

# Bex Deck

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## EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Bachelor of Arts, May 2024

- Majors: Comparative Literature, and Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)
- Minor: History

## EXPERIENCE

**Set Designer and Builder for *The New Albion Radio Hour*** | UMass Theater Department's Fringe Fest | April-May 2024

- Worked with Director and artistic team to design and create build plan for a student-run performance of *The New Albion Radio Hour*
- Researched ideas for set design, using both the historical context and script of the opera to create a cityscape grounded in 1920s architecture
- Worked with Costume Designer and Lighting Designer to ensure the scenery works well with costume coloring and lighting

**Set Designer and Set Builder for *Thief of the Moon*** | UMass Amherst Fashion Organization | February - March 2024

- Worked with Director to create an artistic vision for the production based on the Greek myth of Selene and Endymion
- Built an 8.5-foot tall 3-dimensional tree for production with a wooden framework and chicken wire for support and strength, paper mâché for texture, and paint to produce a clean, finished look
- Drafted technical plans to build the 8.5-foot tall tree, and translated those build plans into reality; this included experimenting with different paint colors and techniques to create a life-like tree
- Created a build schedule to maximize time management and complete the scenery pieces before the production deadline

**Scene Shop Assistant** | UMass Amherst Theater Department Scene Shop | Spring 2024

- Worked 8 hours each week in UMass Amherst's Scene Shop under the direction of the Technical Director and Scene Shop Construction Director to build the set for UMass Amherst Theater Department's production of *Twelfth Night*
- Tasks have included: measuring, building, and securing stud walls for elevated platforms, drawing to-scale grids to cut organic shapes from plywood, testing the soundness of each set piece to ensure each piece was safe for actors to interact with, painting the stages apron
- Managed the design, creation, and installation of a canvas covering onto the theater floor as part of the set for *Twelfth Night*
- Dismantled the sets of two productions during their strike times, salvaging what materials could be reused for future productions
- Learned how to weld steel using an ARC welding machine to attach new pieces to the grille of a golf cart, ensuring maximum structural stability
- Repaired the Scene Shop's Cold Saw after its reservoir broke

**Build Crew** | UMass Amherst Theater Department Scene Shop | Fall 2023

- Completed 50 hours of work on the build crew for the Theater Department's two fall shows, "the Hatmaker's Wife", and "They Don't Pay, We Won't Pay"

- Completed tasks such as painting scene pieces, and hanging soft goods such as legs, scrim, blackout curtains etc. with the rigging system. Used power tools to complete tasks such as attaching supports to tall set pieces, securing canvas to wooden frames, etc

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**Orientation Leader & Senior Orientation Leader** | Office of New Student Orientation and Transitions | UMass Amherst, *Amherst, MA* | Fall 2021 – Spring 2024

- Worked effectively in a team setting to create a welcoming and positive environment for new students and informed them about UMass resources and services
- Communicated and engaged with new students to ensure a smooth transition to UMass through planning and facilitating group sessions, providing support for New Student events, and following directives
- Found creative solutions to solve student's lack of engagement with orientation by creating fun activities that enabled students to engage with each other and form connections. This solution was then adopted by the rest of our Orientation team for use with their own students
- Communicated with professional staff members to resolve conflicts our Orientation Leaders had with certain job expectations they did not understand
- As a Senior Orientation Leader, led and mentored a team of 10 individuals, serving as a role model for being an Orientation Leader, and served as an intermediary between our Orientation Leaders and Professional Staff members, mentored a smaller group of 7 orientation leaders, facilitated team-building between mentees

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Scene Shop Volunteer at the Amherst Community Theater** | Amherst, MA | Fall 2024 – present

- Volunteering at the Amherst Community Theater for their production of “Newsies”
- Painted cityscape backdrop of New York City in the early 1900s
- Cleaned out set trailer with team of volunteers and moved materials to new scene shop location
- Set up materials at new scene shop location, including rebuilding the wood rack, and rebuilding tables

**Scene Shop Volunteer at the Double Edge Theater** | Ashfield, MA | Summer 2023

- Volunteered at the Double Edge Theater's Scene Shop for their production “Lightning”
- Worked with paper mâché to help create three different masks for different costumes
- Painted three masks as well as assorted pieces of scenery including flooring

**Scene Shop Volunteer at the Amherst Community Theater** | Amherst, MA | Fall – Winter 2022

- Volunteered at the Amherst Community Theater's Scene Shop for their production of “The Little Mermaid”
- Worked with other volunteers to paint a banner for the show
- Painted the prince's castle set piece