bat Boy: The Musical</i>		Firehouse Theatre Project, 2003
<i>The Penny Executive: The Maggie L. Walker Story</i>	World Premiere (Foster Solomon – Author)	Carpenter Science Theatre Co (Richmond, VA) 2004
<i>As Bees In Honey Drown</i>		Firehouse Theatre Project 2003
<i>George Orwell's 1984</i>		Stuart Avenue Players (Richmond, VA) 2003
<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>		Stuart Avenue Players 2002

**REGIONAL (CONT.):**

<i>The Waverly Gallery</i>		Firehouse Theatre Project 2002
<i>The Resurrectionist</i>		Fergie's Pub (Philadelphia, PA) 2001
<i>Destination</i>	World Premiere (Jeff Hirsch – Author)	East Carolina University (Greenville, NC) 1996

**Assistant Director****BROADWAY:**

<i>Urban Cowboy: The Musical</i> (Pre-Broadway Workshop Reading)	Phillip Oesterman – Director	
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**OFF-BROADWAY:**

<i>Philip Roth in Khartoum</i>	John Gould Rubin – Director	LABYrinth Theatre Co. 2008
<i>The Blue Moon</i>	Annie Dorsen – Director	The 42nd Street Workshop 2000

**REGIONAL:**

<i>Des Moines</i> (Workshop Reading)	David Kennedy – Director (Dennis Johnson – Author)	Dallas Theater Center 2007
<i>Hank Williams: Lost Highway</i>	Randal Myler – Director	Dallas Theater Center 2006
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Jonathan Moscone – Director	Dallas Theater Center 2004
<i>Leaving Eden: The Chekhov Project</i>	Greg Leaming – Director (Chiori Miyagawa – Author)	S.M.U. 2005
<i>Turcaret</i>	Leah C. Gardiner – Director	S.M.U. 2004
<i>A Midsommer Nights Dreame</i>	Janus Auman – Director	The Paramount Theatre (Peekskill, NY) 2001
<i>West Side Story</i>	Jay Norman – Director	Summer Theatre of Eastern North Carolina (Greenville, NC) 1996