

DARA WISHINGRAD
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

BIO:

Dara began her design career with the creation of massive live events for a blue chip corporate and celebrity clientele. A top-performing, creative professional with over 15 years in the entertainment industry, she is equally at home directing and navigating the big picture as on-the-ground implementation. Service and experience includes design, research, development & speedy implementation of all creative & visuals, project planning, management & staffing across all creative media including corporate, celebrity and live events, trade shows, exhibitions, film, video & print.

Corporate and celebrity clientele list include:

- Superbowl
- The Ryder Cup
- The US Open Golf Tournament
- PGA Golf Tournament
- The Kaplan Thaler Group
- Donna Karan
- Lawrence Fishburne
- Directors Guild of America Honors
- Tribeca Film Festival, most notably the General Motors "Tribeca Drive-In"
- Preston Bailey Design
- Federal Express
- Gillette Corporation

Award winning independent film & television design include:

- John Leguizamo's original independent film, "Fugly!" based on his Broadway show, "Ghetto Klown" directed by Alfredo De Villa (Nothing Like the Holidays)
- "I Hate Valentine's Day" directed/written by Nia Vardalos (My Big Fat Greek Wedding) starring Nia Vardalos, John Corbett, Ian Gomez, Zoe Kazan, Judah Freidlander
- "Death In Love" directed/written by Boaz Yakin (Remember The Titans) starring Jacqueline Bisset, Josh Lucas, Lukas Haas and Adam Brody
- "Certainty" directed by Peter Askin (Sexaholix, Spic O Rama), produced by Mike O'Malley (Glee, Yes Dear) starring Valerie Harper, Giancarlo Esposito, Adelaide Clemens
- "Across The Hall" directed by Alex Merkin, starring Adrian Grenier & James Oliver, produced by First Look Studios
- "Premio Lo Nuestro: The Latin Music International Awards", Univision Network
- "A Very Serious Person" directed/written by Charles Busch (Tale of the Allergist's Wife) starring Polly Bergen & Dana Ivey, produced by Daryl Roth

CONTACT:

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SOME OF THE MANY HAPPY CLIENTS.....

“How would I impart my enthusiasm for your work...thank you for your great great work, u killed it!”

- John Leguizamo
Writer/Actor/Producer

"Blown away by what you turned that house into...sweet sweet sweet job. Wow."

- Mike O'Malley
Actor/Writer/Producer

“I found working with her to be extremely collaborative, creative and her designs were wonderful. Dara exemplified extreme professionalism and was always a joy to be around. In fact, she exceeded my expectations with her ideas and execution...”

- Nia Vardalos
Director/Writer/Actor

"Dara is a creative genius when it comes to designing spaces. She has worked with us several times during new business pitches and the results have always been nothing less than extraordinary!”

- Linda Kaplan Thaler
President, Publicis Kaplan Thaler

“Dara is an incredible talent and a beautiful person...she had the creative intuition and talent to help make DEATH IN LOVE one of the most interesting films of my career. She worked with an extremely tight budget and designed incredibly brilliant sets.“

- Joseph Zolfo
Producer

“I have known Dara for over 10 years and in the time we worked together, I remember always thinking that Dara has all of the qualities that are the harbingers of a great Production Designer. She is very expressive and envisions things before most. She has a style and has ideas. She has a vocabulary for character and color.

At a glance, Dara is creative, budget conscious, hard working, honest and adjusts to critical challenges when presented with them. Her work is fresh and outside the box. All of these qualities she brings to the table as a team player.”

- Jeff Waxman
Producer

"Dara is a creative genius when it comes to designing spaces. She has worked with us several times during new business pitches and the results have always been nothing less than extraordinary!”

- Linda Kaplan Thaler
President, Publicis Kaplan Thaler

“Dara is creative, and hard working. She is insightful and willing to work through any difficult times with determination. She is accepting of and seeks out constructive criticism and is always trying to improve herself. With her determined nature and outgoing personality, her keen eye and sense of style, she is well suited to Production Design.”

