

ERIC BACKUS

COMPOSER AND SOUND DESIGNER

eric@ericbackus.com

www.ericbackus.com

SUMMARY A fun and creative artist with over 15 years professional experience as a composer, sound designer, and audio engineer. Enthusiastic collaborator and story teller, providing exceptional music and sound for a variety of mediums including live performances, podcasts, and film. Passionate mentor and educator to middle school, high school, and undergraduate students. Pronouns: He/him.

COMPOSITION Collaborate with theatre directors, film directors and producers, and podcast producers. Present examples of music research and facilitate conversations about musical style, aesthetic, period, and emotion. Create unique, genre-blending original music for film, plays, podcasts, acting reels, and promotional videos.

Composed and arranged more than 60 unique scores for theatrical productions to date - inspired by a wide range of musical genres including jazz, Western classical, pop, and ambient/electronic.

Carefully program software instruments to create nuanced, lifelike performances with MIDI recordings. Utilize Logic Pro X to mix and master cues for playback and publication.

SOUND DESIGN Worked Off-Broadway, regionally, and locally (Southern California and Chicago), designing sound on over 200 theatrical productions to date. Versatilely design in a variety of spaces ranging from 50 seat storefronts to 1,000 seat auditoriums to 4,000 seat amphitheaters. (Full theatrical credits resume at www.ericbackus.com)

Create compelling soundscapes and dramatically appropriate sound effects that compliment the overarching narrative and engage the audience.

Mix a variety of live performances including plays, musicals, concerts, and dance. Mix recorded audio for musical tracks, streaming videos, and podcasts.

Design sound systems that utilize professional audio equipment - including digital mixing consoles, Dante networks, and wireless microphones - for a wide variety of applications.

RECORDING AND EDITING Record voiceovers on location or in studio using field-recorders and/or professional grade microphones. Process low quality recordings and clean up unwanted environmental noise using iZotope RX.

Edit voiceovers, sound effects, and music.

Record music for song tracks, post-production audio, and streaming video.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Independently manage time to work on multiple projects simultaneously, completing projects to meet deadlines.

Manage and catalogue a personal library of digital audio assets including sound effects, recording files, and software instruments.

Supervise and coordinate production teams locally and remotely to execute physical installation of sound equipment.

Find creative solutions that fit budgetary constraints and utilize existing resources.

Serve a variety of clients, including commercial and non-for-profit theatres, public and private educational institutions, and individuals.

RECOGNITION

2023 Non-Equity Jeff Award - Sound Design

Solaris, Griffin Theatre

2023 Non-Equity Jeff Award Nomination - Original Music in a Play

Solaris, Griffin Theatre

2019 Jeff Award Nomination - Sound Design, Midsize

Wolf Play, The Gift Theater

2019 Jeff Award Nomination - Sound Design, Midsize

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey, American Blues Theater

2019 Syracuse Area Live Theatre (SALT) Award Nomination -

Sound Design of a Musical

Murder for Two, Merry Go Round Playhouse, NY

2017 Non-Equity Jeff Award Nomination - Sound Design

A Wrinkle in Time, Lifeline Theatre

2010 AriZoni Award - Best Sound Design for a Musical

The Rocky Show, Arizona State University Lyric Opera Theatre

2010 AriZoni Award Nomination - Best Sound Design for a Musical

La Cenerentola, Arizona State University Lyric Opera Theatre

SKILLS Music composition
Sound mixing/editing
Music and voiceover recording
Theatrical storytelling
Mentoring and teaching
Proficiency in Logic Pro, QLab, Kontakt, iZotope RX, misc. audio plugins;
OmniGraffle, Finale, MuseScore, Adobe Design Suite, Vectorworks, MS Office
Networking and Show Control Protocols (Dante, MIDI, OSC)
Sound system design and optimization
Team leadership
Time management
Collaboration
Customer service
Zamboni driving

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local USA829
American Society of Composers And Publishers (ASCAP)
Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association (TSDCA)

EDUCATION BA in Theatre
Arizona State University - Tempe, AZ
May 2010
Focus on Theatre Design & Production and Music
Graduated Cum Laude

MFA in Sound Design
University of California, Irvine - Irvine, CA
Expected June 2026

REFERENCES *References available upon request.*