

JEFF SHERWOOD

Sound Designer, Composer, Engineer

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Personal Artistic Statement

Theatre has an empathic force that changes lives as audience members explore and work through big ideas heightened by metaphors. As a theatre artist, I strive to harness this power through sound and music in collaboration with creative teams in the art of storytelling.

I approach theatre by looking at the entire theatrical experience as a piece of music, a concept introduced to me by my mentor Richard K. Thomas. What are the musical markers, including tempo, tension, rises and falls as characters journey toward the climactic turn of the action? We cannot forget the contribution of the musicality of the actors' voices, their pacing, rhythm, and the tempo of their footsteps across the stage. This is quite difficult to extrapolate from the text alone and requires me to put myself in the shoes of each character.

I also pay close attention to how I react viscerally to the script. How do I experience the world the playwright is crafting? What will the audience members' reactions be when they experience this play in living form? It is these visceral reactions that are fundamental when creating the sound score and design.

Music has the power to incite and evoke our emotional memory, even on a subconscious level, and can be used in conjunction with re-occurring thematic material along a character's journey. This understanding informs my approach to the design process, both with content and system.

The most important process with sound design and composition is collaboration with the team of co-creators including the director, designers, actors, and technicians. Sound certainly does not and cannot carry the entire story the entire time, and determining together how and when the sound score will be crafted and heard is essential in harnessing the power that theatre has to inform, educate, entertain, and change lives.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Sherwood