

# **JOHN BELL - CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **Profile**

Experienced Theatre designer and arts practitioner reached Head of Design at a number of regional theatres. Working also as Designer/Producer for many corporate events in the UK, Europe and SE Asia. Strong track record of training in the Theatre Arts supported by a Post Graduate Diploma in Training gained at Leicester University. Extensive collaborative work on exhibitions in the UK and Germany. Workshop leader for a number of Arts Projects in West Midland Schools and Colleges.

## **Current Activities**

Corporate Events Consultant: Quite Good Design. Birmingham  
Visiting Lecturer & Designer  
Director: Word for Word Live Ltd, Theatre Captioning Development. Derby  
Freelance Theatre & Events Designer  
Workshop Leader, Schools Art Projects

## **Key strengths:**

Ability to build and lead effective teams  
Excellent communication skills at all levels  
Clear thinking, can-do attitudes  
High level of technical literacy  
Skilled and Experienced Theatre and Events Designer  
Good Prop Making and Scene Painting skills  
Professional level IT skills with specialist knowledge of CAD, Graphics and Multimedia.  
Training and Workshop Leadership across a wide age range.

## **CAREER HISTORY**

- "Our Woods" Community Project, Corby - Year 7 Creative Workshops. Brooke Weston Academy
- "Night Draw" Big Draw Project - Croft Community School, Walsall
- Arts Festival at The Lighthouse, Wolverhampton - Heath Park School

### **Visiting Lecturer East 15 Acting School**

- Workshops - Paper Prop making using Adobe Photoshop
- Audio Visual Design for Productions
- Theatre Design for Stage Management & Production
- Regular Designs for a range of School's Productions over the past five years

### **Visiting Lecturer ALRA**

- Auto Cad workshops

### **Visiting Lecturer Middlesex University**

- Design, Model Making & Scenic Painting Workshops

### **Freelance Designer/Maker Midland Actors Theatre**

- New Street Station History Project
- Birmingham's Lost Communities
- Caucasian Chalk Circle

### **Very Creative Events**

- Willerby Homes, Irwin Mitchel, Arla Foods UK, ARM Holdings, TATA Steel UK

### **Head of Production. Court Theatre Training Company.**

Senior lecturer, designer and module leader on the Ba.Hons. Acting programme.

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Subject Tutor
- Module Leader
- Module assessor
- Design of marketing graphics
- College productions management and design
- Student IT resources
- Personal academic tutor

### **Director – Word for Word Live.**

Developing performance captioning software and hardware systems for Deaf and Hard of hearing audiences

#### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Joint Company Management
- Product Development
- Logistics
- Marketing Policy
- Marketing Material

### **Designer and Design Consultant. Managing Director: John Bell Design Ltd.**

Senior Consultant and Arts Practitioner, developing and producing a UK and Europe wide portfolio of Corporate events, exhibitions and installations.

#### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Engaging with Clients to Produce, Design and Manage Events
- Creative Engagement with Other Practitioners to Develop and Realise Arts Projects)
- Creation of Design Schemes and Visualizations (AutoCad, Photoshop)
- Production of Graphic material for Print and Web (Illustrator, Dream Weaver, InDesign,)
- Managing Corporate and Arts Events and Exhibitions

#### **Public Exhibitions:**

Lambeth Palace, Millennium exhibition

The Institution of Civil Engineers, “Our River” Interactive exhibition.

“Fixing Light – Fixing Fire” Arts Council funded exhibition and gallery tour

“Durch Das Feur Gehen” Gallery exhibition/installation Keramik Museum Westerwald, Germany.

