

Curriculum Vitae – Professor David C. Pecoraro, M.F.A.

March, 2021

Background Summary Litigation Consultant, Expert Safety Witness, Tenured Full Time Professor, Student Caring Co-Founder, Author, Podcaster, Public Speaker, Entertainment Production Manager, Special Effects Designer, and Lighting Designer with positions in higher education, professional theatre, theme parks, and special events.

Expert Safety Witness Research, interview, inspect, write reports, attend depositions, mediations, and testify in cases involving accidents in the entertainment business. [Expert Witness Website](#)

Author: [Safety in Entertainment Environments - White Paper](#)

Select Cases:

- 2020 A talented opera student's career ended during a failed stunt.
- 2019 An actress suffered a career altering injury during a technical rehearsal.
- 2018 Injury of a student during a rehearsal.
- 2017 Injury of beauty pageant contestant when she fell into an orchestra pit.
- 2016 Injury of a conference attendee. Backstage injury of an actress.
- 2015 Injury of a stage technician who fell off of a stage.
- 2014 Injury of a performer on a cruise ship. [Press](#)
- 2012 Injury of performer Bret Michaels during the 2009 Tony Awards. [Video](#)
- 1999 Injury of an actor who fell off of a stage.
- Consultant: [Event Safety Guide](#) for the [Event Safety Alliance](#)

Tenured Full Time Professor Vanguard University | Costa Mesa, California | 2004 - 2021

• U.S. News & World Report | NAST (National Association for Schools of Theatre) Accredited Theatre Department

• Courses Portfolio: Introduction to Theatre | Introduction to the Arts | Lighting Design | Stage Management | Theory and Criticism | Producing and Management | Career Directions and Your Daily Bread | Theatre

Internship | Junior and Senior Project | Portfolio

• Resident production manager and lighting designer

• Committees: Faculty Development | Academic Structure | Student Success

Co-Founder - The Student Caring Project Student Caring | Anaheim, California | 2011 - Present

• A joint project with Dr. Daniel de Roulet of Irvine Valley College. The Student Caring Project seeks to educate students by understanding their strengths and challenges and then helping them to make the most of their college educations. We seek to clarify expectations about the goals of higher education for both professors and students, and we provide practical tools for faculty, students, and students' families that will increase student success.

• Co-Author: [The Caring Professor: A Guide to Effective, Rewarding, and Rigorous Teaching](#)

• Student Caring Podcast for Professors

Faculty Head of Graduate Stage Management & Production Manager University of California, Irvine | Irvine, California | 1997 - 2004

• During my tenure, I was responsible for admissions to the graduate stage management program, wrote the curriculum, taught all courses and led the program to national prominence. My former students are leaders in the entertainment business.

• Courses Portfolio: Introduction to Stage Management | Personnel Management | The Joy of Cue Calling | The Stage Manager and Safety | Special Event Management | The Stage Manager and Stress | Work / Career Balance | Rehearsals | Technical Rehearsals and Performances

• Mentored graduate student; scenic designers, costume designers, lighting designers, audio designers and stage managers.

• Instructor for the course for crews, Drama-101. Assign students to stage crews production area shops; scenery, costumes, lighting, and audio.

• As production manager, I was responsible for the administration and management of all functions which support all performance activities for 250 public performances annually for the departments of drama, dance, and music.

• Supervised the full time production team of 12 employees.

• Developed production calendars, deadlines and budgets for the school. Managed all financial transactions for materials and personnel within the \$2,000,000. annual budget.

• Designed and implemented systems to computerize all production operations and communications.

• Responsible for the safety and training of all production personnel in the school of the arts inclusive of support shops, rehearsal studios, and six performance venues.

Production Manager & Adjunct Faculty Saddleback College | Mission Viejo, California | 1980 - 1997

- Courses Portfolio: Lighting Design | Advanced Lighting Design | Stage Management | Theater Production
- Resident production manager and lighting designer
- Mentor design, technology and management students.
- Responsible for the planning and execution of over 75 events annually including plays, musicals, music concerts, and guest artists and international touring companies.

Graduate Teaching Instructor Temple University | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 1976 - 1980

- Course: Theater Production
- Design, build, and manage plays for the university at the main campus, downtown theatre and the Walnut Street Theatre.

Technical Director & Resident Stage Manager Fullerton Civic Light Opera Company | Fullerton, California | 1974 - 1976

- Hire and supervise all personnel for the scene shop and show operation crews.
- Stage manage all musical theatre productions for the six-productions per season company.
- Manage the rental department.

EDUCATION

- M.F.A., Theatre Design and Technology | Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 1980
- B.A., Theatre Design and Technology | California State University, Fullerton | 1977
- A.A., Theatre | Fullerton College, Fullerton, California | 1975
- Theatre Technologies Course | Radio City Music Hall, New York, New York | 1979
- Mediator Certification Course | State of California | 1999
- Regulating Proximate Fireworks Course | Los Angeles Fire Authority | 2001
- The Art and Craft of Discussion Leadership Course | Professor Louis B. Barnes | Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts | 2003

Active Shooter Course | FBI-LA | 2020
Lifetime Instructor Credential | The California Community Colleges | No 116PEC001 / 226718 | 1980

SECURITY CLEARANCE

- I have worked for the President of the United States on numerous events and have been cleared to do so by the United States Secret Service.

