



Jaden O'Berry

Lighting Designer / Lead Electrician

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CURRENT ROLE

Seasonal Lighting Technician | Gulfshore Playhouse | Naples, FL

Sep. 2025 - June 2026

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Theatre: Lighting Design

May 2025

Graduate Certificate: Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Illinois State University | Normal, IL

Monograph Title: "*Designing Identity: Merging Broadway Glamour and LGBTQIA+ Identity Through Lighting Design for The Prom*"

Committee: Heather Reynolds, Lauren Lowell, Kristin Carlson

B.A. in Theatre

May 2022

Saginaw Valley State University | Saginaw, MI

Magna Cum Laude: 3.96 GPA

Minors: English & Creative Writing

TEACHING/ADVISING

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Illinois State University | Normal, IL

**Fall 2023
Spr 2024**

THE261: Intro to Lighting Design

Taught two sections on lighting design, including theory and technical vocabulary.

Planned lessons and assignments, led discussion sections, graded papers and exams.

Organized and led group discussions on social and academic issues.

Student Teaching Assistant | Saginaw Valley State University | Saginaw, MI

Fall 2021

THEA160: Basic Scenography

Helped advise one section of theatre design, including theory and vocabulary.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

The Hemsley Lighting Portfolio Reviews | New York, NY

2025

The National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival | Washington, D.C.

2024

KCACTF Conference Festival Staff: Lighting and General Conference Management

2023 & 2024

United States Institute of Theatre Technology: Student Conference Assistant

2021

HONORS & AWARDS

KCACTF Award for Theatrical Design Excellence: *The Addams Family Musical*

2023

Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Award: Regional One-Week Intensive, KCACTF

2021

KCACTF Certificates of Merit in Design: Various Designs

2020-2022

Pat MacKay Diversity in Design Scholarship: LDI and Live Design International

2020-2022

Lighting Design DTM Regional Design Project Winner, KCACTF

2020

Distinguished Theatre Arts Scholarship, Saginaw Valley State University

2018-2022

Steven C. Erickson and Krista M. Srodes Endowed Scholarship in Design & Theatre

2018-2019

Technology, Saginaw Valley State University

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

VECTORWORKS 2024 CORE ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATION: Expires Dec. 2026

Code: 7157361758JO

LIGHTING DESIGN: THEATRE

<i>The Prom</i>	Dir. Al Oltmanns	Illinois State University	2025
<i>Scarlet</i>	Dir. M. Nance	Freestage RSO	2024
<i>Honey Bee Baby</i>	Dir. Alejandra Luna	Illinois State University	2024
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Dir. Connie DeVeer	Illinois State University	2024
<i>Wizard of Oz Jr. *</i>	Dir. Grace van Donk	Studio Connect Musical Theater	2024
<i>Every Brilliant Thing</i>	Dir. Rhys Lovell	Heartland Theatre Company	2023
<i>The Addams Family Musical</i>	Dir. Maggie Marlin-Hess & Matthew Vala	Illinois State University	2023
<i>Bright Star</i>	Dir. Scott Susong	Prairie Fire Theatre Company	2023
<i>Mary Poppins Jr. *</i>	Dir. Grace van Donk	Studio Connect Musical Theater	2023
<i>Silent Sky</i>	Dir. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2022
<i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner</i>	Dir. Jeff List & Trashan Rena	Pit and Balcony Theatre	2022
<i>Joan the Girl of Arc * *</i>	Dir. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2021
<i>Home for the Holidays *</i>	Dir. Dave Rzeszutek	Saginaw Valley State University	2020
<i>Roustabout: The Great Circus Trainwreck!</i>	Dir. Dave Rzeszutek	Saginaw Valley State University	2020
<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>	Dir. Jennifer Lothian	Rebel Theatre Company	2019
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Dir. Jack Doyle & Hadley Gorsline	Tri-Cities Young Adult Theatre Company	2019
<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Dir. Ginny Redmond	Swartz Creek Center Stage	2017
<i>Annie *</i>	Dir. Natalie Cooper & Glen Cooley	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2018
<i>The Taming of the Taming of the Shrew</i>	Dir. Natalie Cooper	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2018
<i>Hairspray</i>	Dir. Natalie Cooper	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2017
<i>Pride & Prejudice</i>	Dir. Natalie Cooper	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2017
<i>An Evening of One Acts</i>	Dir. Natalie Cooper	Swartz Creek Theatre Dept.	2017
<i>The Little Mermaid *</i>	Dir. Natalie Cooper	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2016
<i>Camp Rock: The Final Jam *</i>	Dir. Katie Thompson & Ginny Redmond	Swartz Creek Center Stage	2016
<i>Footloose</i>	Dir. Kenneth Butters	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2016
<i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i>	Dir. Kenneth Butters	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2015

