VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF DESIGN
Department of Theater and Performance Studies

POSITION SUMMARY
The Visiting Assistant Professor of Design will teach introductory, intermediate and advanced courses in scenic and lighting design, design scenery and/or lighting for mainstage productions, supervise student designers and design assistants, and collaborate with department faculty and staff to plan curriculum and productions. The position begins August 16, 2022 for a one-year appointment with the possibility of extension.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS

● Teach THEA 175 Introduction to Design, and a rotation of intermediate and advanced design courses including: THEA 225 Scene Painting, THEA 275 Scenic Design, THEA 325 Lighting Design, and others as appropriate and desired by the department. The person hired in this position would be expected to advance instruction in design to encompass new digital technologies and aesthetics, including multimedia design for live performance. In addition, the successful candidate might team-teach design collaboration or other new design courses, and possibly teach in the First Year Seminar or THEA 301 Theater History depending on academic background / previous teaching experience.

● Design Scenery, including design, execution, and supervision of properties and scenic art (and possibly lighting) for 3 mainstage productions annually and/or supervise students approved to design scenery or lighting for their senior comps projects; and mentor students as assistant designers, property managers, scenic artists, projection designers, etc.

● Collaborate with department faculty and staff to plan curriculum, production seasons, production budgets, and approve and mentor senior projects.

● Facilitate the use of stock prop / furniture loans and use by students or classes in T & PS as well as Media Arts and Culture.

As one of the few urban liberal arts colleges in the country, Occidental affords students and faculty unique engagement with communities, cultural institutions, and academic resources throughout Los Angeles. The Theater & Performance Studies Department leverages our urban location through rich partnerships with theater artists and companies in Los Angeles and our students regularly benefit from working with these artists in the classroom and in production. Students also benefit from an active playgoing program. The Department is an active community participant through our regular curriculum and
the Occidental Children’s Theater and its programs. For more information, please visit the Theater & Performance Studies Department online.

QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate must have:

- an MFA (and/or PhD) in Scenic Design or a closely related area of design
- training and practical experience in scenic design, CAD drafting, scene painting, lighting and projection design among other areas;
- must have demonstrated experience teaching and mentoring undergraduate design students;
- must provide a portfolio of scenic design at the professional and collegiate level - demonstration of multi-media or digital design will be a plus.
- Other areas of teaching and design expertise are desirable.
- The department looks for a colleague who will commit not only to teaching existing classes and being an integral part of our production program, but one who has a truly interdisciplinary approach to the study and making of live performance; and to support our efforts to make our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion visible across campus.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Candidates should send their application as an electronic file to Professor Brian Fitzmorris at theatersearch@oxy.edu. A complete application will include the following materials:

1. a cover letter detailing your interest in teaching at Occidental, a liberal arts institution with a mission of equity and excellence; a discussion of artistic practice; and a description of your teaching experience;
2. a statement of teaching philosophy that includes a discussion of your commitment to, past evidence of, and future plans for creating equitable opportunities for learning and mentoring, especially for underrepresented students;
3. a list and brief descriptions of the courses you could teach at Oxy;
4. Curriculum Vitae; and
5. three confidential letters of recommendation, with at least one attesting to your teaching; letters must be sent by recommenders directly to theatersearch@oxy.edu.

Applications will be accepted until May 2, 2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This position is included in the Non-Tenure Track Bargaining Unit, and the successful applicant will be a bargaining unit employee, subject to the terms of the College’s Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU Local 721.
Occidental is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding or related medical condition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristic or information, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. Occidental is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the curriculum, and to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and just environment within which students, staff, administrators, and faculty thrive. Candidates who can contribute to this goal through their work are encouraged to identify their strengths and experiences in this area. Individuals advancing the College’s strategic equity and justice goals and those from groups that are underrepresented in the field are particularly encouraged to apply.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. A comprehensive benefits package is available that includes: excellent health, dental, life, and retirement benefits; tuition benefits for the employee, spouse, domestic partner, and dependents; additional extras including use of gym facilities and the College Library. For a detailed description of benefits, please visit https://www.oxy.edu/offices-services/humanresources/benefits-information.

All qualified applicants will be considered for employment, including those with criminal histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles’ Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.

Occidental College is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodations to applicants with qualifying disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability for any part of the application or employment process, please contact Human Resources (hr@oxy.edu).

As a condition of hire for a staff position and for appointment to a faculty position, Occidental College requires that all candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment complete an application form (if they have not already done so) and consent to a background check. Satisfactory completion of a background check, along with pre-employment verifications and references are required as a condition of employment, but only as permitted by federal, state, and local law, including the City of Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.