

# Maximo Grano De Oro

## Lighting Designer

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### Education

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Northwestern University | Evanston, IL  
**M.F.A.:** Stage Design, June 2023

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University | New Brunswick, NJ  
**B.F.A.:** Theater Design, December 2016

The Glimmer Glass Festival | Cooperstown, NY  
**Electrics Internship:** May-September 2016

Shakespeare's Globe | London, UK  
**Study Abroad** w/ Michael Pavelka: Sep-Dec 2015

### Teaching Experience

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#### **Northwestern University, Adjunct Instructor 2023-2025**

##### **Theatre 450-0-1 Topics in Stage Design: Advanced Digital Design, Spring 2025**

Co-taught with Lauren Nichols and Andrew Boyce. This is a newly developed course being taught in Spring of 2025 with a focus on digital 3D rendering for Scenic and Lighting designers. This course caters to both graduate and undergraduate students with advanced knowledge and interest in the material. I am overseeing the first half of the class, focused on Vectorworks while Lauren Nichols and Andrew Boyce are covering SketchUp. The development of this course is a direct reaction to the increased usage of 3D drafting as an industry standard tool to give students a competitive and diverse background of experience before transitioning into the professional workforce.

##### **Theatre 329-0-21 Computer Graphics for the Theatre Artist (Vectorworks), Fall 2024**

This annual course is designed to teach undergraduate and graduate students advanced techniques for the Computer Aided Design (CAD) program Vectorworks. For 2024, I redeveloped the syllabus for this course to serve both lighting and scenic designers. Weekly lectures, demonstrations, and in-class work time provided students with the needed understanding of the tools being used that week to complete the assignments while crafting individualized workflows for both efficiency and aesthetically legible drafting.

##### **Theatre 321-3-20 Lighting Design, Winter 2024**

This is the first lighting design course offered to graduate students at Northwestern and often the most advanced course undergraduate students will take, apart from special exceptions. This course focused on balancing the creative and technical nature of lighting design at an advanced level. In this class we explored the core concepts of lighting design and how to form artistic points of view for both theatrical and concert settings as well as the skills to translate and execute those designs in the form of light cues. Throughout the quarter, we engaged in the analysis of a source material to generate and present relevant lighting ideas as well as constructive critique of our peer's work. The work in this class culminated in a series of digitally previsualized cued songs in large custom venues, with an overall design concept for an evening of music.

## **Theatre 329-0-21 Computer Graphics for the Theatre Artist (Vectorworks), Fall 2023**

This annual course is designed to teach undergraduate and graduate students advanced techniques for the Computer Aided Design (CAD) program Vectorworks with a primary focus on theatrical lighting design. I developed a new syllabus for this course to cover both 2D and 3D drafting as well as ever evolving industry standard techniques. Weekly lectures, demonstrations, and in-class work time provided students with the needed understanding of the tools being used that week to complete the assignments while crafting individualized workflows for both efficiency and aesthetically legible drafting.

## **Northwestern University, Graduate Assistantship 2022-2023**

### **Theatre 320-0-21 Intermediate Lighting Design, Winter 2023**

This course was specially designed by me in response to requests from undergraduate students expressing that the gap between the introductory lighting course and the next available lighting course was too wide. In this class, students worked on a single project throughout the length of the quarter while following a step-by-step process to move from the conceptualization of a lighting design to the execution of the light plot. The combination of weekly critiques and workshops provided the needed understanding to successfully draft, present, and describe a light plot, either by hand or digitally. While the light plot was the final goal of this class, major emphasis was given to the development and improvement of lighting design craft and the dramaturgical relevance of design ideas

### **Theatre 221-3 Design Process: Lighting, Winter 2022**

This is one of the introductory design courses for undergraduate students at Northwestern, with a focus on lighting design. The core goal of this class is for students to develop the ability to see and discuss light in the context of theatrical design. For this instance of the course, I developed a new syllabus with projects focused on text analysis, visual research, the principles of composition and developing an artistic point of view. These projects covered developing a design for a play, executing a real life design for a story scenario in the light lab, and cueing a full length song in a digital previsualization program. Special attention was given to conveying and discussing visual ideas and point of view within a collaborative process. Lighting Design focused graduate students have continued to use a version of the syllabus I developed to teach this class.