- Jill Footlick
Producer

“It was something about your work that I found particularly humanizing. It showed a sense of real care about the subject. Your sensibility transcended the typical character of the commercial rendering genre...an excellent asset for our client.”

- Joseph Cincotta
President, LineSync Architecture

DARA WISHINGRAD

Résumé: Production Design for the Corporate and Entertainment Sectors

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SUMMARY OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Extensive experience in staging, set design, and event design and planning
- Excellent big-picture and interpersonal management
- Obsessively organised with a keen attention to detail
- Project and crew management of technical and non-technical projects
- Potent capability to combine intuitive and erudite understanding of client's brand and marketing objectives and proactively contribute to its evolution and success
- Ability to set vision and drive concepts and strategies through the entire creative and development process
- Exceptional versatility with the ability to manage multiple tasks in a hi-speed, pressured environment
- Dedication and drive as a hard-working individual

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION SKILLS

- Conceptualize, design, draw and implement original creative solutions for two and three dimensional environments
- Create and substantially influence the development of projects for all phases of production
- Strong desire to inspire creativity, innovative thinking, strong marketing concepts and solutions with team and clients
- Initiate research and development contacts to create new vendor, production, and cross-promotional relationships
- Management and maintenance of inventory control for technical and non-technical projects
- Creation & maintenance of documentation for implemented processes, supplies, resources and budgets

MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- Manage and supervise staff and crews of 5-15 performing duties such as interviewing, hiring, scheduling, creative direction and delegation, budget and payroll
- Delegate suggestions and duties to other team members regarding opportunities for improvement in work-related tasks and processes
- Provide training for various technical and soft skills to new employees and clients on production and technical issues
- Deliver excellent customer service while working with multiple clients, supervisors and crew on a daily basis for various new and on-going projects
- Interact with clients and supervisors and utilize excellent organizational skills to implement creative concepts
- Serve as a liaison between clients and staff to resolve client issues and implement solutions
- Enjoys and supports working on a team

Employment History

March 2003-Present	Freelance Designer for the Entertainment & Special Event Industry <i>(please see attached c.v. for details)</i>
May 2000-Feb 2003	Art Director & Project Supervisor, Preston Bailey Design, NY, NY
Nov 1993-Mar 2000	Design Director, Barton G. Design, Miami, FL
June 1992-Oct 93	Creative Consultant & Customer Service, Far Pavillions/Koh-I-Noor Inc, South Fallsburg, NY

Education:

Art Students League of New York; Bard College; San Francisco Art Institute

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Curriculum Vitae:

CORPORATE EVENTS: PRODUCTION DESIGN & ART DIRECTION

The Tribeca Film Festival

Designer; dir/prod: Jane Rosenthal, Robert DeNiro, prod: Karen Dalzell Productions

The Directors' Guild of America Honors

Designer; Robert Altman, Honoree; dir: Vince A. Misiano, prod: Karen Dalzell Productions

The Kaplan Thaler Group

Set and Environment Designer for new business pitches; producers: Linda Kaplan Thaler, Robin Koval, Lisa Bifulco

The Garland Appeal

Designer for Benefit-Auction fundraiser at Christie's Auction House for Paul McCartney's foundation

Crystal City, Washington DC

Designer; Inaugural Opening Event for citywide renovation, dir/prod: Karin Bacon Events

Jay Franco & Sons Showroom

Designer; Redesign of NY Showroom for International Original & Licensed Properties Bedding & Bath Design

World Culture Open

Production Designer; USA/Korea Cultural Event, dir. Terrance Mann, prod: WCO International Foundation

Digitas

Creative Director; Marketing & Media Agency, New York, Los Angeles, Miami; clients incl. Gillette, Delta Airlines, Pontiac

The New York Summer Play Festival

Production Designer; The Living Room for Artists; Event; prod: Arielle Tepper Productions

Preston Bailey Event Design

Art Director; Designed & art directed private events for clients including Bill Cosby, Donna Karan, Oprah Winfrey & Lawrence Fishburne

