K. April Soroko
Associate Professor- Scenic Design
Theatre Arts

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Abstract-

As a professional scenic designer, I am consistently exploiting my knowledge of the history of the decorative arts and interior design to craft environments for the wide variety of theatre productions I design. My continued study of interior design, architecture and décor is of critical importance for my success and for my ability to train the next generation of young designers. In the summer of 2014, I will enhance my development as a scholar in the field of the History of Décor by travelling to England and Scotland to take tours of important buildings in those two countries to study and record architectural and interior design from Roman Occupation through the 20th century. The photos I gather will be used to create a history of décor website for professional theatre artists and scholars as well as undergraduate and graduate theatre students. This website will help foster success within a larger community of theatre designers by providing research information and a forum to discuss the research and how it can improve specificity in the design. The completed work will be presented at the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) annual meeting in 2015.

Community Goals-

Theatre design professionals and students of theatre design, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, would benefit greatly from this research. To date, there are no books in print that cover interior design and décor that are useful specifically for theatre designers, scenic artists and theatre technicians. Every book that I have found is solely focused toward interior design and architecture. When trying to create a class titled, “History of Décor” in 2007, I discovered how difficult it was to find recently published sources that focused on the development of interior design and decoration in Western Europe. By traveling to Europe, I will be able to take original photographs and video that I can use for my website and my class to enhance the learning experience for my students and any student that has access to the internet.

When faced with a challenge to create a “world” for a play, designers must have detailed research to inform their choices. A young design student will certainly be more successful in their work when research information is readily available to them. This website will include research about the designers and architects from each period, the typical building techniques and materials used as well as information about imported decorative objects and fabrics that were typical for each period. Influences on architectural style and interior design from abroad will also be examined in context of colonialism and the export of goods.

As a scholar in the field, I hope to reach set designers, costume designers, scenic artists and properties designers around the country and around the world. I am certain that this resource will be satisfying to the community of theatre artists at large as it will provide
historical information about the development of the decorative arts and interior design that will allow artists to make informed choices in their own design work for the stage. My desire is to represent the University of Miami as I travel and as I work to create this resource for all professional and academic communities of theatre artists. Upon completion of the website, I look forward to sharing it with theatre artists attending the Florida Thespian Conference, The Florida Theatre Conference and Southeastern theatre Conference.

Personal Goals-

This award will allow me to achieve my scholarly goals in the area of the History of Décor and will provide me the satisfaction that comes from being able to share that knowledge with others. Through traveling to Europe, to document the buildings and their interiors, I will have a first-hand understanding of the influences that brought about changes in style throughout history. The photos that I take will be shared with theatre artists at USITT and will help raise the profile of the University of Miami as well as my personal reputation as a scholar in the field. As a professional theatre designer and teacher of theatre design, this area of study is of great interest to me personally and, with this award, my goal of becoming a recognized scholar of History of Décor and Interior Design can be achieved.

Budget and Budget Justification-

1. Round trip travel from MIA to LONDON $950.00
2. 6 nights in hotels at approx. $200 a night $1200.00
3. Meals for 6 days at $50 a day $350.00
   TOTAL $2500.00

Curriculum Vitae -

K. April Soroko
Scenic and Costume Designer
Associate Professor- Scenic Design
University of Miami- Theatre Arts
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member-USA local 829- Scenery and Costumes

PROFESSIONAL SET DESIGN
ANDROCLES AND THE LION Florida Studio Theatre Jason Cannon
METAMORPHOSES Adrienne Arsht Center- Miami Henry Fonte
THE WORLD GOES ’ROUND Florida Studio Theatre Gabriel Barre
SMOKEY JOE’S CAFE Florida Studio Theatre Kevyn Morrow
GIRLS VS. BOYS  Adrienne Arsht Center - Miami  JV Mercanti
TALLEY’S FOLLY Florida Studio Theatre  Kate Alexander
GIRLS VS BOYS Adrienne Arsht Center - Miami  JV Mercanti
SUMMER SHORTS 2012 City Theatre- Miami  John Manzelli
THE LAST ROMANCE Florida Studio Theatre  Russell Treyz
THE SAVANNAH DISPUTATION Florida Studio Theatre  Kate Alexander
THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA Adrienne Arsht Center- Miami  Henry Fonte
RACE Florida Studio Theatre  Richard Hopkins
THE TEMPEST North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Steven Umberger
THE 39 STEPS Florida Studio Theatre  Eric Hissom
THE MOTHERLINE NYC Fringe Festival  Jennifer Vellenga
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Henson Keys
KING LEAR North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Steven Umberger

PROFESSIONAL COSTUME DESIGN
ANDROCLES AND THE LION Florida Studio Theatre  Jason Cannon
THE WORLD GOES ‘ROUND Florida Studio Theatre  Gabriel Barre
SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM Miami Beach Stage Door  Kevin Black
TALLEY’S FOLLY Florida Studio Theatre  Kate Alexander
DAS BARBECU Florida Studio Theatre  Dennis Courtney
THE LAST ROMANCE Florida Studio Theatre  Russell Treyz
THE SAVANNAH DISPUTATION Florida Studio Theatre  Kate Alexander
THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA Florida Studio Theatre  Henry Fonte
RACE Florida Studio Theatre  Richard Hopkins
THE TEMPEST North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Steven Umberger
THE 39 STEPS Florida Studio Theatre  Eric Hissom
BEEHIVE: THE 60’s MUSICAL Florida Studio Theatre  Fred Weiss
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Henson Keys
DRIVING MISS DAISY Triad Stage  Preston Lane
DEBUNKED Triad Stage  Preston Lane
DRACULA Triad Stage  Preston Lane
HEDDA GABLER Triad Stage  Preston Lane
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Steven Umberger
TWELFTH NIGHT North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Malcolm Morrison
ART Triad Stage  Eleanor Holdridge
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM North Carolina Shakespeare Festival  Steven Umberger
THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP Triad Stage  Preston Lane
SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER Triad Stage  Preston Lane
MIRANDOLINA Triad Stage  Preston Lane
ORFEO ED EURIDICE New Jersey Opera Festival  Karen Tiller
MANIFEST Portland Stage  Anita Stewart
THE CURE AT TROY Yale Repertory Theatre  Liz Diamond

ACADEMIC SCENIC DESIGN
SHE LOVES ME UM Ring Theatre  William Roudebush
SOUTH PACIFIC UM Ring Theatre  Michael John McGann
KING LEAR UM Ring Theatre  Lee Soroko
CARRYING WATER...SEIVE UM Ring Theatre  Henry Fonte
PAL JOEY UM Ring Theatre  Henry Fonte
HEDDA GABLER UM Ring Theatre  Bruce Lecure
SMOKEY JOE’S CAFÉ UM Ring Theatre  Lynn McNutt
HAMLET UM Ring Theatre  Jay Goede
HELLO DOLLY UM Ring Theatre  Jennifer Vellenga
A WINTER’S TALE UM Ring Theatre  Stephen Svoboda
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**Academic Positions**

- **Associate Professor - Scenic Design**
  - University of Miami
  - 2007- present

- **Lecturer - Theatre Arts**
  - Armstrong Atlantic State University
  - 2004-2007

- **Assistant Professor - Theatre Arts**
  - Guilford College
  - 2000-2004

**Education**

- **MFA - Theatrical Design**
  - Yale School of Drama
  - 1998

- **BFA - Theatrical Design and Technology**
  - University of Texas at Austin
  - 1993