

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

THALIA LARA

ARTIST | EDUCATOR | DESIGNER | DIRECTOR

530-306-0372

bydesign@thialara.com

www.thialara.com

EDUCATION

Michigan State University (MSU), College of Arts & Letters (CAL), Department of Theatre (DOT)
MFA Theatre Design | Primary Emphasis: Scenic Design, Secondary Emphasis: Sound Design Summer 2024
Certificate in Arts & Cultural Management

California State University Chico (CSUC), College of Humanities & Fine Arts, Department of Music & Theatre
BA Theatre Arts | Minor: Science, Technology, and Values Spring 2021

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MSU, CAL, DOT East Lansing, MI August 2021 - Current
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Instructor
Scene Shop Assistant, Mentor

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University

MSU, Lecturer/Instructor	East Lansing, MI	
THR 111: <i>Introduction to Technical Theatre: Scenic</i>		Spring 2024
THR 111: <i>Introduction to Technical Theatre: Scenic</i>		Fall 2023
MSU, Teaching Assistant	East Lansing, MI	
THR 441: <i>Advanced Play Directing</i>	Professor: Rob Roznowski	Spring 2023
IAH 241D: <i>Creative Arts & Humanities: Theatre & Society</i>	Professor: Stephen Di Benedetto	Fall 2022
IAH 209: <i>Performing Arts & Healthcare</i>	Professor: Alison Dobbins	Summer 2022
MSU, Scene Shop Teaching Assistant	East Lansing, MI	Fall 2021 - Current
Mentoring: Carpentry, Prop Arts & Scenic Painting	TD: DJ Selmeyer	2022 - Current
	TD: Mark Willoughby	2021 - 2022
MSU, Guest Lecturer	East Lansing, MI	
THR 894: <i>Professional Aspects</i>	Professor: Kirk Domer	Fall 2023
Topic: QLab & Audacity for Actors & Directors - basic skills for rehearsal & classroom use		
THR 216: <i>Intro to Sound Design</i>	Professor: Lucas Nunn	Fall 2022
Topic: History of Sound Design in Theatrical Performance		
THR 811: <i>Scenic Painting</i>	Professor: Ranae Selmeyer	Spring 2023
Topic: Aged Hardwood Floor Painting Technique		
University of Michigan (UM), Panel Presenter	Ann Arbor, MI	March 2024
BFA Program: <i>Design & Production Seminar</i>	Professor: Christianne Meyers	
Topic: AI in Design for Live Performance		
MSU, Panel Presenter	East Lansing, MI	
THR 292: <i>Theatre Arts Sophomore Seminar</i>	Professors: Kirk Domer & Ann Folino White	
Topic: Concept Development & Virtual Performance Pitches		Spring 2023
THR 492: <i>Theatre Arts Senior Seminar</i>	Professors: Kirk Domer & Ann Folino White	
Topic: Industry Perspectives		Fall 2021 & 2022
Middle School		
Pleasant Valley Middle School, Teaching Artist	Placerville, CA	2015 & 2016
Quarter Elective: Musical Theatre Director	Grades 6-8	
Gold Oak Arts Charter, Teaching Artist	Placerville, CA	2010 - 2012
Integrated Arts Curriculum Developer, Facilitator	Grades 6-8	

- Workshop 1: Script Development & Devising a Play
 Workshop 2: Character Development & Stage Makeup
 Workshop 3: Art & Science Illustration | Mixed Media, & Printmaking

Elementary School

Post Oak Elementary, Teaching Artist Integrated Arts Curriculum Developer, Facilitator Project: <i>Paper Son</i> (5 session unit)	Lansing, MI Grade 2	2024
Gold Oak Elementary, Teaching Artist Integrated Arts Curriculum Developer, Facilitator Project 1: School Garden Sunflowers (2-year cycle) Project 2: School Garden Pumpkins (2-year cycle)	Placerville, CA Grades 1-5 Grades 1-5	2009 - 2013
Adams Elementary, Teaching Artist Integrated Arts Curriculum Developer, Facilitator Literacy Project: <i>Macbeth</i> Literacy Project: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Art & Technology: Graphic Design & Website Development	Seattle, WA Grades 1-3 Grades 1-3 Grades 4-5	2007 - 2008

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

All Star Academy / All Star Gymnastics, Program Director Foundations Program Instructor, Trainer, Coach	Diamond Springs, CA Ages 1-5	2010 - 2016
Gymboree Play & Music, Program Director Play, Music, Arts, & Baby Signs Instructor, Trainer	Seattle, WA Ages 0-5	1999 - 2004

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Scenography

<i>The STEAM Plays</i>	Rob Roznowski (Writer/Dir)	STEAMpower Project	2023
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Dir)	Tammy Hayes (Co-Dir)	Adams Elementary	2008