Barton G Event Design

Design Director; as a company founding member, designed & rendered sets, interiors, created proposals & presentations. Directed fulltime & freelance staff. Partial clientele list: Sports Illustrated, Royal Caribbean International, United Cerebral Palsy Telethon US Open, PGA & Ryder Cup Golf Tournaments, Pace Theatrical Group, Super Bowl, Merrill Lynch, Federal Express

COMMERCIAL & VIDEO: PRODUCTION DESIGN

Manhattan Place Entertainment

Keurig new product commercial launch; dir: Harry Greene; prod: Steven Cohen, Jamie Cohen, Michele Band

Compulsive Pictures

PlayDoh, Febreze, Topps Juicy Pop candy commercials; dir: Mark Celentano; prod: Jack Turney, Donald O'Connor

The Adventurist-Joby Ogwyn

promotional/commercials; dir. Chris Scott, prod. Mark DeAngelis, Rainbow Media

Warby Parker Eyeware

Production Designer; dir: Adam Lisagor, prod: Sandwich Video

The Daft Penguin

webisodes for Everlast boxing equipment dir: Peter Goldschmidt; prod: Route One Productions

Premio Lo Nuestro: The Latin Music Awards Show

Production Designer; w/Celia Cruz, Julio Iglesias Jr.; dir. Bert Delgado, prod: Univision Network; international broadcast

Corporate Government Industrial-Confidential Project

Designer; dir/dp: Peter Schnell, prod: Don Campbell, Partisan Pictures; high end corporate industrial

Bally Total Fitness

Set Dresser, TV commercial US & Latin America; dir/dp: Jorge Colon, prod: Letca Films

Make A Wish Foundation & N.O.W. Anti-Domestic Violence Campaign

Production Designer; public service announcements, dir: Alex Ferrari, dp: Ozzie Silvera, prod: Archangel Productions

SYDA Foundation International

Assistant Designer, New York & Los Angeles Global satellite broadcast events; "The Golden Tales" children's plays series; "The Prasad Project Annual Fundraiser Dream Dance"; multiple display & environment projects

Junior M.A.F.I.A. "Just Us"

Production Designer; music video; dir: James Miaoulas; dp: Till Neumann, prod: MegaMedia Records

Better Off Alone

Production Designer; music video Alice DeeJay, dir: Bruce Martin, dp: Jim Hawkinson, prod: 1171 Production Group

FILM: PRODUCTION DESIGN

He's Way More Famous Than You

w/Halley Feiffer, Michael Urie, Ryan Spahn, Michael Chernus, Ralph Macchio, Ben Stiller, Jesse Eisenberg; dir: Michael Urie; prod: Geoffry Soffer, Christopher Sepulveda, Logolite Entertainment

Fugly!

w/John Leguizamo, Rosie Perez, Radha Mitchell, Griffin Dunne, Ione Gruffud, Tomas Milian; dir: Alfredo De Villa, writer/prod: John Leguizamo; prod: Danny Bigel, Laura Knight, "We Do Films"

Advantageous

w/Jacqueline Kim, Ken Jeong, Jennifer Ehle, James Urbaniak; dir: Jennifer Phang prod: Good Neighbours; Winner of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival Award for Collaborative Vision

Affluenza

w/Steve Guttenberg, Samantha Mattias, Nicola Peltz, Gregg Sulkin, Ben Rosenfield, Grant Gustin; dir: Kevin Asch; prod: Lookbook Films, Antonio Macia, Michael Goodin

Death In Love

w/Jacqueline Bisset, Josh Lucas, Lukas Haas, Adam Brody; writer/dir: Boaz Yakin; prod: Joseph Zolfo; *Official Selection: 2008 Sundance Film Festival Premiere Section; Winner 2008 Falco d'Or, Best Actor, Best Actress Ibiza International Film Festival; Winner 2008 Boston Film Festival Best Director, Best Actress*

Certainty

w/Valerie Harper, Giancarlo Esposito, Bobby Moynihan; dir: Peter Askin; writer: Mike O'Malley; prod: Will Battersby *2011 Boston Film Festival Premiere & Multiple Award Winner*

The Ministers

w/John Leguizamo, Harvey Keitel, Florencia Lozano; dir: Franc. Reyes; prod: Jill Footlick, Grow Pictures

