

T. SAMPSON  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR / ADJUNCT PROFESSOR  
23-25 28TH STREET, APT. 2R  
ASTORIA, NY. 11105  
508.612.4429    sampsontj@yahoo.com  
[tsampson.com](http://tsampson.com)



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#### TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

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"Jack of all trades" is a figure of speech used in reference to a person that is competent with many skills. I have used this phrase my whole life a philosophy towards learning. I believe that if we learn a little bit about every subject we can, we will be well-rounded in todays' world. Every time I walk into a classroom I take this thought with me and bring it to the students..... See attached teaching philosophy statement.

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY, Hempstead, NY.  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Aug. 2012 - Present

Teaching three shop technology labs to a theatrical production lecture series class. Put together a course around the lecture class that teaches the students on the different aspects of technical theater. Instruct students on proper shop safety procedures and trained them on the proper use of all shop tools, i.e. table saw, compound miter saw, drills, etc. Showed how to hang, circuit and focus lighting instruments. Demonstrated chosen sewing techniques for costuming. Teach independent study courses on Technical Direction, including rigging, automation, drafting, budgeting, and material handling.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND, Warwick, RI.  
ASSISTANT TO INSTRUCTOR

Sept. 2010 - May 2011

Assisted instructor in teaching shop technology and safety to the students that worked in the shop.

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#### EDUCATION

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University of Connecticut- Masters Of Arts- Technical Production/Direction 2012  
Emerson College – Bachelor of Arts - Theater Studies (Design & Technology/Education) 2006  
Quinsigmond Community College- Associates Degree General Studies 2004



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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

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HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY, Hempstead, NY.

Aug. 2012- Present

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/ SCENE SHOP MANAGER

As Technical Director (TD) is responsible for making sure that all technical aspects of a show are carried out in a timely fashion. The TD position has two components; (1) management encompassing supervising, planning, and coordinating, budgetary, and (2) technical aspects of a production. This aspect involves the hands on implementation of the design and all technical elements, such as the construction, mounting, rigging and maintenance of all scenic elements in departmental productions.

As Scene Shop Manager is responsible for the overall running of the shop. Maintaining all shop tools and overseeing inventory of stock materials and hardware

New York, NY

Oct. 2012- Present

FREELANCE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Have worked with Astoria Performing Arts Center, Prospect Theater, Theater of New Canaan, Terra Nova Project, and Stonington Opera House. See show list for more information

ACADEMY OF MUSIC THEATER, Northampton, MA.

Aug. 2011 - Aug. 2012

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

As the Technical Director of a roadhouse theater, my responsibilities lied more with the management part of being a TD. I oversaw an IATSE union crew with the load in, performance and strike of shows ranging in variety from poetry reading to full on musical productions. I worked with each rented on developing their show come out the way they were envisioning.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND, Warwick, RI.

Sept. 2010-July 2011

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The Assistant Technical Director (ATD) assists the Technical Director (TD) in the completion of the scenery, lights, and other technology areas for each production. ATD ensure that all carpenters are trained in the proper use of the all shop tools. ATD runs the shop in the absence of the TD.



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## NORTHEAST AREA

FREELANCE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/ MASTER CARPENTER/ SCENIC DESIGNER

May 2007 - Aug. 2011

Have worked Wachusett Theater Camp, Auburn Public Schools, Stagedoor Manor Theatre Camp, Quinsigmond Community College, and Middlesex Community College. See show list for more

SEACOAST REPERTORY THEATRE, Portsmouth, NH.  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Sept. 2007 - Aug. 2008

As the Technical Director (TD) of a small repertory theater the responsibilities covered a large array of responsibilities. As the TD I would be in charge of all technical aspects including but limited to scenic, lights, and sound. Maintaining an offsite shop with minimal staff, i.e. master carpenter, scenic charge, master electrician (all over hires). During the summer would run two shows in rep along with a children's performance.

BROWN UNIVERSITY, Providence, RI.  
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Sept. 2006 - Dec. 2006

The Assistant Technical Director (ATD) assists the Technical Director (TD) in the completion of the scenery, lights, and other technology areas for each production. ATD ensure that all carpenters are trained in the proper use of the all shop tools. ATD runs the shop in the absence of the TD.

LOST NATION THEATRE, Montpelier, VT.  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

June 2006 - Sept. 2006

As the Technical Director (TD) of a small repertory theater the responsibilities covered a large array of responsibilities. As the TD I would be in charge of all technical aspects including but limited to scenic, lights, and sound. Maintaining an offsite shop with minimal staff.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR, United States  
SHADOW'S WOODS' DESIGN - OWNER

June 1990 - Aug. 1999

As the owner of a design and remodeling business, I have worked all over the US. I worked on all aspects of remodeling homes, but for sometime my main business focused around custom treehouses for children and some adults.