Scenic Design

<i>Predictor</i>	Billicia Charnelle Hines (Dir)	Williamston Theatre	2024
<i>Lost In Yonkers</i>	Rob Roznowski (Dir)	Michigan Stage	2024
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Melanie Helton (Dir)	MSU Opera Theatre	2024
<i>Clue</i>	Ryan Welsh (Dir)	MSU DOT	2023
<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Brad Willcuts (Dir)	Walla Walla Summer Theatre	2023
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Ann Folino White (Dir)	MSU DOT	2023
<i>Pippin</i>	Rob Roznowski (Dir)	Summer Circle Theatre (SCT)	2022
<i>Hit the Wall</i>	Liz Gray (Dir)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>Alice in Zombieland</i> (Dir)	Trisha Leu (Co-Dir)	Pleasant Valley MS	2016
<i>The Big Bad Musical</i> (Dir)	Cameron Bennet (Co-Dir)	Pleasant Valley MS	2015

Sound Design

<i>For The Love Of: (or, the roller derby play)</i>	Alexis Black (Dir)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>Distracted</i>	Ryan Welsh (Dir)	SCT	2022
<i>Macbeth</i>	Joseph Skillings (Dir)	Adams Elementary	2007

Projections Design | Media Creator

<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Melanie Helton (Dir)	MSU Opera Theatre	2024
<i>The STEAM Plays</i>	Rob Roznowski (Writer/Dir)	STEAMpower Project	2023
<i>Charlotte's Web</i> (co-creator)	Ann Folino White (Dir)	MSU DOT	2023

Costume Design

<i>Lost In Yonkers</i>	Rob Roznowski (Dir)	Michigan Stage	2024
<i>As You Like It</i>	Kathrine Lemke Waste (Dir)	Shakespeare in the Park	1994
<i>It's A Wonderful Life</i>	Joyce Henderson (Dir)	Chico Independent Artists (CIA)	1994
<i>The Elephant Man</i>	Hugh Brashear (Dir)	CIA	1994

<i>Hair</i>	Coy Middlebrook (Dir)	Chico City Light Opera (CCLO)	1994
<i>Kitty Claws & The Magic of Dreaming</i>	Molly Hardy (Dir)	Molly Hardy Productions	1991 & 1992

Properties Lead | Artisan

<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Thalia Lara (Dir)	SCT	2023
<i>Schoolhouse Rock Live!</i>	Katherine Clemens (Dir)	SCT	2023
<i>Pippin</i>	Rob Roznowski (Dir)	SCT	2022
<i>Distracted</i>	Ryan Welsh (Dir)	SCT	2022
<i>The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong</i>	Brad Willcuts (Dir)	SCT	2022
<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>	Timothy A. McDonald (Dir)	CCLO	1995
<i>Bye Bye Birdie</i>	Sharidan Giles (TD)	Chico Area Student Theatre (CAST)	1994
<i>Music Man</i>	Timothy A. McDonald (Dir)	CCLO, UPE, CAST	1994
<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	Coy Middlebrook (Dir)	CCLO	1994
<i>Camelot</i>	Randy West (Dir)	CCLO	1994
<i>Mikado (In Space)</i>	Timothy A. McDonald (Dir)	CCLO	1994
<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	Timothy A. McDonald (Dir)	CCLO	1993
<i>Oliver!</i>	Timothy A. McDonald (Dir)	CCLO	1993

Scenic Charge Artist

<i>Lost In Yonkers</i>	Thalia Lara (Des)	Michigan Stage	2024
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Thalia Lara (Des)	MSU Opera Theatre	2024
<i>Sweat</i>	Gabriela Castillo (Des)	MSU DOT	2023
<i>Corktown</i>	Kasee Arnett (Des)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>Pippin</i>	Thalia Lara (Des)	SCT	2022
<i>Hit the Wall</i>	Thalia Lara (Des)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>200Hz</i>	Jacob Brown (Des)	CSUC	2021
<i>A Whole New Story</i>	Jacob Brown (Des)	CSUC	2020

Scenic Artist | Carpenter

<i>Spring Awakening</i>	Gabriela Castillo (Des)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>Stevie & The Real World</i>	Kessler Jones (Des)	MSU DOT	2024
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Gabriela Castillo (Des)	MSU DOT	2023
<i>Clue</i>	Thalia Lara (Des)	MSU DOT	2023
<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Ranae Selmeyer (Des)	MSU Opera Theatre	2023
<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Thalia Lara (Des)	MSU DOT	2023
<i>Falstaff</i>	Kirk Domer (Des)	MSU Opera Theatre	2023
<i>Monseigneur D'Eon is a Woman</i>	Quinn Legge (Des)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>La Finta Giardiniera</i>	Ranae Selmeyer (Des)	MSU Opera Theatre	2022
<i>Head Over Heels</i>	Gabriela Castillo (Des)	MSU DOT	2022
<i>Albert Herring</i>	Kirk Domer (Des)	MSU Opera Theatre	2022
<i>Wendy and the Neckbeards</i>	Quinn Legge (Des)	MSU DOT	2021
<i>Three from the Hearth</i>	Kirk Domer (Des)	MSU Opera Theatre	2021
<i>A Contemporary American's Guide...</i>	Kasee Arnett (Des)	MSU DOT	2021

