

CURRICULUM VITAE
Robin VerHage-Abrams

Address

School of Art
Washington University
St. Louis, MO 63130

Telephone: (314) 935-6470
electronic mail: rverhage@art.wustl.edu

Education

M.F.A. Theatre Design, Costume Emphasis. *The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. 1982. Thesis Title: A Production Design for *The Rake's Progress*.*

B.A. Art, English. *Grand Valley University, Allendale, MI. 1978. With High Honors.*

Teaching Experience

***Washington University*, St. Louis, MO 2001 - present.**

Associate Professor, School of Art. Currently teaching Junior and Senior Fashion Illustration, Portfolio Development, and Textiles. 2004 - present

Assistant Professor, School of Art. Taught Junior and Senior Fashion Illustration, Portfolio Development, and Textiles. 2001 - 2004

Lecturer, School of Art. Taught Junior and Senior Fashion Illustration. 1998 - 2001

***Webster University*, St. Louis, MO Fall Semester 1998.**

Sabbatical Replacement for Dorothy Marshall, taught various Design and Visual History Classes, supervised student costume designs for production.

Adjunct Faculty Member. Theatre Conservatory. Taught Visual History for Theater Majors. 1992 – 1994

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. 1986 - 1988.

Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre. Head of Graduate Program in Costume Design, resident costume designer for Hilberry Theatre, taught variety of courses in theory and design, supervised master's theses, supervised costume shop manager and staff, performed committee.

University of Akron, Akron, OH. 1984 - 1986

Assistant Professor. Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Taught variety of courses in design, supervised costume shop manager and staff, resident costume designer for departmental productions, served on curriculum committee.

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 1982 – 1984

Lecturer. Department of Theatre, Taught variety of courses in design, managed costume shop, designed costumes for departmental productions, committee service.

Fashion Institute of Detroit, Detroit, MI. 1981-82

Lecturer. Taught Fashion History.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. 1979 – 82.

Teaching Fellow, Department of Theatre. Taught costume production techniques, designed several productions, provided production assistance in costume shop.

Design and Related Experience

Opera Theatre of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

2004 - 2005

Costume Design for “*Dream of the Pacific*” an opera premier commissioned to coincide with the national 200th anniversary celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Exhibit opening at The Missouri Historical Society. The design will be used for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis production and several additional opera companies along the historic route of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

1989 - 2003

Costume Designer and Consultant, Designed or coordinated costumes for *Abduction from the Seraglio*, *The Tale of Genji*, *Otello*, *Joshua’s Boots*, *Arianna*, *The Thunder of Horses*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Black Spider*, *Candide*, *The Very Last Green Thing*, *Tosca*, *Billy Budd*, *The Merry Widow*. Designed costumes and scenery for *Brundibar*. Assisted with educational programs, production planning, budget creation and management.

Metro Theatre Company, St. Louis, MO. 2002, 2000
Costume Designer: *The Short Tree*, *More Stuff*.

Prison Performing Arts Project, St. Louis, MO. 2000, Costume Designer, *Hamlet*, Act I.

St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, St. Louis, MO. 1999.
Costume Designer: *Waiting for Godot*.

The New Theatre, St. Louis, MO. 1998, 1997, 1992.
Costume Designer: *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Angel City*, *Off the Map*
Costume and Scenery Designer: *Molly Sweeney*.

Tirelli Costumi, Rome, Italy, 1996, Costume Research in Rome Opera Costume Archives.

Theatre Project Company, St. Louis, MO. 1991.
Costume Designer: *A Kurt Weill Cabaret*.

Circle Repertory Theatre, New York, NY. 1989
Costume Coordinator: *Brilliant Traces*.

The University of Michigan Power Center Series, Ann Arbor, MI. 1988.
Costume Designer, *A Chorus Line*.

Detroit Public Theatre, Detroit, MI. 1987.
Costume Designer, *The Blood Knot*.

South Carolina Ballet, Columbia, SC. 1987.
Costume Designer: *Beauty and the Beast*.

The Hilberry Repertory Theatre, Detroit, MI. with **Laterna Magika**,
Prague, Czechoslovakia.1986.
Costume Designer: *The Black Monk*.

The Hilberry Repertory Theatre, Detroit, MI. 1986 - 1988.
Costume Designer: *Nicholas Nickelby, Tartuffe, King Lear, The
Black American Dream, Snoopy, Amadeus*.

Jim Henson Associates: Sesame Street Live, New York, NY.
1986.
Design Production Assistant.