## **Professional Experience**

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### **Lighting Design**

<i>The Life You Gave Me*</i>	Hamid Dehghani	Boise Contemporary Theatre 2025
<i>Translations</i>	Braden Abraham	Writers Theatre 2025
<i>La Ciudad de Los Otros</i>	Rafael Palacios	Northwestern University 2025
<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Gabrielle Randle-Bent	Court Theatre 2025
<i>Far Away</i>	Ed Sobel	Villanova Theatre 2024
<i>Dear Elizabeth</i>	Christina Casano	Remy Bumpo Theatre Co. 2024
<i>The Last Word</i>	Katie Galetti	Thompson Street Opera Company 2024
<i>Forever</i>	Paige Dirkes-Jacks	Thompson Street Opera Company 2024
<i>Prelude to a Kiss, a Musical</i>	Kenneth Ferrone	Milwaukee Rep 2024

\*=World Premiere

(Co-Design with Marcus Doshi)

<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	Bryn Boice	Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. 2024
<i>Selling Kabul</i>	Hamid Dehghani	Northlight Theater 2024
<i>Macbeth</i> (Co-Design with Eric Southern)	Steve Maler	Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. 2023
<i>Everybody</i>	Katie Lupica	Northwestern University 2023
<i>Sweat</i>	Tor Campbell	Northwestern University 2023
<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Joachim Schamberger	NU Opera 2023
<i>As You Like It</i> (Shaina Taub)	Jessica Fisch	Northwestern University 2022
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> <sup>°</sup> (Co-Design with Eric Southern)	Megan Sandberg-Zakian	Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. 2022
<i>Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo</i>	Hamid Dehghani	Northwestern University 2022
<i>Nothing is Possible</i>	Thomas Defrantz	Northwestern University 2022
<i>In His Hands</i>	Ismael Lara	Northwestern University 2022
<i>The Medium</i>	Joachim Schamberger	NU Opera 2021
<i>The Tempest</i> <sup>°</sup> (Co-Design with Eric Southern)	Steven Maler	Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. 2021
<i>Resiliencia</i> *	Miguel Gamero	NU Danceworks 2020
<i>Albert Herring</i>	David Walsh	Opera at Rutgers 2019
<i>Make a Scene!</i>	Ellen Jackson	Opera Delaware 2019
<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	David Walsh	Opera at Rutgers 2019
<i>Il Tabarro</i>	David Walsh	Opera at Rutgers 2019
<i>Bitter Greens</i> *	Kevin Kittle	Station 26 Productions 2018
<i>Barnum</i>	Sam Scalamoni	Skyline Theatre Company 2018
<i>A Funny Thing Happened...Forum</i>	Gary Shaffer	Algonquin Arts Theatre 2018
<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Jessica O'Brien	Algonquin Arts Theatre 2018
<i>Back to the Real</i> *	Marshall Jones	Crossroads Theatre Company 2018
<i>Der Mond</i>	Géza Schenk	Hub City Opera 2018
<i>For Colored Girls...</i>	Gwen Ricks-Spencer	Fourth Wall Theater 2018
<i>Ontario Was Here</i> *	Cynthia D. Barker	Aurora Theater 2018
<i>La Nozze di Figaro</i>	Ben Spierman	Opera at Rutgers 2018
<i>Svadba</i>	Matthew Patrick Morris	Brooklyn College 2017
<i>Tick, Tick...Boom!</i>	Bob Cline	Montclair Operetta Club 2017