I Hate Valentine's Day

w/Nia Vardalos, John Corbett, Rachel Dratch, Zoe Kazan; writer/dir: Nia Vardalos; prod: William Sherak, Madeline Sherak, Jason Shuman, Michael Gallant

New York City Serenade

w/Freddie Prinze Jr., Chris Klein; dir: Frank Whaley; prod: Archer Entertainment; *Official Selection 2007 Toronto International Film Festival; 2007 Boston Film Festival; 2007 Marbella Film Festival*

A Very Serious Person

w/Charles Busch, Polly Bergen, Dana Ivey; writer/dir: Charles Busch, prod: Daryl Roth; *2006 Tribeca Film Festival Winner Honorable Mention*

5 Up 2 Down

w/Issach de Bankole, Paz de la Heurta, Kirk Acevedo, Tia Texada; dir: Steven Kessler, prod: Ruben Cobia; *Winner 2006 CineVegas Grand Jury Prize for Cinematography; Official Selection 2007 Newport Beach Film*

The Shanghai Hotel

w/Hill Harper, Cheng Pei Pei, Eugenia Yuan; dir: Jerry Davis, prod: Dan Marino; Cornucopia Productions

Across the Hall

w/Adrian Grenier, James Oliver; dir: Alex Merkin, exec prod: John Kilik, prod: Screen Gems & Samsung; FiveLion Productions; *Winner: 2006 Palm Springs Audience Award; Best Short Film: Official Selection 2006 Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival; 2006 Harlem International Film Festival*

THEATRE: SET DESIGN

8 Stops

playwright and performer: Deb Margolin; dir: Jay Wahl; prod: The Kimmel Centre for the Performing Arts
Hard Times

music & lyrics: Stephen Foster, Larry Kirwan; dir: Kira Simring, prod: Nancy Manocherian, the cell theatre
Martin: A New American Musical

music & lyrics: Charles Strauss, playwright: Leslie Lee, dir: Jeffrey Moss, prod: Negro Ensemble Company
Cabaret Émigré

Dir: Charles Weldon, playwright: Sophia Romma. prod: Negro Ensemble Company

New York International Fringe Festival

Set & Projection Designer "Freddie" playwright: Jessie Robles, dir: Alysa Wishingrad; "Vincent"

playwright: Jessie Robles, dir: Jim Iorrio

Defenses of Prague

Set Designer; director: Leslie Lee, playwright: Sophia Roma, prod: La Mama E.T.C.

Why Do Fool\$ Fall In Love

Set Designer; world premiere staged reading of new musical; playwrights: Tina Andrews & Stanley Bennett Clay, dir: Wayne Cilento, prod: Tao Productions, The New NY Theatre Row

The Beggars Opera

Set Designer; playwright: John Gay, adapted by Vaclav Havel, dir: Jonathan Silver, Manhattan Theatre Source

Pieces of Pieces

Scenic Artist, Set & Costume Designer; Dance and music collaboration by Dianne McIntyre and Olu Dara; presented by The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Invincible Flower

Costume Designer; dance & jazz collaboration by Dianne McIntyre and Lester Bowie with her dancers & his Brass Fantasy orchestra. Co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow, The Walker Arts Center; supported by the National Dance Project Grant & New England Foundation for the Arts

FILM: ART DIRECTION

Starting Out In The Evening

w/Frank Langella, Lauren Ambrose, Lili Taylor; dir: Andrew Wagner, dp: Harlan Bosmajian, pd: Carol Strober, prod: InDigEnt Productions

Runaway

w/Aaron Stanford, Robin Tunney; dir: Tim McCann, dp: Frank Barrera, pd: Laura Hyman, prod: Filbert Steps; *Official Selection Tribeca Film Festival 2005*

In The Shadows

Art Department Coordinator; w/Matthew Modine, James Caan, Cuba Gooding Jr., dir: Ric Roman, dp: Chuck Cohen, pd: Ren Blanco, prod: Lions Gate Entertainment

MEMBERSHIP

United Scenic Artists Local 829

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT)