



## Thomas McClain

Expert Witness CV  
January 2025

Thomas McClain  
43 Hillshire Drive  
Lake Oswego  
OR 97034

**Thomas McClain is a highly skilled and versatile professional with over 45 years of experience in the entertainment industry. He has worked on hundreds of theatrical productions, large-scale special events, concerts, and attraction installations.**

Tom's services include production design, technical direction, site design, event supervision, and safety. His experience spans multiple disciplines and is international in scope. He offers expert witnessing on theater and entertainment-related issues.

Tom started his expert witness practice as a result of being asked to consult on the rigging and scenery aspects of the 2011 Indianapolis Stage Fair stage collapse, which resulted in seven fatalities. This disaster became a wake-up call for the concert industry and spurred developments in event safety. Tom saw a need for a legal expert witness on the little-known workings and practices of the theater, convention, and the event industry.

### Expert Witness

- Over 25 cases to date for plaintiff and defendant.
- Specializes in production issues, structural integrity of event setups, industry safety standards, and best practices.
- Written reports, depositions and court testimony.
- Cases involving staging failures, rigging hazards, safety, and performer and crew injuries.
- Notable Case: Consulted on the 2011 Indianapolis State Fair stage collapse, contributing insights into staging and wind-related failures.
- Active in shaping entertainment industry safety regulations through participation in leading organizations.

## **Theater 1983-2023**

- Opera Pacific Company 1983-1994: Head Carpenter and Technical Director. For a producing Grand Opera company in Costa Mesa, CA. Responsible for all technical aspects of 50 grand opera productions at the Orange County Performing Arts Center
- Orange County Performing Arts Center, 1983-1996: I.A.T.S.E. member. Worked in all departments, including Stagehand, High Rigger, Flyman, Department Head
- Pocahontas Five Cities Tour, 1994: Technical Director. A live stage show and film presentation, presented in five cities around the country, all opening on the same night.
- Disney Stage Shows, 1994-1996: Technical Director. Hollywood, San Antonio, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Atlanta. Live stage shows with the film, 3 show daily for several weeks.
- Orange County Performing Arts Center, 1983-1996: I.A.T.S.E. Stagehand, High Rigger, Flyman, 20 years.
- Original Stage Production 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: Technical Director

## **Corporate Theatrical 1975-2021**

- Audio-Visual Technician. At Anaheim Convention Center and hotel venues. Set up and operate A/v systems for conventions and business meetings, 15 yrs.
- Intel Developer Forums. Technical Director. Event at Moscone Center, San Francisco
- Windows 8 Phone Launch. Technical Director for the Bill Graham Center, San Francisco.
- International Auto Shows: Technical Director for press events at auto shows in Detroit, Chicago, and New York, 3 years.
- Animation Now: Technical Director. A DreamWorks event at Alice Tully Theater, NYC
- Microsoft Xbox 360 launch: Technical Director. The Xbox 360 introduction, Los Angeles.
- Longaberger Basket Company: Annual Sales convention, Technical Director, Rigging Designer, 2 years.
- Tarzan Press Event, MGM Arena Las Vegas: Technical Director. A Phil Collins concert with the film presentation.
- Millennium Gala, A 2000 New Year's party at the Pasadena Civic Exhibition Center.
- Skechers exhibit, Atlanta Super Show: Production Manager.
- Lindsey West Inc. Portland OR, Production Manager: Nike Asia Pacific Sales Meetings in Singapore and Hawaii. Supervised production staff.
- Little Mermaid Charity Event: Technical Director. At Madison Square Garden, NYC.

## **Special Event Production 1994-2023**

- US Presidential Inauguration 2017: Site Coordinator and Designer, all outdoor events including The National Mall, Parade, and concert at the Lincoln Memorial
- 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March 2015: Site Coordinator. An event on the US Capitol Grounds and the National Mall for an audience of 250,000.
- Unite to Face Addiction 2015: Site Coordinator. A concert at the Washington Monument, for 60,000.
- Global Citizen 2015: Earth Day: Site Coordinator. A concert at the Washington Monument, for 250,000.
- HUD Housing Showcase 2019: Site designer and coordinator for an exhibit on the National Mall for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Oregon Solarfest 2017: Site designer and coordinator, solar eclipse festival in Madras, OR. Site layout included camping for over 5,000 and another event at the Madras Fairgrounds.
- .Soul Box Presentation 2022: A non-profit event on the National Mall concerning gun violence.
- Angry Birds Space Launch 2012: Technical Director and Rigging Designer. An installation of a 35' tall Angry Bird with a 300' "slingshot" on the Space Needle in Seattle. Built in a snowstorm, at night.
- Hunter S Thompson Memorial Service, 2020: Rigging Design and execution. A fabric reveal for the 154' tall memorial monument in Woody Creek CO.
- Mickey's Magic Mirror, 2022: Technical Director. Outdoor event for 150,000 in Mexico City over 11 nights at Christmas time. The show had over 800 pyrotechnic effects.
- Tarzan Stage Show 2019 Technical Director. A Disney show seen by 200,000 in San Paulo Brazil over 20 days. Built from the ground up in a convention center.
- Disney Parade 2023: Technical Director. Produced in Brazil and traveled to 3 cities. Played on the Copacabana in Rio. Seen by over 2 million people.
- Disney Showcase: Technical Director. An investor event at the Kodak theater in Hollywood.
- Pocahontas in Central Park, 1994. Technical Supervisor and site CAD designer. A Premiere for 100,000 on the Great Lawn on 4 huge screens, with a concert and a fireworks show.
- NATO Defense Ministers Meeting: Technical Director. A NATO training exercise in Colorado Springs. Technical Director, set design, outdoor event design. Required a Top Secret clearance.

