

National Aviary News

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WINGS! Production Bios

Dan Fallon (Producer)

Dan Fallon currently serves on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College specializing in the field of Arts Management. Prior to that he served with the National Endowment for the Arts as a site evaluator, traveling to theatre companies across the U.S. that applied for grants to the NEA. He most recently engineered the merger of the Paramount Theatre and State Theater in Austin Texas, and served as the CEO of both companies during the process. Prior to this, Mr. Fallon worked in New York City as the general manager for the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, when it was the home to the Broadway production of *Ragtime*. While in New York, he also served as the general manager for the national tour of the Donald Byrd Dance Foundation's production of Duke Ellington's *The Harlem Nutcracker*.

Before that, he served for three years as the managing director for Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and prior to that was the managing director at Pittsburgh Public Theater for seven seasons. In 1993, Mr. Fallon completed a two and a half week tour of Russia where he was one of six American arts managers invited as guests of the Russian government to visit several of their theaters and to participate in a symposium to discuss "Strategies and Techniques of the Non-Profit Theater's Survival". He served from 1985 to 1988 as the managing director of the Pennsylvania Stage Company in Allentown, PA. From 1982 to 1985 he served as the managing director of the critically acclaimed Pittsburgh Renaissance Theatre, a professional musical theater that he founded. An accomplished director and choreographer, he has more than 30 major musical productions to his credit at several major musical theater companies including the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera.

Mr. Fallon is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and the recipient of an MBA from Kent State University. He has worked as an engineer and marketing manager for both General Motors and General Electric. He has served as a faculty member for a masters' class of the Carnegie Mellon Arts Management Program, on the executive committee for the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), on the Advisory Committee of Carnegie Mellon's Master of Arts Management Program, and on the board of directors for the Theater Association of Pennsylvania. He remains an active member of Actors Equity Association and the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers.

Michael Thomas Essad (Scenic Designer - Technical Director)

Michael is very thrilled to be working on this exciting new project for the National Aviary. A Pittsburgh native, Michael is currently in his sixth season as the technical director and resident scenic designer for The Pittsburgh Playhouse and Point Park University. During the previous

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five years Michael's design credits at the Playhouse include *Hair*, *Philadelphia Story*, *Contact*, *The King of Hearts*, *Ragtime*, *Frogs*, *Reefer Madness*, *FBI Girl*, *Ah, Wilderness*, *Streets of America*, *Snow Queen*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Can Can*, *Parade* and *Mojo* just to name a few. Last season he designed *Carousel*, *Buried Child* and *That Championship Season*. Michael also designed a production of *Contact* at the Asolo Theater in Sarasota Florida last season. In his spare time he is the technical director for all of the Playhouse productions. His other recent credits include three years as technical director at the Pittsburgh Public Theater and six years at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami Florida where he sent several shows to Broadway. Other credits include the Berkeley Repertory Theater, California Shakespeare Festival, Actors Playhouse in Miami, San Jose Repertory Company and the California Theater Center in Sunnyvale Ca. He has been a set designer for over 80 shows in Miami, Berkeley and Pittsburgh.

Michael also designs and builds furniture for both theatrical productions and the private sector as well. Michael would like to dedicate this production as well as the rest of his life to his new bride Jessi.

Jessi Sedon-Essad (Video Designer)

Jessi Sedon-Essad has been a projection designer for theatre, dance and installation in Pittsburgh for the past eight years. She has had the pleasure of working with The Pittsburgh Playhouse, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, Bricolage Production Company, Attack Theatre, The August Wilson Center, and The Pillow Project. Ms. Sedon-Essad is currently a video designer and operator for Squonk Opera's most recent show *Mayhem & Majesty*. Her work has been featured at Pittsburgh's Film Kitchen and The Space Upstairs. She also designed, created and implemented her own projection installations for last year's Second Saturdays events.

Andrew Ostrowski (Lighting Design)

A freelance lighting designer for over 12 years, Andrew Ostrowski has designed for almost every arts organization in the city. In that time he has designed over 150 productions for the Pittsburgh CLO, City Theater, Playhouse Repertory, Playhouse Conservatory Company and others. Mr. Ostrowski has designed for national companies as well, including Spoleto USA, The Asolo, Virginia Stage, Dallas Summer Musicals, and Theaterworks Palo Alto, to name a few. He has also designed internationally in Sweden,

Ireland, France and was lighting director for a five-year international tour of ***Porgy and Bess*** that played every western European country except Portugal.

Brad Peterson (Media Programming)

Brad Peterson is an audio engineer and theatrical sound designer who appreciates the variety of organizations for whom he works and the diversity of people he works alongside. He's been with Pittsburgh's City Theatre Company for nine seasons, most recently as sound engineer and projection technician. He has designed for City Theatre, Point Park University, Bricolage and Open Stage Theatre. Special thanks to his fiancée's cockatiel, Pretty, for helping him prepare.