

## The Director

### MICHAEL D. MITCHELL

Michael is a native of Oklahoma and has spent his life as a professional director and an educator. He holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma and has held teaching positions at the University of Texas and Oberlin College. During his career, he has directed more than 150 productions including the world premiere of the musicalization of Ray Bradbury's **Fahrenheit 451**. Michael has served on the staff of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and was artistic director of the Lincoln Playhouse (Nebraska). In 1987 the governor named him an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy! From 1987 - 1993, he was executive director of the Civic Theatre of Fort Wayne (Indiana). Michael has been guest director for a number of theaters including Skylight Opera (Milwaukee), Theatre Tulsa (Oklahoma), and Nebraska Repertory Theatre. He is an associate member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Michael's Phoenix Theatre directorial credits include the critically-acclaimed productions of **Miss Evers' Boys, A Little Night Music, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Lion in Winter, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, and Marvin's Room, Ghetto, Lizard** and BBT's '96-'97 award winning **Dancers**.

## Production Profiles

### CAROL SIMMONS

COSTUME DESIGNER

Carol has designed numerous productions for the Black Theatre Troupe. As the resident hair/makeup designer at ASU's Lyric Opera Theatre, her designs include **Turn of the Screw, The Marriage of Figaro, Into the Woods, The Mystery of Edwin Drood and Dancers**. As resident designer for BTT since 1996, she has designed all productions and received an AriZoni Award for her design of **Five Guys Named Moe**.

### THOM GILSETH

RESIDENT SCENIC DESIGNER

Thom is one of the most renowned scenic designers in Phoenix. Over the last 15 years he has designed for every major company in the Phoenix theater community. He has designed for award-winning shows such as **Forever Plaid and Forever Patsy Cline**, as well as **An American Comedy** for Phoenix Theatre's 1995 season opener. Thom is also responsible for the design for Scottsdale Playhouse's **Guv: The Emperor Strikes Back**, in addition to the design for Theatre League's long running hit **Six Women with Brain Death**, also at the new Scottsdale Playhouse.. Most recently Thom designed **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** for Phoenix Theatre and **Fiddler on the Roof** for Arizona Jewish Theatre.

### MIKE J. EDDY

LIGHTING DESIGN

Michael has performed extensively in theatres throughout the Valley for the past 10 years and is thrilled, again, to be working with The Black Theatre Troupe. No stranger to the Phoenix Theatre stage, Michael appeared as The Mute in the Phoenix Theatre's production of **The Fantasticks**. Recent appearances include **Greasepaint** Scottsdale Theatre's production of **Guys and Dolls and Midsummer Night's Dream** with the Southwest Shakespeare Company. Michael is also a prominent stage lighting designer in the Valley and has received AriZoni awards for a number of his productions. Represented by the Leighton Agency, his commercial credits include Harkins Theatres, Circle K and the famous "Domino's Pizza Dude."

### MARY HERNANDEZ.

PROPERTIES

Mary has worked properties at Phoenix Theatre for the past 11 years. Some of her favorite shows include **Dancers, Stars, Once on this Island, A Little Night Music, Peter Pan and Forever Plaid**. She also worked as the personal assistant to Loretta Divine in the Phoenix Theater production of **Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill**.