PUBLISHED

The Student Caring Blog | 2011 - Present
The Caring Professor: A Guide to Effective, Rewarding, and Rigorous Teaching
Creating a Water Sparkle Effect | Theatre Crafts Magazine | October, 1980
Thesis: Lighting Design With High Intensity Xenon Equipment | Temple University Library | June, 1980

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Producer: Discover Arts Outreach / Jonathan Jaques Foundation, memorial Hospital, Long Beach, California, 1993 - 1999 Produced, pro-bono, an annual special event - performance/experience for children with cancer and their families.

AFFILIATIONS

- National Association for Schools of Theatre
- Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- University / Regional Theatre Association
- Theatre Communications Group
- Stage Managers' Association

ENTERTAINMENT PROJECTS

Executive Producer | Suburban Showgirl | 2013

- Produced the one-woman show in the NoHo Arts District | North Hollywood, California

Pyrotechnician | Pyro Spectaculars | 2013

- Worked on the crew to prepare, load, and fire the aerial display for the community of Woodbridge | Irvine, California

Instructor | George Washington University | 1999

- Instructor for the two-day seminar, "Corporate Event Management." The seminar is a required course towards the student's certificate as a Certified Special Events Manager

Producer | DP Productions | 1993 - 1995

- The special event production company produced the 1994, Fashion Island – Newport Beach, Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Two years of creative development work for the yet to be realized, “Biblical Arts Masterworks” production. Volunteer work for causes.

Producer | The City of Calgary | 1989

- Produced the Grand Opening and Gala Fundraiser for the City's new Center. Winner of the best International Special Event, 1989 - MAXXI Award.

Special Effects Designer | The City of Jacksonville, Florida | 1989

- Balloon release (80,000) and management for the One Hour Live Television Special Celebration - Grand Opening Celebration, Jacksonville Landing & Labor Day Tribute.

Lighting Designer | Los Pasados | 1988 - Present

- For the city of San Antonio, Texas, I designed the lighting for the stage and river floats for their annual "Christmas Pageant River Parade."

Event Stage Manager | White House | 1988

- Responsible for President Ronald Reagan's entrance onto the Convention floors and related entertainment, Super Dome, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Fireworks & Special Effects Designer | New Orleans | 1988

- Designed a balloon drop, indoor pyrotechnics and aerial fireworks show for the grand opening of the New Orleans Center.

Production Stage Manager | Neil Sedaka | 1988

- Managed the one night special event at the MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Event Stage Manager | White House | 1988

- Managed the event including the participation of Vice President Bush and the U.S. Armed Forces at the Lincoln Memorial and Kennedy Center.
- Decorated the Washington D.C. Mall reflection pond with 400 American flags.

Event Manager | Pope John Paul II | 1987

- Organized a group 12,000 volunteers for the realization of a card stunt at the Papal Youth Rally in the Super Dome, New Orleans, Louisiana

Event Manager | Bayside | 1987

- Grand opening special event for the city of Miami, Florida

Special Effects Designer | Caesars Palace | 1987

- Designed unique illuminated properties for "The Great American Boardwalk Electric Light & Magic Show," Caesars Palace, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Production Stage Manager | Disneyland | 1987

- Responsible for headliner productions on the Tom Sawyer Island Stage. Featured performances, The Pointer Sisters and Lou Rawls. Anaheim, California

Event Manager | United States Olympic Committee | 1987

- Fundraiser Dinner for the 1984 Summer Olympics, games of the XXIII Olympiad. Los Angeles, California

Parade Stage Manager | Tournament of Roses Parade | 1986

- Managed the opening parade unit consisting of 12 floats, a marching band of 400 and drill team of 1000 for the United Ways Centennial Year kick off. Pasadena, California

Lighting Design Consultant | Disneyland | 1986

- Advised on the lighting design for the grand opening of the "Star Tours" attraction, Tomorrowland. Anaheim, California

Lighting & Audio Designer | The State of California | 1985

- The "California's Night" Governors Ball. San Diego, California

Consultant | XXIII Los Angeles Summer Olympics | 1985

- Original concept, design and management work for the opening and closing ceremonies. Los Angeles, California

Event & Stage Manager | National Football League | 1983

- Managed the Super Bowl halftime show, "KalidaSUPERscope". Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California

Production Stage Manager | The Glory of Christmas | 1981 - 1983

- Managed all aspects of the show for the design and technical staff including: casting, volunteers, costuming, props, scenery, flying angels, and camels! 'Called' the shows for the 3,000 seat cathedral. The show ran from 1981 to 2009 and grossed over \$4.5 Million annually. Event Producer, Robert F. Jani. Crystal Cathedral / Christ Cathedral - Garden Grove, California

Lighting & Special Effects Designer | Six Flags - Sea World | 1983

- Designed the lighting and atmospheric visual special effects for the penguins at the "Penguin Polar Exhibit." San Diego, California

Lighting Designer | XIII Winter Olympics | 1980

- Designed lighting for medal awards ceremonies and "Victory Celebration." Lake Placid, New York

Event & Stage Manager | Disneyland | 1980

- Designed special Sky-Lighting Effects for the New Years Eve Party. Anaheim, California

Production Stage Manager & Lighting Designer | Cedar Fair - Knott's Berry Farm | 1975 - 1976

- Production Stage Manager for various live stage presentations and "Headliners" in the 1,500 seat (John Wayne) theater including, The Everly Brothers, The Smothers Brothers, Debbi Reynolds, Willie Nelson, etc... Buena Park, California

Lighting Designer | Japanese Village and Deer Park | 1974

- Guest Artists & Summer Spectacular Productions. Buena Park, California