

Ian Black - Resume (Theatre)

IAN BLACK

Jacksonville, FL → Relocating to Chicago Metro Area
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Scenic fabricator and technical builder with 12 years of hands-on theatre production experience and a foundation in metal fabrication. I design and build set pieces, mechanical props, lighting integrations, and special effects — whatever the production needs, I figure out how to make it real and make it work night after night. My background spans metal, wood, fiberglass, foam, and electronics, giving me the versatility to take on any build challenge a production throws at me.

CORE CAPABILITIES

- Set design and scenic fabrication (concept through load-in)
 - Metal, wood, fiberglass, and foam fabrication
 - Mechanical prop design and electronic mechanization
 - Intelligent lighting integration
 - Welding, cutting, forming, and finishing
 - HVAC and electrical systems knowledge
 - Multi-material problem solving under tight production timelines
 - Training and mentoring shop team members
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THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Scenic Fabrication Lead

Alhambra Theatre & Dining — Jacksonville, FL
2013 - 2025

Lead fabricator for a professional dinner theatre producing year-round shows. Took a wood-only scenic shop and expanded it into a full multi-material fabrication operation capable of handling any design challenge.

- Introduced metal fabrication to the shop — brought in welding, cutting, and forming capabilities that opened up entirely new possibilities for set design
- Designed and built mechanized set pieces and props with integrated electronic controls, engineered for tight tolerances and reliable performance across full production runs
- Integrated intelligent lighting systems into scenic elements, coordinating structural, electrical, and aesthetic requirements for each production
- Built with fiberglass, foam, wood, and metal — choosing the right material for each application based on weight, durability, visual

- effect, and budget
 - Solved unique engineering challenges on every production — no two shows were the same, each requiring original design thinking and hands-on problem solving
 - Mentored shop team members on new fabrication techniques as capabilities expanded
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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Maintenance Technician

Matthew's Crossing — Jacksonville, FL
2006 - 2013

Maintained building systems across a large residential complex. Developed deep practical knowledge of HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems. Trained co-workers on improved troubleshooting methods.

Metal Fabrication Apprentice

Therm Flo — Wheeling, IL
2001 - 2006

Five-year apprenticeship in a production metal fabrication shop. Trained in industrial cutting, forming, welding, and finishing — the foundation that made everything after possible.

WHAT I BRING TO A PRODUCTION

I've spent 12 years solving the problem of "how do we build that?" — and the answer has never been "we can't." Whether it's a set piece that needs to fly, a prop that needs to transform on cue, or a scenic element that needs to look like stone but weigh like foam, I find the way to make it happen. My metal fabrication background gives me capabilities most scenic shops don't have in-house, and my instinct is always to expand what's possible rather than work around limitations.

Portfolio of scenic fabrication, prop design, and production work available upon request.