

CHARLES "CHIP" DECKER

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

VETERAN THEATRE EXECUTIVE | CREATIVE VISIONARY | INFLUENTIAL THOUGHT PARTNER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **ALTRUISTIC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** with 26+ years of success as an advocate for the arts, driving cultural abundance and creative economy in communities by fostering an ethos of curious innovation and delightful creativity.
- **DIPLOMATIC COORDINATOR & TEAM MOTIVATOR** who facilitates vision alignment by guiding artistic intent across talent, operations, and technical teams to ensure practical implementation at all stages of development and execution.
- **INSPIRING COMMUNICATOR & CONSENSUS BUILDER** who cultivates strong relationships with executive leadership, staff, and community stakeholders to achieve organizational goals and programmatic milestones.

SELECTED PROJECTS

ROCK THE BARN

June 2021 – July 2022

Spearheaded the return to in-person productions in response to changing COVID-19 protocols, becoming the first performing arts group in the area to do so, with the launch of a hybrid rock music festival and theatrical event. Prioritized patron safety and diversification through extensive location scouting. It was a theatrical home run, becoming an integral part of the main season.

MIDSUMMER NIGHTS @ QUEENS

July 2018 – July 2022

Ideated and launched an outdoor Shakespeare in the Park-inspired festival in response to the scarcity of quality, free community events. Initial success grew the event into a community staple for two years, receiving additional funding and recognition before the COVID-19 production shutdown.

NUVOICES FOR A NUGENERATION – NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

July 2015 – July 2022

Developed an annual, week-long new play festival featuring original work via staged readings. Managed the open submission process, selecting four scripts from 400+ submissions. Guided playwright integration into theatre operations, hiring actors, directors, stage managers, and support staff to execute the unique vision of each script.

THE SECOND STORY PROJECT

March 2015 – March 2019

Teamed up with the Children's Theatre of Charlotte on an innovative joint production with parallel performances of interconnected stories told from the perspective of adults and children, respectively. Imaginatively designed to include correlating cause and effect between the simultaneous shows without sacrificing standalone plot accessibility. An unprecedented crowd-puller, the shows established an enduring cross-over audience and increased box-office sales.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

THE ACTOR'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE | CHARLOTTE, NC

1996 – 2022

Joined a relatively young theatre company, becoming its face and voice, and bolstering its overall artistic quality and output throughout tenure. Cultivated a culture of continuous improvement by inspiring artistic and operational excellence on and off stage. Drove top-down vision alignment, motivating cross-functional staff to ideate and deliver first-rate entertainment experiences for diverse audiences.

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

July 2017 – July 2022

- Managed and balanced a yearly operating budget of up to \$950K; leveraged pragmatic financial oversight to breathe life into theatre operations post-COVID through strategic budget adjustment and funding procurement
- Headed the transition from live, in-person shows to a provident online platform, coordinating a monthly performance featuring local talent; oversaw the Marketing team on a digital strategy that amplified viewership
- Orchestrated annual programming, events, and fundraising activities, including seven main-stage productions, a Shakespeare performance, and the New Play Festival
- Led and streamlined contract negotiations with the venue, Actors Equity, publishers, musicians, directors, designers, and vendors through effective relationship management that increased time for value-added activities

Continued

- Advanced DE&I and safety through organization-wide initiatives; introduced a support system that encouraged and engendered an authentic culture of care in a matrix environment

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

July 2002 – June 2017

- Pioneered a patron membership model that augmented engagement and boosted membership by 200%
- Developed the New Play Festival, a platform for emerging creatives across industry matrices to showcase original work, with three plays going on to have national production runs via the National New Play Network
- Oversaw operations, including season selection, casting, hiring, and continuous improvement through a commitment to authentic leadership that resulted in increased staff size, patron attendance, and artist pay

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

July 1996 – June 2002

- Guided and drove niche artistic development for the then eight-year-old theatre company, resulting in it becoming the most award-winning company in the Charlotte region
- Directed all technical activities, such as set design and construction, scenic design, lighting, and sound design
- Managed the hiring, training, and progressive development of deck and run crews, board operators, and stage management with a dedication to 100% cast and audience safety compliance

ORGANIZATIONS:

ARTSReach | NCARTS | NNPN (National New Play Network) | Metrolina Theatre Association | TCG (Theatre Communications Group)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

SARGENT, CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN | UNITED STATES AIR FORCE – HONORABLE DISCHARGE

PROJECT MANAGER | PYXIS CORPORATION

Project installation manager for numerous hospital clients. Coordinated with Hospital Administration, Nursing staff, I.T., and plant management departments to ensure streamlined execution.

DATA ANALYST | PREMIER HEALTHCARE INC

Collaborated with hospital data teams to prepare and format data to bolster hospital process improvements.

AWARDS**THREE-TIME THEATRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD**

METROLINA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

FIVE-TIME THEATRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

CREATIVE LOAFING CHARLOTTE

NUMEROUS ACTING, DIRECTING, SOUND, & SET DESIGN AWARDS

CREATIVE LOAFING CHARLOTTE & METROLINA THEATRE ASSOCIATION

THREE-TIME GEORGE PARIDES PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

NORTH CAROLINA STATE THEATRE ASSOCIATION

THREE-TIME THEATRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

CHARLOTTE MAGAZINE BOB AWARDS

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP: Stage Management | Large-Scale Show Production | Project Management | Strategic Planning | Operations Governance | Team Cultivator | Training & Development | Collective Bargaining – SDC, AEA, & IATSE | Continuous Improvement | Production Schedules | Large Group Coordination | Community Engagement | Resource Development

TECHNICAL SKILLS: Set Design – Sketchup Pro | Lighting Design | Projection Mapping – HeavyM, Façade Signage | Audio– Audacity, Audition, Cubase, Ableton, Logic Pro, Garage Band | Sound Control – Show Cue System, QLab | Rigging & Staging | Adobe Cloud | CRM | Spektrix Box-Office & Patron Management | Trello | Video Editing – Power Director 365, Premiere Pro, Avid