

Jason Amato

Lighting Designer

CURRENT ADDRESS

3105 Lakeside Dr.
Austin, TX 78723
512.626.1847

~~ Designed approximately 500 shows from 1992-2010

ONGOING RESIDENTIAL DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Date	Capacity	Period	Artistic Director	Venue
2001-2010	Resident Lighting Designer	10 Seasons	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre
1994-2010	Resident Lighting Designer	17 Seasons	Bonnie Cullum	The Vortex
2008-2010	Resident Lighting Designer	2 Seasons	Ann Ciccolella	Austin Shakespeare
1993-2010	Resident Lighting Designer	18 Seasons	Sally Jacque - Blue Lapis Light	Various ~ Dance
2000-2008	Resident Lighting Designer	9 Seasons	Acia Gray - Tapestry Dance Co.	Paramount Theatre
1996-1999	Resident Lighting Designer	4 Seasons	Deborah Hay	Various ~ Dance
1996-2001	Resident Lighting Designer	6 Seasons	Andrea Ariel	Various ~ Dance
1999-2002	Lighting Designer	4 International Tours	Jose Greco II - Flamenco Dance Co.	International Tours

RECENT SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Capacity	Production	Director	Venue
2010	Lighting Designer	Dream! A Midsummer Night's	Ann Ciccolella - Austin Shakespeare	Zilker Hillside Theatre
2010	Lighting Designer	Our Town	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre
2010	Lighting Designer	The Glass Menagerie	Michael Costello	Tex-Arts
2010	Lighting Designer	Sleeping Beauty	Bonnie Cullum	The Vortex
2010	Lighting Designer	Mary Stuart	Ann Ciccolella - Austin Shakespeare	The Rollins Theatre
2010	Lighting Designer	The Flaming Idiots	The Flaming Idiots	Zach Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Music Video	Chrysta Bell	On Location
2009	Lighting Designer	Alice in Wonderland	Talena Martinez	Austin Children's Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Rockin' Christmas Party	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Santaland Diaries	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	25 th ..Putnam County Spelling Bee	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre
2009	Production Designer	Measure for Measure	Ann Ciccolella - Austin Shakespeare	The Rollins Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Windows	Zell Miller III	Salvage Vanguard
2009	Lighting Designer	Henry V	Catherine Weidner	The Off Center
2009	Lighting Designer	Oceana	Bonnie Cullum	The Vortex
2009	Lighting Designer	A. Deavere Smith's, Let me down..	Leonard Foglia	Zach Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Holy Cross Sucks!	Rob Nash	The Vortex
2009	Lighting Designer	Grapes of Wrath	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Shooting Star	Steven Dietz	Zach Theatre
2009	Lighting Designer	Secret Lives of the InBetweeners	Bonnie Cullum	The Vortex
2009	Lighting Designer	Beehive, The Farewell	Dave Steakley	Zach Theatre

AWARDS

- Austin Circle of Theaters 2008 special recognition award, "Outstanding Contribution to Austin Theater"
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 2007–2008. Troades
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 2006–2007. Trickster
- Austin Critics Table Outstanding Lighting Design 2006–2007, Requiem/I Am My Own Wife/The Souls of Our Feet/Take Me Out
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 2005–2006. The Exonerated
- Austin Critics Table Outstanding Lighting Design 2005–2006, Whispers of Heaven/Keepin' It Weird/Vampyress/Urinetown: The Musical/Dark Goddess 2006/The Exonerated
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 2004–2005. Omnium–Gatherum
- Austin Critics Table Outstanding Lighting Design 2004–2005, Cabaret, Ghost From a Perfect Place, Where Nothing Falls II, Omnium Gatherum, Crowns, St. Enid and the Black Hand, Aida, Sleeping Beauty
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- Best of Austin 2002, "*Best Dazzler*"– "Some stage designers may treat light like a technical tool, but Jason Amato conducts light -- not in the electrical sense but the orchestral sense. Shafts of light swell and fade at his bidding, like brass instruments in a symphony; colors saturate a stage the way strings come to the fore in a musical passage. The way he works with light is wholly artistic, and it's made his work at the Vortex, the Zachary Scott Theatre Center, and elsewhere dazzling in every sense: so physically intense as to be blinding, but also (and chiefly) jaw-droppingly impressive, for its beauty, its vividness, and the way it illuminates what's happening onstage, the patterns and hues corresponding to a scene's mood and emotion. This is a man who truly sheds light on a play." [Link](#)
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 2001–2002, The Deluge : on the shoulder of night
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 1999–2000, Despair's Book of Dreams and the Sometimes Radio
- Austin Critics Table Outstanding Lighting Design 1999–2000, The Rocky Horror Show, Knowledge and Melancholy
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 1997–1998, Triskelion
- Austin Critics Table Outstanding Lighting Design 1997–1998, Triskelion, Fur, and Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities
- B. Iden Payne Outstanding Lighting Design 1996–1997, Panoptikon
- Best of Austin '95, "Best Lighting Design on a Shoe String" – "A shoe string, a piece of wire, a tin can, a flashlight – Jason Amato can make very cool light effects with most anything. A versatile designer who's lit everything from the Zilker Musical to the avant garde *BodyMind*, Amato excels when working for alternative artists with tiny budgets. We were especially taken with his recent job illuminating Sally Jacques and Tina Marsh's multimedia piece at Laguna Gloria. It isn't easy to light an orchestra, dancers swinging from trees, and boats in the lagoon, but he did it. And beautifully." [Link](#)

