

Developing a "Professional" Portfolio

What kind of an artist/designer are you . . . or want to become?

GUIDELINES

- Determine what you want your portfolio to do for you and what kind of portfolio you need. What kind of presentation do you want to make?
- Determine where you are likely to find your best opportunities.
- Compile, edit, and select your artwork.
- Select a binder/portfolio case and format your portfolio.
- Organize your work graphically or thematically.
- Convert your artwork to a size that will fit your portfolio format/size.
- Assemble all the pieces, matting materials, and labels.
- Review your resume.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- Begin with a bang.
Place a bang in the middle.
End with a big bang.
- Investment in your portfolio is investment in your future.
- Your portfolio becomes a work of art in itself.
- Create stronger work for your portfolio.
- In-process photos of theatrical scenery/prop construction, painting, and stage makeup are important.
- Job announcements often describe the ideal candidate.
- Be resourceful/professional and constantly on the lookout for opportunities.
- Strive to become more than just competent in your profession.
- Your portfolio is ever changing. Work on it should continue your entire career.

Items to Include in a Portfolio (Applying for College Programs) - and beyond!

SCENIC DESIGN

- Initial 'thumbnail' sketches
- Ground plans, elevations, painter's elevations
- Photographs of models
- Research collages (If too bulky, take a photo of them.)
- Photos of the finished product(s) – close ups if detail is important

TECHNICAL DIRECTION & STAGE CARPENTRY

- Technical (construction) drawings
- Budgets/cost outs and final spending lists may be appropriate, showing organizational skills
- In-process photos showing construction techniques and choices. These will be crucial as you progress through a college program in this emphasis.
- Photos of the finished product
- Close up photos showing high quality construction

LIGHTING DESIGNERS

- Light plots
- Gel samples/ color examples
- Research
- Production photos containing actors

COSTUME DESIGNERS

- Sketches
- Color renderings
- Research
- Production photos

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- Early in your career, you may not have many items to include from the category you want to emphasize in. It may be appropriate to include items from several areas that you have worked in.
- Include items that demonstrate your talent, passion, creativity, and commitment to your chosen art form.
- Other items to include may be: drawings and paintings from an art class, general photography, photos of sculptures – maybe you designed the home coming float!
- Be clear about what specific college program you are applying to requires in a portfolio review.