

tara denise

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8X EMMY AWARD WINNING LIGHTING DESIGNER/PRODUCTION DESIGNER

possessing a 20-year proven track record of superior performance for thousands of shows, utilizing expertise in Program/Production Execution, Creative Planning/Direction, Relationship Management, Team Coordination/Mentorship Resource Coordination/Sourcing, Logistical Coordination, and Compliance to support major engagements that receive critical recognition and publicity.

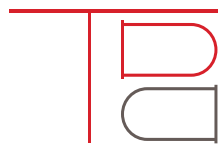
SUMMARY

- Highly experienced in supporting operations for major TV productions through demonstrated industry best in class practices across lighting & production design.
- Work proactively to ensure logistical coordination to meet critical production schedules.
- Maintain impeccable accuracy in management of key contracts and relationships.
- Provide execution of functions with professional demeanor to support public relations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Face Value	Lighting Director	BET Network
Truth & ILIZA	Lighting Director	FreeForm Network
The Talk Show/The Game Show	Lighting Director	truTV/Push IT Productions 2016
First Lady Michelle Obama Says Farewell ToThe White House	Lighting Director	CBS/OWN 2016
The TD Jake's Show	Lighting Director	44 blue productions/Tegna season 1 2016
Weight Watchers commercial	Lighting Director	OWN 2016
Super Soul Sessions	Lighting Director	OWN 2015 to present
Super Soul Sunday	Lighting Director	OWN 2011 to present
Where Are they Now	Production Designer	OWN 2013 to 2016
Oprah Prime	Lighting Director	OWN 2013-2014
Oprah Life Class (The Tour)	Production Designer	OWN 2013
Oprah's Life Class	Production Designer	OWN 2012-2014
Oprah's Next Chapter	Lighting Director	OWN 2012-2015
Wanda Sykes Presents Herlarious	Production Designer	OWN 2013
The Rosie Show	Production Designer	OWN 2013
The Oprah Winfrey Show	Production Designer	Harpo Studios Chicago 1993-2011

- Oversaw all aspects of lighting and production design supporting the unique challenges of every show across factors of creative content, budget, time-frame, and logistics.
- Support creative operations whether in the studio, celebrities homes, or in the woods.
- Develop seamless look for numerous Harpo/Own shows.
- Routinely bring in crews of 35-70, expanding to crews in the hundreds for large specials.
- Effectively utilize resources to develop practical sets and lighting on-time and within budget.
- Lead a core staff comprised of an associate, two assistants, three lighting directors, up to three set designers, a master carpenter, prop masters, scenic artist, and a master rigger.
- Created original Oprah Winfrey Show department providing all disciplines: set design, lighting design, rigging, special effects, planning, scenic art, set dressing, props, logistics, and carpentry.



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HIGHLIGHTS

Major Shows:

Overtime at the United Center - 25th Anniversary Special (PD)

Executed a 90-minute Oprah Special in front of a live audience of 17,000 at the United Center (during playoffs) with 30 celebrity walk-ons to music and video. Coordinated a crew of 220 for load-in of 10 trucks for lighting, sound, cameras, sets, project and control from 11:00pm to 8:00am (7200 sq. ft. LED, 615 Lights, 100 miles of cable). Oversaw 3-days of engagement from load-in to final shot. Achieved unforgettable event with perfect safety record.

Two for One - My Favorite Things (PD)

Supported execution of two shows, with completely different sets to be taped on the same day two hours apart. The first (Santa's Workshop) had multiple reveals: conveyor belts, moving teddy bears, a watch flew into Oprah's hands, toys circled the room on an overhead conveyor belt, a replica of a cruise ship inflated out of a box, and the Black Eyed Peas made their entrance in a snow globe. The second set was elegant and homey with a gold motif that complemented Oprah perfectly. Members of the audience received gifts that required storage and logistical coordination for thousands of items during each show.

Flashing on Michigan Ave. - Season 24 Live Kickoff Party (PD)

Worked with the Mayor's Office, Police, Fire, Streets & Sanitation, and the OEMC (to name a few), coordinating logistics for shutting down Michigan Ave. on a Monday morning during rush hour in the highest rent district in Chicago. Managed all aspects of logistics for load-in, stage lighting, audio, and video overnight, as well as barricades for 2,400 people on Magnificent Mile allowing access to stores, fire lanes, water stations, and restrooms. Took comprehensive measurements for every tree, flower pot, entrance, and curb for three blocks. Achieved deal with union to allow a blended union/non-union crew, and contract with the city to strike before 6:00am the following day or pay a fine. Received exceptional media response with Flash Mob to 'I Got a Feelin'. Acknowledged by Head of OEMC for flawless execution.

Down Under - The Oprah Winfrey Show (PD)

Addressed parliament regarding use of the Sydney Opera House, adding additional seating and platforms for the Opera's largest crowd ever. Gained permission with Hugh

Jackman zip-lining from the top of the opera house to the stage and the audience being covered by a huge Australian flag. Utilized local crews and obtained permission from an Aboriginal artist to inspire the look.

AWARDS

6 Emmys for Lighting Design, 2 Emmys for Production Design, & 14 nominations

EDUCATION

Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois

Theatre Major: Trained & Studied Set Design, Lighting Design, & Stage Management, Theatre Programs in London