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## RELATED SKILLS

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Scenic Design ( hand drafting and CAD- AutoCAD and Vectorworks, rendering, model building)&  
Scenic Construction(carpentry, framing, finish, and cabinetmaking, MIG Welding), Master Electrician,  
Master Rigger; Fundamentals of Costume Design & Construction; Lighting Design/Sound Design.



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## REFERENCES

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David M. Henderson, Chair  
Department of Drama and Dance  
Hofstra University  
011 Emily Lowe Hall  
516.463-5236 (office)  
David.M.Henderson@hofstra.edu

Jack Nardi  
Associate Professor  
The Department of Dramatic Arts  
Executive Technical Director  
Connecticut Repertory Theatre  
University of Connecticut, Storrs.  
860.486.1877  
Jack.nardi@uconn.edu

Pope Jackson  
Founder and CEO  
Actuator Inc.  
[nycpope@gmail.com](mailto:nycpope@gmail.com)  
718.792.1731

Robert Mark Morgan  
Asst. Professor – Scenic Design  
University of Washington  
School of Drama  
206.616.5951(office)  
[www.morgansetdesign.com](http://www.morgansetdesign.com)  
[www.depts.washington.edu/uwdrama](http://www.depts.washington.edu/uwdrama)

Rafael Jaen  
Assistant Professor of Performing Arts  
College of Liberal Arts  
UMASS Boston  
KCACTF Region 1, D,T & M Co-Chair  
Office: 617.287.5640



"Jack of all trades" is a figure of speech used in reference to a person that is competent with many skills. I have used this phrase my whole life a philosophy towards learning. I believe that if we learn a little bit about every subject we can, we will be well-rounded in today's world.

Every time I walk into a classroom I take this thought with me and bring it to the students. Teaching performing arts is never black and white, but many shades of color. The creativity and imagination needed to work in an industry solely focused on expression, in any form, can't be limited to just the knowledge of one subject. Whether or not the student is a performing arts major, of any concentration, the skills they can learn from any performing arts class, is helpful. The performing arts, whether technical or performance is a discipline that needs true commitment. Like other professions it's not just about "keeping up with the Jones's". Performers and technicians alike, are always trying to challenge themselves, and as a professor it is our job to help them learn to find their limitations and help the students push through them. The students are here to learn and one of those things that they should learn is to fail. Understanding this failure is how we can learn to do better. Isn't that what they teach you in history, that if we know what has happened we can hopefully not be doomed to repeat it?

I have found in my time of teaching, formally and informally, that not only am I sharing with these young minds everything that I know, but also, I'm learning from them. I believe we should never stop learning from wherever we can. Whether teaching in a formal classroom setting or out there, in the real world, learning is what we should all be continually doing. Teaching the students to want to learn, to crave it, and to never stop learning is what I try to instill in them. We need to learn, because it allows us the opportunities we need to do better and to be better.

When you want something bad enough you will jump through hoops to get it. As a teacher, at any level, this is what we hope for. A student that craves to learn, to want to do better than they ever have, to push themselves and their imagination. Similar to that of a parent, we try and teach our "children", these students, that what's out there can be scary, but to move past the fear and grab hold of what you want and never let go.

During my classes not only do we work on the subject at hand but there are times it can leave that and move into subjects that have nothing to do with what the class is about. I necessarily don't ever have any major issue with this because I can tell where the connections are, and what they want or need to share. Again, the performing arts are about expressing one's creativity and imagination, and there is no real right or wrong answer, just thought.



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I have been lucky in my learning, as I travelled around the world; I was able to experience many different things, people and cultures. This experience has shaped me to whom I am today. These interactions allow me to hopefully connect with the students and share my life experience not only in the professional world but also in life in general. Sometimes all a student or person needs is to see that there are others out there that want to see them succeed. Giving them a chance to do so is important. Right now, I have a student whom few believe is skilled enough to take on the position given to her. And with that she is starting to believe it is true. Now, I know she doesn't have all the skills needed but how else will she learn if she doesn't get the chance to do so. As a former student, I've always appreciated the professors giving me the chances to succeed even knowing that I could just as easily fail. And I did at times. Higher education is a place to allow the students to take chances and yes, fail at times. But doing it in a safe environment instead of "out there" we can help them learn to see where they went wrong and how to fix it. Learning to spot where it went wrong and the decisions they made that lead them to this failure is as important as learning how to do it right.

I never thought much of the notion of higher education when I was in my twenties. Traveling around the world I believed was enough of an education. After my son was born I realized that this idea was not true. That a higher education was valuable and helpful in my philosophy of learning. So in my mid-thirties I returned to college with more drive than ever before to learn. Higher education is not just about a piece of paper but the sum of work needed to get it. The commitment to learn about the subject and those other areas around it.

The second part to the phrase, "Jack of all trades", is "master of none", has in the past had a negative connotation to it. That they have skills but superficial in all. I have always thought the opposite because one is always learning and trying to seek mastery of all. Mastering one subject can be done but to master them all is an ongoing, life long experience that I hope my students will learn to work towards.