RELATED SKILLS and INTERESTS

Lighting

- Familiarity with Vari-Lite, Martin and High End Systems fixtures
- Extensive experience programming the Strand 520 and ETC Ion
- Expertise with common ETC consoles
- Expertise in SoftPlot 9
- Maintains an active design apprenticeship program
- Hand Drafting and sketching abilities
- Full knowledge of conventional lighting fixture applications, specifications, maintenance and repair

Scenery

- Designed/TD several shows locally
- Expertise with Wire Feed Welding
- Pursuit in Sculpture

Photography & Graphics

- Solid background in digital photography
- Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop
- Experience with Graphic design for logos, branding, icons and user interface components

Computer Skills

- Exhaustive understanding of the Windows computing environment.
- Full command of the Microsoft Office, Adobe CS, and Macromedia product suites

Web Development & Internet Applications

- Fluency with Dreamweaver
- Developed websites professionally

REFERENCES

Dave Steakley
512.476.0594, ext. 226
Zach Theatre
Artistic Director
[Dave Steakley](#)

Ann Ciccolella
Austin Shakespeare
Artistic Director
ann@austinshakespeare.org

Bonnie Cullum
512.478.5282
The Vortex
Artistic Director
ethos@vortexrep.org

Acia Gray
Tapestry Dance Co.
Artistic Director
SoulsFeet@aol.com

Robert Whyburn
St. Stephens Episcopal School
Lighting Designer/Technical Director
Rwhyburn@sstx.org

Sally Jacque
512. 444.1672
Jacque Productions
Artistic Director
isms@mail.onr.com

Recommendations

"I have had the great fortune to collaborate with Jason Amato on dozens of productions over the past 15 years at ZACH Theatre. I love working with Jason because he sees LIGHT as a transformative idea, and COLOR as an emotion, and SHAPE as the stuff of emotional currency. Jason frequently works with dance companies and in creating large outdoor environmental spectacles on the sides of downtown buildings, and in outdoor park theatres and in small warehouse spaces, so he thinks about space differently than most theatre lighting designers. Back light and side light are important tools in Jason's palette and manifest in unexpected and surprising ways in his designs. He is also used to creating hanging positions almost everywhere because of working in so many non-traditional spaces along with traditional theatres. I've seen Jason work with a large budget and also with just a few bucks and some gaff tape and create innovative designs for which his various collaborators have been impressed and appreciative. Jason responds to the live experience of actors and dancers and singers in a room to create transcendent moments of realization onstage that aspire to capture the unexplainable. He challenges himself to think out of the box and to find new ways to express the text, a feeling, a key moment with light. We have worked on a lot of musicals together and he understands how light has to respond to a choreographic hit, a music shift, a key change, a shift in locale, a button while not feeling predictable or formulaic. He's smart, thoughtful, creative, passionate and experienced — everything a director needs in a design meeting, in a production meeting, in a rehearsal and in a tech — a collaborator you can count on."

Dave Steakley
Producing Artistic Director
ZACH Theatre
512-476-0594, ext. 226
www.zachtheatre.org

"I am writing to recommend Jason Amato as an outstanding lighting designer. I am the Producing Artistic Director of VORTEX Repertory Company, a non-profit theatre in Austin, Texas now in its twenty-second year of operations with a full-time facility. Jason Amato has been the resident lighting designer of our company since 1994, and we have had the great pleasure of creating dozens of original projects together. Mr. Amato has received numerous B. Iden Payne Awards for his lighting designs of VORTEX shows, especially the more fantastical spectacle of our productions of original musicals and operas.

Jason Amato demonstrates a keen insight for new material, strong vision for the work, and discerning sensibilities. He asks clarifying questions and contributes to the whole look of each show. In addition to being a visionary lighting designer, he has always provided his insightful intellect, strong attention to detail, thorough execution, and diligent commitment. He is a key contributor to the artistic process through production meetings and in the collaborative creation of the vision of the show. Mr. Amato has repeatedly exceeded expectations, excelled at problem solving, and is a great team player.

I highly recommend Jason Amato as an extraordinary and accomplished lighting designer. His style and experimentation with light have shaped the look and feel of my productions, and I am always excited to work with him.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you need further information about Jason Amato."

Bonnie Cullum
Producing Artistic Director
VORTEX Repertory Company
(512) 478-5282
vortex@vortexrep.org

“Working with, or even watching a performance lighted by Jason Amato is like getting schooled in another language, the language of light. Jason understands intimately how light can speak to mood, character, dramatic action, and through his choices -- color, brightness, pattern, and the architectural division of space -- can enhance an audience's sense of what is happening in a drama or a dance. And having collaborated with Jason on artistic projects myself, I know that his choices are never arbitrary, never made for the sake of spectacle or pure sensation; they are always bound up in the service of the work as a whole. They are an organic element in the production as a whole. He is meticulous in sounding out that essence of a work and in crafting its realization onstage. And having seen his work for many years now, I can say with confidence that the results are perpetually dazzling -- in every sense of the word.”

Robert Faires

Arts Editor, The Austin Chronicle and Stage Director

rfaires@austinchronicle.com

“Jason Amato is an extraordinary collaborator both in the high artistic sense of emotionally understanding every theater experience but also in the practical sense of what is needed to make a project successful. I have known Jason for many years and worked with him as a designer for 12 years. He is simply one of the best theater artists I have worked with on any coast.”

Ann Ciccolella

Artistic Director

Austin Shakespeare

ann@austinshakespeare.org