

DANIEL IONAZZI

Production Manager

Daniel Ionazzi, production manager at the Geffen Playhouse, can attribute his career in theater to some good, old-fashioned peer pressure. Just before his final year at his Chicago area high school, Ionazzi's group of friends convinced him to audition for the big school musical – and much to his surprise, he was cast. His performance began a year of intense theater training for Ionazzi, who spent much of his senior year onstage or behind the scenes.

At Western Illinois University, it wasn't long before Ionazzi was fully immersed in the theater department, first onstage and then heavily involved in lighting design and other production elements. Ionazzi went on to become the technical director for a small theater company in Kansas, before moving to New York where he worked in a variety of production positions including assistant technical director for the Juilliard School as well as for CBS and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

After 5 years in New York, Ionazzi headed out west where he spent his summers as the production manager and technical director for Santa Fe Festival Theatre and his winters at the Denver Center Theatre Company. In 1988, Ionazzi accepted a position at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) at the newly formed School of Theater, Film and Television. In addition to teaching and designing at the University, Ionazzi penned two books *The Stage Management Handbook* and *The Stagecraft Handbook*, which are used at high schools and universities throughout the country.

When UCLA helped to establish the Geffen Playhouse in 1995, Ionazzi became one of the first Geffen Playhouse employees taking on the role of production manager at the theater, in addition to maintaining his position as director of production on the faculty of UCLA. In addition to teaching at the University every year, Ionazzi has designed numerous productions for the Geffen Playhouse and other theaters in the LA area including: *All My Sons*; (Ovation nomination); *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*; *Boy Gets Girl* (Ovation nomination); *God's Man in Texas*; *The Unexpected Man*; *The Weir*; *Defiled*; and *All in the Timing* (Ovation nomination) at the Geffen; and *Catapult* and *Trajectory* for the dance company Diavolo. Additional design credits: *The Ahkmatova Project*; *Henry IV Part I*; *The Three Sisters*; *Telling Time*; *Othello*; *Trojan Women*; *Misalliance*; *The Night of the Iguana*; *Antigone*; *Amelia Lives*; and *Jenufa* with Josef Svoboda.

In addition to his positions at the Geffen Playhouse and UCLA, Ionazzi designed the exhibit *WWII – Beyond All Boundaries* which opened in June 2009 at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE