

# SEAN CAWELTI

CREATIVE DIRECTOR | IMMERSIVE STORYTELLING | PUPPET & MEDIA DESIGN

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Award-winning Creative Director with 20+ years of experience in immersive storytelling, themed entertainment, puppetry, and media design. Expert in blending technology and tactile design to create emotionally resonant, story-driven guest experiences. Proven leader of large, multidisciplinary teams and complex productions. Passionate about inclusive, innovative, and culturally grounded storytelling.

## SKILLS

- **Creative Direction & Experience Design**
  - Immersive storytelling, audience journey, experiential scripting
- **Theater Direction & Writing**
  - Original works, devising, script development, narrative structure
- **Themed Entertainment**
  - Concept, pitching, operational planning, site-specific activations
- **Media & Video Design**
  - Projection mapping, Adobe Creative Suite, Unity, Cinema 4D, Q-SYS
- **Puppetry & Mask Design**
  - Large-scale puppets, sculpture, foam carving, fiberglass, scenic finishing
- **Theatrical Effects**
  - Illusions, Pepper's Ghost, blacklight effects, forced perspective
- **Technical Collaboration**
  - Cross-functional leadership, prototyping, backend integration + design
- **Inclusion & Accessibility**
  - Sensory storytelling, bilingual + mobility-accessible design

## EXPERIENCE

CREATIVE DIRECTOR + DESIGNER | FREELANCE | INTERNATIONAL

2001 - PRESENT

- Led creative direction, puppetry, and video design for opera, arena tours, immersive events
- Collaborated on projects for Kanye West's *Yeezus* Tour, Pasadena Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Chicago Opera Theater, NY City Opera, Center Theater Group, and others
- Designed projections and puppetry for narrative-driven, site-specific productions
- Directed multidisciplinary teams from concept through technical integration
- Created inclusive, multilingual, sensory-accessible experiences
- Co-authored LA Anti-Racist Theatre Standards, adopted by cultural institutions across Southern California

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ROGUE ARTISTS ENSEMBLE | LA, CA

2004 - 2024

- Founded and led an award-winning company producing 25+ original immersive productions.
- Created sensory-rich and site-specific work like *Kaidan Project: Walls Grow Thin*
- Oversaw 40+ artists and technicians in design, fabrication, media, and performance
- Directed *Kaidan Project: Alone*, a GPS-driven AR app with binaural audio
- Oversaw production pipelines, budgets, and long-term creative strategy

## ART DIRECTOR + COORDINATOR | CA SCIENCE CENTER | LA, CA

1996 - 2001

- Designed touring science shows and exhibits merging storytelling and technology
- Created a statewide, touring, multi-sensory inflatable dome media experience
- Managed logistics, staff, and content development for touring programs
- Prioritized accessibility and engagement for diverse communities across California

## ATTRACTION LEAD SPECIAL PROJECTS | DISNEYLAND RESORT | ANAHEIM, CA 1996 - 2001

- Helped launch Disney's California Adventure by developing operational strategies
- Collaborated with legal, creative, and safety teams to implement guest-ready systems
- Partnered cross-functionally with Imagineering and resort leadership teams

## EDUCATION

- **University of California, Irvine** – B.A. in Drama, Honors in Stage Direction & Design
- **New York University** – Intensive Puppetry Workshop (Selected Participant)
- **Brazil Artist Residency** – Woodcarving– Selected by LA Cultural Affairs

## AWARDS

- **Ovation Award for Puppet Design** – *Kaidan Project: Walls Grow Thin* (2018)
- **Ovation Award for Puppet Design** – *Wood Boy Dog Fish* (2017)
- **Sherwood Award for Directing** – [Center Theater Group](#) (2015)
- **UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellent** – [Gogol Project](#) (2010)
- **Los Angeles Drama Circle Award for Writing** – Mr. Punch (2008)
- **Spirit of Disney Award** – Recognizing outstanding contributions (2001)
- **1st place, LA Guild of Puppetry 48 Hour Film Festival** – [PORTABLE](#) (2021)
- **3rd place overall + Best Cinematography, 48 Hour Film Project** – [Allergic](#) (2023)
- **Multiple Stage Raw & LA Weekly Nominations** – Categories in video design, writing, direction, and mask design

## AFFILIATIONS + MEMBERSHIPS

- **Board Member** - The Jim Henson Foundation
- **Member** - USA 829 (United Scenic Artists – IATSE)
- **Founding Author** - Los Angeles Anti-Racist Theater Standards
- **Member** - Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry