

RESIDENCE: Chicago, IL

CURRENT PROJECT(S): Sound design for *Mary Poppins* at Paramount Theatre in Aurora, associate sound design for *Dee Snider's Rock & Roll Christmas Tale*.

MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Hearing my work at international theatre festivals in Romania and Sydney, Australia.

WHEN I STARTED IN THIS INDUSTRY: I began working backstage in high school in 1997; I started focusing on sound design in 2003.

HOW I GOT INTO THIS INDUSTRY: I was very interested in the technical parts of theatre while in middle school. At the time, I had no idea it was a viable career option, but I couldn't be happier getting to be a sound designer for a living.

INFLUENCES: Paul Phillips originally got me involved in theatre, so he gets credit for my career path. Once I became focused on sound design, I went to see (and listen to) as many shows as I could; Jonathan Deans' work on *Cirque du Soleil* shows and other Broadway designers like Abe Jacob and Acme Sound Partners were part of my learning process. I also have to credit my professors Matt Knewton, Vinnie Olivieri, and Mike Hooker.

WORST ADVICE I'VE EVER HEARD: "Your ears will be fine." I almost always have hearing protection with me. My ears are my career. I call them my "carears." (I don't really call them that. But I might start.)

BEST ADVICE I'VE EVER HEARD: "Go see shows." I learn something from every single show I see.

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE PRODUCTION INDUSTRY: I love the people I work with. Putting shows together with the designers, production people, and performers in the industry are why I do this. I have fun on every single show I am a part of. I love laughing and creating art with my peers.

FAVORITE DESIGN/PROGRAMMING/TECHNICAL TRICK: I have to credit fellow designer Ray Nardelli with this one: Any time I have a keyboard part in a show, I use a separate output for "keys sub" to add extra low end to certain patches without pushing their overall volume.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: I'd love to keep my calendar filled with productions that make me feel excited, challenged, and happy, but isn't that everyone's plan? I love what I do, so I look forward to finding out what the future holds.

OTHER INTERESTS/SIDE GIGS: I'm also very passionate about mixing shows. I've been lucky enough to mix various shows all around the world. From symphonic concerts to hip-hop Shakespeare productions, I love being behind a sound board.

AWARDS, HONORS: BA from Western Michigan University, MFA from University of California, Irvine.

WEBSITE: pjankens.com



Meet Palmer Jankens