◇ denotes a future project

* denotes children's theatre/TYA

* denotes livestreamed project due to COVID-19

LIGHTING DESIGN: DANCE

<i>Rapture</i>	Choreo. Greg Merriman, Jocelyn Perez, Darby Wilde, and YNOT	Illinois State University	2023
<i>Reaching Beyond</i>	Choreo. Greg Merriman	Illinois State University	2022
<i>Dance Force Xpress</i>	Dance Force Competition	Dance Force Xpress	2017

LIGHTING DESIGN: LIVE MUSIC/CHOIR

<i>Passion & Pulse</i> ◇	Conduct. Taichi Fukumura	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2025
<i>Magical Music of Harry Potter</i>	Conduct. Taichi Fukumura	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2025
<i>Romantic Reflections</i>	Conduct. Ken Lam	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2025
<i>Holiday Pops in the Heartland</i>	Conduct. Taichi Fukumura	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2024

<i>Music for the Holidays</i>	Conduct. Dr. Glenn Block	Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Civic Chorale, and the Illinois State University Philharmonic Orchestra	2024
<i>Music for the Holidays</i>	Conduct. John Koch, Andrew Bruhn, Dr. Glenn Block	Illinois State University Choirs	2024
<i>Paris Impressions</i>	Conduct. Alastair Willis	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2024
<i>Opposites Attract</i>	Conduct. Naomi Woo	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2024
<i>Tunes from the Toons!</i>	Conduct. Yaniv Dinur	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2024
<i>Holiday Pops in the Heartland</i>	Conduct. Taichi Fukumura	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2023
<i>Romantic Rendezvous</i>	Conduct. Yaniv Dinur	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2023
<i>Fire & Fanfare</i>	Conduct. Taichi Fukumura	Illinois Symphony Orchestra	2023
<i>Instrumental Holiday Concert</i>	Conduct. John Michailo	SCHS Concert Band	2017
<i>Twas the Night Before Christmas Break</i>	Conduct. Jared Leuck	SCHS Choral Performance	2017
<i>The Spirit of Song</i>	Conduct. John Michailo	SCHS Choral Performance	2017
<i>Meet the Chorus 2017</i>	Conduct. Jared Leuck	SCHS Choral Performance	2017
<i>Thanks for the Memories</i>	Dir. Katie Thompson	Swartz Creek Center Stage	2017

◇ denotes a future project

LIGHTING DESIGN: OPERA

<i>Iolanthe</i>	Dir. Robert Mangialardi	Illinois Wesleyan University	2023
<i>One Act Operas</i>	Dir. Robert Mangialardi	Illinois Wesleyan University	2023
<i>The Telephone</i>	Dir. Robert Mangialardi	Illinois Wesleyan University	2022
<i>Dido and Aeneas</i>	Dir. Robert Mangialardi	Illinois Wesleyan University	2022

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGN

<i>Macbeth</i>	Des. Heather Reynolds	Illinois Shakespeare Festival	2024
<i>Sense & Sensibility</i>	Des. Heather Reynolds	Illinois Shakespeare Festival	2024
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Des. Heather Reynolds	Illinois Shakespeare Festival	2024
<i>Fall Dance Concert</i>	Des. Joyce Liao	Illinois State University	2022
<i>9 to 5: The Musical</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2019
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2019
<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i>	Des. Natasha Nash	Saginaw Valley State University	2018

LEAD ELECTRICIAN

<i>Borrowed Baby</i>	Des. Miracle Ayibainatimi	Illinois State University	2025
<i>Princess Fearless</i>	Des. Avery Cranston	Illinois State University	2023
<i>Hansel and Gretel: The Opera</i>	Des. Isabel Samuel	Illinois State University	2023
<i>I And You</i>	Des. Quinn Nichols	Pit and Balcony Theatre	2021
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Des. Natasha Nash	Saginaw Valley State University	2019
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2018
<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i>	Des. Natasha Nash	Saginaw Valley State University	2018
<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Center Stage	2017
<i>Annie *</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2018
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2018
<i>Hairspray</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2017
<i>Pride & Prejudice</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2017
<i>An Evening of One Acts</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Theatre Dept.	2017
<i>The Little Mermaid *</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2016
<i>Camp Rock: The Final Jam *</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Center Stage	2016
<i>Footloose</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2016
<i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2015
Drama Dept. Electrics Crew	Dir. Michael Drudge	Swartz Creek High School	2014-2018

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ASSISTANT LEAD ELECTRICIAN

<i>Borrowed Babies</i>	Des. Miracle Ayibainatimi	Illinois State University	2025
<i>Princess Fearless</i> *	Des. Avery Cranston	Illinois State University	2023