Technical Director | Assistant Technical Director

<i>Lost In Yonkers</i>	Rob Roznowski (Dir)	Michigan Stage	2024
<i>The STEAM Plays</i>	Rob Roznowski (Dir)	STEAM Power Initiative	2023
<i>The Secret Garden (ATD)</i>	Brad Willcuts (Dir)	Walla Walla Summer Theatre	2023

Director | Assistant Director

<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>		SCT	2023
<i>Alice in Zombieland</i>		Pleasant Valley MS	2016
<i>The Big Bad Musical</i>		Pleasant Valley MS	2015
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>		Adams Elementary	2008
<i>The Big Bad Musical</i>		Adams Elementary	2007
<i>Macbeth (AD)</i>	Joseph Skillings (Dir)	Adams Elementary	2007
<i>Rocking the Lemon</i>		Chico Creek Theatre Festival	1995
<i>The 1994 Annies Award Show (AD)</i>	Coy Middlebrook (Dir)	Laxson Auditorium, Chico	1994

Romance Electronic Media Concert CSUC 1994

Stage Manager | Assistant Stage Manager

<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i> (ASM)	Julia Baldoni (SM)	Wisner Theatre, CSUC	2020
<i>Macbeth</i> (SM)	Joseph Skillings (Dir)	Adams Elementary	2007
<i>The 1994 Annies Award Show</i> (SM)	Coy Middlebrook (Dir)	Laxson Auditorium, Chico	1994
<i>Oklahoma!</i> (ASM)	Danyel Harnden (SM)	Laxson Auditorium, Chico	1993
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (SM)	David Pecoraro (TD)	Saddleback College	1991

Actor | Performer

<i>200Hz Devised Work</i> (Writer, Actor)	Jami Witt-Miller (Dir)	Streaming Online, CSUC	Spring 2021
<i>The Laramie Project</i> (Actor 3)	John Crosthwait (Dir)	Streaming Online, CSUC	Fall 2020
<i>Hair</i> (Tribe)	Coy Middlebrook (Dir)	CCLO	1994
<i>Best Little Whorehouse in Texas</i> (TaddyJo)	Randy West (Dir)	CCLO	1993
<i>Kitty Claws</i> (Snow)	Molly Hardy (Dir)	CCLO	1991 & 1992
<i>The Odd Couple, Female Version</i> (Sylvie)	Gregory de Silva (Dir)	Saddleback College	1992

HONORS & AWARDS

Thespie Award for Projections (non-professional) 2023
Lansing State Journal *Charlotte's Web*

Gretel Geist Rutledge Annual Student Award for Design Excellence in Sound Design 2023
Michigan State University *For The Love Of: (or, the roller derby play)*

Gretel Geist Rutledge Annual Student Award for Design Excellence in Scenic Design 2022
Michigan State University *Hit the Wall*

Outstanding Student Award Theatre Arts 2021
California State University Chico

Dean's List Highest Honors Spring & Fall 2020, Spring 2021
California State University Chico

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

MSU College of Arts & Letters

\$4500 Summer Support Fellowship for Summer Circle Theatre	2023
\$250 Travel Fellowship for 2023 USITT Conference Exhibitor and Participant	2023
\$4500 Summer Support Fellowship for Summer Circle Theatre	2022
\$250 Travel Fellowship awarded for Research travel to New York for <i>Hit the Wall</i>	2021

MSU Department of Theatre

\$500 Summer Support Fellowship for Summer Circle Theatre	2023
\$350 Travel Fellowship for 2023 USITT Conference Exhibitor and Participant	2023
\$1000 Department of Theatre for Summer Circle Theatre	2022
\$250 Travel Fellowship for New York Location Research for <i>Hit the Wall</i>	2021

The Graduate School at MSU

\$418 Travel Fellowship for 2023 USITT Conference Exhibitor and Participant	2023
\$400 Travel Fellowship for New York Location Research for <i>Hit the Wall</i>	2021

SERVICE & EXHIBITIONS

STEAMpower Project, Showcase Exhibitor East Lansing, MI April 2024

MSU Council of Graduate Students, Department Representative Lansing, MI 2023 - 2024
Graduate Academic Conference Committee Co-Chair March 2024

