

SEAN CAWELTI

CREATIVE DIRECTOR | IMMERSIVE STORYTELLING | PUPPET & MEDIA DESIGN

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• Portfolio • www.seancawelti.com •

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