**The University of Akron, Department of Theatre, Music, and
Dance**, Akron, OH. 1984-86
Costume Designer: *The Country Wife, Crimes of the Heart, The
Venetian Twins, Roshomon, The 1940's Radio Hour, Come Back to
the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, The Taming of the Shrew*.

Fast Forward Video, New York, NY. 1985.
Makeup Designer/Makeup Artist: *Love is Blue*. Fast Forward Video
Productions, New York ., NY.

Western Michigan Department of Theatre, Kalamazoo, MI. 1982-84.
Costume Designer: *Equus, The Magic Flute, The Dining Room, The
Journey of the Fifth Horse, Gypsy, Ah Wilderness!, The Pirates of
Penzance, The Laundry, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, The
Merry Wives of Windsor, Grease*.

The University of Michigan Professional Theatre Program, Ann
Arbor, MI 1979-82.
Costume Designer, *Misalliance, Tartuffe, All the Way Home, Of
Thee I Sing, Tango*.

Exhibitions, Presentations - Invited or Refereed

"*Clothing Communiqué*", PowerPoint Lecture/ Clothing Presentation
delivered to St. Louis Women's Club, St. Louis, MO, January 2003

“ Costume? Fashion? What’s the Difference?” PowerPoint Lecture/
Clothing Presentation delivered to Washington University Women’s
Society, St Louis, MO, December 2002

“Costume Sketches from Joshua’s Boots” accepted for Member’s
Media Exhibit, Costume Society of America, Chicago, IL. June 2002.

“ Costume? Fashion? What’s the Difference?” PowerPoint/Costume
Lecture delivered to Fashion Group International, St. Louis Chapter,
March 2002

“ Intuitive Reasoning as an Avenue toward Creative Design”
presented with Jan Chambers to The United States Institute for
Theatre Technology, Minneapolis, MN, April 1987

“The Theatre Design of Josef Svoboda”, Organized and Presented
photographic exhibit of career retrospective, Theatre Department
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. 1983

“ Intuitive Approach to Design in the Theatre Classroom” presented
with Jan Chambers at the American Theatre Association National
Convention, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1985.

Professional Affiliations

Member, Fundraiser for Scholarships, Fashion Group International,
2002-present

Member, Costume Society of America. 2002- present

Member, Association of Women Faculty, Washington University,
2002-present

University Service

Area Coordinator - Fashion, Washington University School of Art,
Fall 2002

Coordinator, “Fashion Futures”, annual workshop for WU fashion
design students; focused on preparation for internships and job

searches. Features guest professional from various areas of fashion design as guest speaker each year. 1999-present

Chair, Fairness and Diversity Committee, Washington University School of Art, 2002-present

Member, Fashion Design Show Committee, Washington University School of Art, 2001- present

Member, Policy Committee, Washington University School of Art, 2003-2004

Member, Ad Hoc Committee, Washington University School of Art, 2002-2003

Secretary, Visiting Artist's Committee, Washington University School of Art, 2001-2002

Professional Portfolio Review Seminars 1999-Present, Organization of portfolio reviews by professionals outside of Fashion Design Program for senior design students.

Created, mounted Washington University Fashion Illustration Website 2002-Present

Contributer, Feature for Apple Website on School of Art, Washington University, 2002

Production Committee, Scholarship Committee, Theatre Department, Wayne State University, Detroit MI.1986-88

Curriculum Committee, Theatre Department, University of Akron, 1984-86

Production Committee, Theatre Department, Western Michigan University, 1982-84

Community Service

Established \$small Fortune\$, an independent textile production business. All profits go to St. Louis Area Educational Projects 2002-present

Donor, Designer, Volunteer, Missouri Prison Arts Program, 1999-present

Volunteer, University City Public Schools. Fundraising, PTO activities, Manager Flynn Park Elementary Writing Center ('98-01), Production Design, Canvassing voters for Bond Issues. 1997-2002

Honors and Awards

Critical Acclaim for Costume Design- *Candide*, (New York Times, Allan Kozinn , London Sunday Times, Hugh Canning, Variety, Joseph Pollack) 1994.

Theatre Excellence Award for *Nicholas Nickelby*. Detroit Free Press, 1988.

Merit Award for Superior Performance (Teaching). Western Michigan University, 1983.

Professional Theatre Program Fellowship. The University of Michigan, 1979 - 1982.

Best of Show, Textiles Category, Grand Valley State University Art Department 1978.

Alternate, E.W. Oldenburg Scholarship for English Literature. Grand Valley University 1976.