USITT 2024 Conference, Conference Assistant, Exhibitor Seattle, WA March 2024

Cover The Walls – Designer Display: *CLUE!* and *Don Giovanni*
 AV Team | Presenter Support Team | Opening Ceremonies Team

The Peoples Church & MSU Department of Theatre , Exhibitor	Lansing, MI	2023 - 2024
Behind the Scenes of Theatrical Design & Technology – Designer Display: <i>The STEAM Plays</i>		
Michigan Thespian Festival , Presenter	Lansing, MI	December 2023
Workshop: Webs, Vines, and Veins – Creating Illusion Drops		
Workshop: From Pencils to Bots – Design Process & Concept Development Tools		
USITT 2023 Conference , Exhibitor	St. Louis, MO	March 2023
Design Expo – Scenic Design Project Display: <i>Charlotte's Web</i>		
Michigan Thespian Festival , Adjudicator	Lansing, MI	2021, 2022
Panel Judge for the Thespy Awards Hosted by Michigan Educational Theatre Association (META)		
2021 Categories: Costume Design, Costume Construction, Makeup Design		
2022 Categories: Scenic, Sound, and Lighting Design		
MSU DOT , Season Selection Committee	East Lansing, MI	2021 - 2022
Peppermint Creek Theatre Play Book Club , Panel Presenter	Lansing, MI	November 2021
Community Education – Scenic Design Concept Development for <i>Pipeline</i> by Dominique Morriseau		
Seattle Public Schools Annual Conference , Speaker	Seattle, WA	2002
Arts Integration Advocate		

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

The STEAM Plays , Website & Extension Curriculum	East Lansing, MI	2023
Providence Performing Arts Center , Video Content Creator	Providence, RI	2021
<i>Reignite Professional Development Series, Disney Musicals in Schools Program</i>		
Scenic Faux Finish Techniques		
CLIO Studio , Self-Employed Freelance Designer	Placerville, CA	2014 - Current
Custom Apparel, Costume Services, Team Uniforms, Branded Merchandise		
Graphic Design, Marketing Materials, Event Planning, Website Development		
Lake Berryessa Visitors Association , Video Producer	Napa, CA	2007
<i>Lake Berryessa</i> (Services Documentary Film)		
Cinematography, Video and Audio Post-Production, Script Development and Narration		
Adams After School Players , Director	Seattle, WA	2006
Musical Theatre After School Program		
Grades 2-5		
Lexant , Creative Developer & Designer	Seattle, WA	1998 - 1999
<i>doHealth</i> (IP to <i>WebMD</i>)		
Information Architect, UI designer, Graphic Artist, Project manager		
Microsoft , Contracted Graphics Creator & UI Designer	Redmond, WA	1997 - 1998
<i>Outlook '98 & Microsoft Office</i> Design Team		
TeknoCopy , Resident Graphic Designer, Pre-Press Specialist	Bellevue, WA	1994 - 1995
Imagine That Designs , Freelance Illustrator & Graphic Designer	Chico, CA & Seattle, WA	1991 - 1997

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

All Star Gymnastics , Operations Director	Diamond Springs, CA	2014 - 2018
Gold Oak Union School District , After School Programs Director	Placerville, CA	2010 - 2013
Rancho Monticello Resort , Marina & Events Manager	Napa, CA	2004 - 2008

Gymboree Play & Music , Program Director	Seattle, WA	2001 - 2004
Lexant Corp , Project Manager	Seattle, WA	1998 - 1999

COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEER WORK

El Dorado County 4-H Camp , Program Director & Youth Advisor Arts & Crafts Program Director Junior Counselor Advisor Cabin Counselor	South Lake Tahoe, CA	2014 - 2021
Southside Topnotch 4-H Club , Project Leader & Youth Advisor	Placerville, CA	2008 - 2019
Textiles Project (county-wide project)		2018 - 2019
Claymation Project		2017 - 2018
Theatre Arts Project (county-wide project)		2015 - 2017
Arts & Crafts Project		2012 - 2015
Cloverbuds Project		2008 - 2012
Pleasant Valley Middle School , Tour Group Leader History, Government, and Culture Tour	Placerville, CA Grades 6-8	2015 - 2019
Union Mine High School , Mock Interview Volunteer	Diamond Springs, CA	2018
Gold Oak Elementary School PTO & PTA	Placerville, CA	2008 - 2013
President		2011 - 2013
VP Fundraising		2010 - 2011
Talent Show Coordinator		2010 - 2013
School Board Representative		2009 - 2010
Adams Elementary School PTA , Board Member	Seattle, WA	2003 - 2008
VP of Fundraising		2004 - 2006
Annual Auction Co-Chair		2004 - 2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
 Design Justice Network (DJN)
 Scenic Artists Guild
 The United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)