#### **Corporate Events:**

Xchanging Insure Services, London Processing Centre, The Mortgage Works

National Federation of Retail Newsagents, Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceutical,

Wyeth Pharmaceutical, Arthur C. Cark Science Fiction Literary Awards, Astellas Pharmaceutical, Local

Government Association, Welsh Development Agency, DTi, Forever Living Products, NUT, Portman Building

Society, National Housing Association, Public and Commercial Services Union,

Communication Workers Union, Unite,

#### **Corporate Exhibitions:**

TPUK Shenzhen HI-TEC Fair (best design award), Amicus, Tobacco Workers Association,

St.Gobain Pipes division, TNS, Netsurity, Yamanouchi, Independant Forgings and Alloys,

### **Corporate Designer/Producer. Stage Techniques Ltd.**

#### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Engaging with Clients to Produce, Design and Manage Events
- Creation of Design Schemes and Visualizations (AutoCad, Photoshop)
- Production of Graphic material for Print and Web (Illustrator, Dream Weaver, InDesign,)
- Managing Corporate Events and Exhibitions

### **Art Director. Mersey TV Liverpool. “And The Beat Goes On”.**

#### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Designing shooting sets
- Art Team Co-ordination
- Organisation of Sets and Locations for Shoots
- Production and Acquisition of Properties
- Design and Production of Graphic material for Shoots

### **Design Director, “A River in Time” National Indoor Stadium Singapore.**

Large scale Multi-media Musical Production.

#### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Member of Senior Creative Team
- Design of all Scenic elements including Projection
- Construction Supervision

## **Performance Spaces Consultant**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Building Surveys
- Working with Clients to Design and Create Practical Arts Venue Schemes
- Equipment and Technical Specifications
- Detailed Plans and Drawings
- Contractor Supervision

### **Clients:**

“The Courtyard” New performance venue, London N1.

Tile Hill Wood School, Coventry: Performing Arts facility.

Swanshurst School, Birmingham: Performing Arts facility.

Whitley Abbey Secondary School, Coventry : Studio Theatre.

Three Spires Special School : Performance Workshop Space.

## **Freelance Lecturer/workshop leader.**

Large scale puppet making workshops for Stratford College.

Fire sculpture open air performance leader, Glastonbury Festival.

North Warwickshire Arts Workshop Commission: Mask Making.

Warwickshire “Live and Local”, Mask making workshops

## **Lecturer/Course Leader. Coventry Centre for the Performing Arts:**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Course team member BTEC ND/HND
- Technical & Design module/course design and delivery
- resource management Construction Supervision
- Programme development for Part Time Adult Property Making and Scene Painting course

## **Designer and Design Tutor. The Courtyard Theatre, Kings Cross, London.**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Subject Tutor
- Assessor
- Design of marketing graphics
- College productions management and design
- Personal academic tutor

## **Designer/Production Manager. Educational Theatre Projects.**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Production Design
- Logistics, Construction
- Tour management

## **Head of Design. Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Senior Management Team Member
- Production Design
- Management of Stage Design Team
- Management of all Stage Design Provision

## **Head of Design. Horseshoe Theatre Company, Basingstoke**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Senior Management Team Member
- Production Design
- Management of Stage Design Team
- Management of all Stage Design Provision

## **Head of Design. Plymouth Theatre Company**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Senior Management Team Member
- Production Design
- Management of Stage Design Team
- Management of all Stage Design Provision

## **Resident Designer. Ipswich Arts Theatre.**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Senior Management Team Member
- Production Design
- Marketing Material Design.

## **Resident Designer. Maddermarket Theatre, Norwich: 1975 – 1976**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Production Design
- Scenic Artist
- Scenic Construction
- Prop Making
- Scene painting

## **Scenic Artist/Prop Maker. Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford: 1973 – 1974**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

- Scene Painting for large Scale In House and Touring Productions
- Prop Making
- Designer for Yvonne Arnaud Young People's Theatre Company tours.

## **Education and Training**

East Ham Grammar School for Boys.

East Ham School of Art - Fine Art foundation.

Croydon School of Art - Theatre Design

City&Guilds 7307 Teaching for Further and Adult Education.

University of Leicester - Post Graduate Diploma in Training.

## **Associations**

Society of British Theatre Designers

Competence Network, Leicester University.

## **Address**

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