## **Major Film World Premiers 1994 - 2021**

- Pirates of the Caribbean 1, 2, 3, & 4: Technical Director and screen designer, at Disneyland.
- Pearl Harbor: Technical Director and moving screen designer. Presented on a huge screen with orchestra and fireworks on the USS Stennis aircraft carrier in Hawaii.
- Cars: Technical Director and screen designer. At Charlotte Motor Speedway for 32,000.
- Shark Tale Premiere: Technical Director. At the Delacote Theater in Central Park, NYC.
- Pocahontas: Technical Director, Designer. For 100,000 people in Central Park, NYC.
- Hunchback of Notre Dame: Technical Director. At the Superdome, New Orleans, a stage show and premier for a capacity audience of 62,000
- Fantasia 2000: Technical Director. Premieres with orchestra at Carnegie Hall & Pasadena.
- Armageddon at Kenedy Space Center. A World Premiere at the Saturn V museum and an outdoor Aerosmith concert.
- Technical Director for additional World Film Premiers, including Evita, Dreamgirls, Brother Bear, Tarzan, Atlantis, Remember the Titans, Mulon, Hercules, and The Alamo

## **Art and Theme Installation, 2018-2023**

- Janet Echelman “Current” Sculpture: Rigging Designer and Installation Supervisor for an art installation in Columbus, Ohio, over a busy intersection.
- Janet Echelman in Beverly Hills: Production Designer and Supervisor for an art installation over a major state highway, near Rodeo Drive.
- Echelman installation at the Jeremy Hotel, CA: Rigging Designer for a permanent art installation at a hotel in Los Angeles.
- Echelman installation in Korea: Rigging Designer and Installer, for a major art installation at a shopping center in Korea.
- Great Wolf Lodge. Technical Director. A theme attraction for 3 Great Wolf Lodges.
- Galaxy Casino, Macau: Technical Director. A \$20 million lobby theme attraction for Jeremy Railton Entertainment Design Corporation.
- World of Color Elevator Stage: Designer and Construction Supervisor for the World of Color attraction at Disney California Adventure.
- National Harbor: Designer and Installation Supervisor. Stage and screen mechanical systems.
- NYX Design. Technical Director for a major lighting installation at Disney Animal Kingdom.
- Brown United INC.: Design and prototype development for a major US staging contractor.

## **Concerts 1983 – 1996**

- Production Manager and Sound Engineer, Miramar Theater, San Clemente CA. 1980. Built out a movie theater into a concert venue, technical Director for over 30 shows, including Chuck Berry, Dave Mason, and Joe Cooker.
- Head Sound, Bowie 1987 Glass Spiders Tour at Anaheim Stadium.
- Head Carpenter, Grateful Dead with Dylan, 1987 at Anaheim Stadium.
- Head Carpenter, Leon Russell at Raincross Square, Riverside, CA. 1983
- Head Sound Paul McCartney at Anaheim Stadium 1993
- Irvine Meadows Amphitheater: Master Soundman. A 16,000 venue in Orange County, California. House Master Soundman. Supervised crew, sound rigging, house sound operations for over 600 shows. 1982-1995.
- Pacific Amphitheater, Costa Mesa CA. 1984-1991. Stagehand, Spotlight Operator, Rigger, over 200 shows.
- The Concert for Valor 2014: Site Designer and Coordinator. A free concert on the National Mall to honor veterans, broadcast live on HBO. Responsible for CAD layout drawings, technical scheduling, vendor coordination, onsite setup, and collaboration with the National Parks Service and other government agencies. The live audience was estimated at 400,000.
- Come From Away at the Lincoln Memorial 2023: Site Designer and Supervisor, the concert of the Broadway production, on the steps of the Lincoln memorial.
- Disney in Concert, Panama: Technical Director 2021. A concert in Panama City, Panama for 100,000.

## **Education 1968-1972**

- Pasadena City College. AA degree
- California State University Long Beach, Industrial Design

## **Publication**

- The Event Safety Guide, a book of best practices for the event industry. Contributed to chapters on structures and rigging.
- PLASA: Contributor to ICOPER: Rigging drawing and rigging practices standards committees.
- International Code of Practice for Entertainment Rigging: Contributor.

## **Instructor**

- Local 504 IATSE, 1984: Developed rigging & stagecraft training programs.

## **Speaker**

- PLSN Pro Production Convention: 2003 & 2004. Panel Moderator “Business Tools for the Production Company”.
- Event Live, 2013: The Event Safety Alliance presentation on ICS and NIMS.

## **Member**

- Local 504 IATSE, Santa Ana CA: Union Officer, Steward, Department Head, Head Carpenter, Stagehand, High Rigger, Electrician, A/V Operator, and Film Projectionist, 35 years.
- Event Safety Alliance, Founding member, and contributor, since 2011
- PLASA: Professional Lighting and Sound Association
- USITT: The United States Institute for Theatre Technology
- GCMA: The Global Crowd Management Alliance
- ESTA TSP: The ESTA Technical Standards Program, the only ANSI-accredited standards program dedicated to the needs of the entertainment technology industry. Voting Member, Rigging and Event Safety workshops.

## **Certificates**

- FEMA Emergency Management Institute. Completed 4 course studies for: ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS), ICS-200 for resources, I-00015.b Special Event Contingency Planning, and IS000700.a Introduction to National Incident Management (NIMS)
- CM Hoist School, Hoist repair workshop, completed.

## **Websites**

- [www.theatricalexpertwitness.com](http://www.theatricalexpertwitness.com) Expert Witness website
- [www.eventdesignservices.com](http://www.eventdesignservices.com) Business website