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FOLLOWSPOT OPERATION

<i>Irving Berlin's White Christmas</i>	Des. Dalton Hamilton	Gulfshore Playhouse	2025
<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Rebel Theatre Company	2019
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Des. Natasha Nash	Saginaw Valley State University	2019
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2018
<i>Hairspray</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Swartz Creek Drama Club	2017
<i>Dance Force XPress</i>	Des. Michael Drudge	Swartz Creek Performing Arts Center	2015-2017

PROJECTIONS/MEDIA DESIGN

<i>Silent Sky</i> ♦	Dir. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2022
<i>Joan the Girl of Arc</i> ♦**	Dir. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Saginaw Valley State University	2021

♦ denotes a co-design position

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BOARD PROGRAMMING/OPERATION

LIGHTING

<i>Iolanthe</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	ETC Ion	2023
<i>One Act Operas</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	ETC Ion	2023
<i>The Telephone</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	ETC Ion	2022
<i>Dido and Aeneas</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	ETC Ion	2022
<i>9 to 5: The Musical</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	ETC Ion	2019
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	ETC Ion	2019
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	ETC Ion	2018
Drama Club Electrics Team	Various Designers	Strand VL Palette	2013-2018

SOUND

<i>Animal Farm</i>	Des. Peggy Mead-Finizio	Avid Venue SC48 Launchpad Pro MK3 QLab	2021
<i>A Doll's House</i>	Des. Jaden O'Berry	Avid Venue SC48 Launchpad Pro MK3 QLab	2021
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Des. Lucas Inman	Avid Venue SC48 QLab	2019

PROJECTIONS/MEDIA DESIGN

<i>Top Girls</i>	Des. Lucas Inman	Isadora Media Server	2022
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ADDITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT WORK

<i>Top Girls</i>	Dramaturg	Saginaw Valley State University	2022
<i>Animal Farm</i>	Assistant Sound Designer	Saginaw Valley State University	2021
<i>Lonely Planet</i>	Director	SVSU Studio XP Program	2021

<i>A Doll House</i>	Sound Designer & Composer	Saginaw Valley State University	2021
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Playwright & Video Editor	Saginaw Valley State University	2020
<i>Home for the Holidays</i>	Lead Camera Operator	Saginaw Valley State University	2020
<i>Painted Through Her Eyes</i> †	Director & Video Editor	Painted Through Her Eyes YouTube	2020
<i>Macbeth</i>	Assistant Director	Saginaw Valley State University	2020
<i>The Goat or Who is Sylvia?</i>	Assistant Costume Designer	Saginaw Valley State University	2019
<i>Proof</i>	Assistant Stage Manager	SVSU Studio XP Program	2019

† indicates self-produced projects

FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

Fred Foster Mentorship Program | *Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)* **2023-2024**

Mentorship program that helps lighting design and technology students make the transition into the professional working environment through connecting them with industry professionals.

Lyman/Parker Non-Profit Fellowship in the Arts | *Midland Center for the Arts* | *Midland, MI* **2022**

Fellowship that offers students service experience with a non-profit organization focusing on the arts (in this case: the Center Stage Theatre at Midland Center for the Arts). The fellowship position was under the title of Programming Intern.

Roberts Fellowship | 23rd Class | *Saginaw Valley State University* | *Saginaw, MI* **2021-2022**

Fellowship in leadership with an emphasis on an intersectional, multicultural approach.

Created and observed the development of two community service projects in a group with five other fellows:

Carnival for the Cattery: A fundraising event at the Bay County Fairgrounds to help raise money for the Bay County Animal Services and Adoption Shelter so they could renovate their cattery. The goal of the fundraiser was to earn \$400, and we earned over \$1,000.

Ukrainian Refugee Relief: A fundraiser was developed to provide aid to a Ukrainian refugee shelter our fellowship visited on our trip abroad to Prague, Budapest, and Hungary to help with the cost of housing, food, clothing, among other essentials during the war. The goal of the fundraiser was to earn \$1,500, and we earned exactly that.

Lighting/Electrics Internship | *Great River Shakespeare Festival* | *Winona, MN* **2020**

Internship cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

PRESENTATIONS & SPEECHES

"Designing Identity: Merging Broadway Glamour and LGBTQIA+ Identity Through Lighting Design" **2025**

Illinois State University, Three-Minute Thesis Competition

"Growing Up in Flint": *Illinois State University, 2024 Earth Day Breakfast* **2024**

"The Addams Family Musical": *The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival* **2023**

"Joan: The Girl of Arc": *The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival* **2022**

"Roustabout: The Great Circus Trainwreck!": *The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival* **2021**

"She Kills Monsters": *The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival* **2020**

PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

"Designing Identity: Merging Broadway Glamour and LGBTQIA+ Identity Through Lighting Design" **May 2025**

Illinois State University, Theses & Dissertations

"Gendered Performance & Grassroots Drag: A Subversive Defiance of Heteronormativity": *Illinois State University, Milner Library ReD Repository* **Dec. 2024**

"toxic": *Still Life Journal* **April 2021**