

United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829, IATSE

• REPRESENTING •

Art Department
Coordinators

Art Directors

Computer Artists

Costume Designers

Lighting Designers

Production Designers

Projection Designers

Scenic Artists

Scenic Designers

Sound Designers

• FOR •

Major & Independent
Motion Pictures

Network & Cable TV

Broadway &
Regional Theatre

Opera

Ballet

Commercials

Industrial Shows

Special Events

• AND MORE •

SOUND DESIGN EXAMINATION INFORMATION – WESTERN REGION

Dear Applicant,

The IATSE Local USA 829 Sound Design Examination is a Portfolio Review for admitting those individuals who earn a living by designing sound professionally, and those who possess employable skills as a sound designer, supervisor or assistant sound designer. The applicants we are looking for can be found working professionally in the Western Region in theatre, regional theatre (LORT), dance, opera, concert, cabaret and industrial shows. Since the Union is a professional organization, students are advised not to make application until **after their final year of studies**. The union recommends that applicants have extensive experience in lieu of, or in addition to, any formal training in sound design.

The following items must be submitted to the Exam Committee:

- One (1) Completed **application** form (available on website)
- One (1) Copy of your current **résumé** (including specific history of employment)
- Three (3) **Letters of recommendation** (form is available on website) from professional contacts. These contacts can include designers, directors, producers, sound engineers and/or electricians. **Letters of recommendation must be sent directly from the person writing them.**

All materials should be sent to the committee c/o **Monique L'Heureux** via email to: WestExam@usa829.org. Please contact Ms. L'Heureux – 323-965-0957 – for all pertinent deadlines, or with any questions about the application process.

In addition to the above, a **non-refundable check** in the amount of **\$75.00** payable to **United Scenic Artists** should be mailed to Ms. L'Heureux at the Western Regional office (see address below left). This amount covers the application/résumé review. If your application moves on to portfolio review, you will be asked to send an **additional non-refundable check** in the amount of **\$125.00** for the portfolio review. Please be sure to include a copy of your application form with each check.

OUR REVIEW OF YOUR PORTFOLIO

The optimal way for us to review your work is electronically. For example, if you have a website with examples of your work we can direct the members of our Portfolio Review Committee to it. We may ask you for additional information to show us you understand sound from a design and systems side, and have worked in computer-based editing.

Most importantly, we need to know you can communicate your design intention and direction clearly to producers and directors.

If your website does not include sound examples, we may request a CD or DVD.



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www.usa829.org

We ask that you **submit a portfolio of two (2) complete sound designs *that were produced***. At least one (1) design must have been produced in a non-academic situation. Each design must provide all necessary information for a sound engineer to pull the show from a rental shop (and hang and cable it *in your absence*). ***Paperwork we must see for each design may include:***

- A System One-Line (Block Diagram)
- Equipment List
- Groundplan and Section showing speaker placement, amp location, FOH mix location, IR emitter locations, etc.
- Also, include a CD/DVD of the Sound Score (Music Cues/Effects)

For all the drafting above, 1/2" scale is preferred, but 1/4" is acceptable for floor plans of produced designs. ***Please do not send any original paperwork.*** No photocopied reductions of drafting will be accepted; only folded blue- or black-lines please.

Rather than a finished blueprint, the section you submit should be a working drawing reflecting your design process. It must show how you determined the selection, placement and trim height of loudspeakers. It should indicate the focus and coverage angle for each speaker shown on the groundplan.

Please be very selective in preparing your portfolio. Select what you consider to be your strongest work, and order the submitted projects by importance from most important to least. Please label your submitted design photos clearly by title, and to the extent possible, indicate the theatre venue and/or producing organization, and the date of the production for each design.

All of the above may be submitted electronically. If you cannot submit electronically or do not have a website: you may submit all of the above to the Los Angeles office as hard copies. For all hard copies submitted, please do not send originals. Photocopied paperwork will be accepted. If you'd like the material returned to you, please include the appropriate prepaid self-addressed labels.

If you have any questions about the Exam, you may contact:

Monique L'Heureux • E-mail: WestExam@usa829.org • Phone: 323-965-0957
Larry Metzler • E-mail: WestExam@usa829.org • Phone: 818-501-6428

Note: your initiation and IATSE fees **must be paid within three (3) months of being notified of the recommendation for membership**. After three months, your membership recommendation will be forfeited. Please do not apply if you cannot afford to pay the full initiation and IATSE fees within three months of being recommended for membership. Current fees can be located at www.usa829.org under Membership > How to Join (Examination/Portfolio Review section).

Thank you for your interest in IATSE Local USA 829.

Sincerely,

THE WESTERN REGION SOUND DESIGN PORTFOLIO REVIEW COMMITTEE