\*=World Premiere

<i>Enterprise*</i>	David Calvitto	52E52 Studio 2017
<i>For Colored Girls...</i>	Gwen Ricks-Spencer	Fourth Wall Theater 2017
<i>Dialogues of the Carmelites</i>	Keturah Stickann	Opera at Rutgers 2017
<i>Sardanapalus*</i>	Knud Adams	Rutgers Theater Company 2016
<i>The Virgin Woods*</i>	Sarah Krohn	Rutgers Theater Company 2016
<i>Fear and Misery of the Third Reich</i>	David Schweizer	Rutgers Theater Company 2016
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Lian Walden	Rutgers Theater Company 2016
<i>Gabriel</i>	Christopher Cartmill	Rutgers Theater Company 2015
<i>The Stand In*</i>	Knud Adams	Rutgers Theater Company 2014

### **Associate Lighting Design**

<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Marcus Doshi	Opera Theater of Saint Louis 2025
<i>This House*</i>	Marcus Doshi	Opera Theater of Saint Louis 2025
<i>Galileo Galilei</i>	Eric Southern	Opera Theater of Saint Louis 2024
<i>La Boheme</i>	Marcus Doshi	Opera Theater of Saint Louis 2024
<i>Prelude to a Kiss, a Musical*</i>	Marcus Doshi	South Coast Repertory 2024
<i>The Nose</i>	Marcus Doshi	Chicago Opera Theatre 2023
<i>Eurydice</i>	Marcus Doshi	Writers Theatre 2023
<i>...Trial of Miz Martha Washington</i>	Amith Chandrashaker	Steppenwolf Theatre Company 2022
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Eric Southern	Boston Lyric Opera 2022
<i>Justice Festival</i>	Tlaloc Lopez-Watermann	Opera Delaware 2019

### **Assistant Lighting Design**

<i>Il Trittico (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	Houston Grand Opera 2025
<i>Purpose*</i>	Amith Chandrashaker	Broadway 2025
<i>La Traviata (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	The Dallas Opera 2024
<i>La Traviata (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	Santa Fe Opera 2024
<i>Judgement Day*</i>	Amith Chandrashaker	Chicago Shakespeare Theater 2024
<i>Purpose*</i>	Amith Chandrashaker	Steppenwolf Theatre Company 2024
<i>Mr. Dickens and His Carol (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	Seattle Rep 2022
<i>The Wreckers (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	Houston Grand Opera 2022
<i>La Traviata (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	Houston Grand Opera 2022
<i>Edward Tulane* (Studio)</i>	Marcus Doshi	Minnesota Opera 2022

\*=World Premiere

<i>Champion*</i> (Studio)	Marcus Doshi	Boston Lyric Opera 2022
<i>Fun Home</i>	Gabrielle Strong	Northwestern University 2019
<i>Recent Alien Abductions*</i>	Amith Chandrashaker	The Play Company 2019
<i>Puccini Festival</i>	Tlaloc Lopez-Watermann	Opera Delaware 2018
<i>Trying</i>	Christopher Bailey	George Street Playhouse 2018
<i>The Dread Pirate Project*</i>	Donald Holder	Baryshnikov Arts Center 2017
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	Eric Southern	Two River Theater 2017
<i>Lakme</i>	Dustin O'Neil	Opera at Rutgers 2015
<i>Love and Intrigue</i>	Jason Flamos	Rutgers Theater Company 2014
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Jason Flamos	Rutgers Theater Company 2014
<i>Ivona, Princess of Burgundia</i>	Victoria Chirumbolo	Rutgers Theater Company 2014

## Awards and Nominations

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- 2025 Elliot Norton Award Nomination, Outstanding Lighting Design - Large Theatre, *The Winter's Tale*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
- 2025 Elliot Norton Award Nomination, Outstanding Play - Large Theatre, *The Winter's Tale*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
- 2024 Elliot Norton Award Nomination, Outstanding Lighting Design - Large Theatre, *Macbeth*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
- 2024 Elliot Norton Award Nomination, Outstanding Play - Large Theatre, *Macbeth*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
- 2023 Michael Merrit Academic Achievement Award: Northwestern University
- 2023 Elliot Norton Award Nomination, Outstanding Lighting Design - Large Theatre, *Much Ado About Nothing*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
- 2023 Elliot Norton Award Nomination, Outstanding Production - Large Theatre, *Much Ado About Nothing*, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
- 2021-2022 John Williams Memorial Fellowship, Northwestern University