

Vance Smith

Production Manager · Event Producer · Assistant Stage Manager

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I've spent twenty years turning other people's visions into reality — on stage, on set, and on the event floor. From corporate meetings and live events to film and theatre productions, I build trust quickly, solve problems calmly, and keep complex projects moving forward. Experience includes executive meetings, sales conferences, and leadership events for Fortune 500 organizations.

Corporate & Live Event Production

Production Manager / Assistant Stage Manager · Flirt Communications · 2024–2026

- Grainger Annual Sales Meeting (Nashville): Served as onsite Assistant Stage Manager and pre-production Production Manager for a 2,000+ attendee national sales conference, managing backstage executive flow and coordinating travel logistics and entertainment sourcing.
- Reckitt Core Deployment Meeting (Philadelphia): Managed pre-production logistics for a 400+ attendee sales meeting, including travel coordination, costumes, props, and custom branded materials; supported presenter flow and backstage operations onsite.
- Worked directly with Executive Producer through full production lifecycle from pre-production through strike.

Production Manager / Assistant Stage Manager · Interconnect Production · 2024

- Freelance PM and Assistant Stage Manager for Performance Paradigm's Examined Human, onsite in New York

Production Manager / Assistant Stage Manager · Agency EA · 2023

- Onsite Production Manager and Assistant Stage Manager for Google executive diversity and leadership meetings in San Francisco (approximately 100 attendees).

Production Manager · ABS Collective · 2018

- Organized and supervised load-in and technical rehearsals for the Guild of Music Supervisors Awards at the Ace Theatre, Downtown Los Angeles

Production Assistant · American Idol Productions · 2017–2018

- PA for the relaunched first season of American Idol on ABC — covered script, travel, booth, office, and warehouse

Film & Commercial Production

Owner / Executive Producer · The Peach Productions · 2023–Present

- Lead producer and director for Maggie's Not Okay — 24 festival run including Austin Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival, San Jose Short Film Festival (Winner: Best Comedy)
- Produced Flamingo — full production management including budgeting, crew hiring, physical production, and catering
- Coordinated SAG-AFTRA paperwork and payments for Émigré/Americana
- Partnered with Lucky Bag Productions on two short film productions in Myrtle Beach, SC — managed scheduling and physical production

Creative Producer · Maned Wolf Productions · 2021

- Primary producer for short film Each Lovely Thing — budgeting, contract negotiations, physical production coordination, and active partnership on post-production decisions and festival submission strategy

Line Producer · Better Than Expected Productions · 2020

- Budgeting, contract negotiation, vendor relations, and physical production management for short film *Huge*

Leadership & Production Management

Producing Artistic Director · Stage Left Theatre — Chicago · *2009–2017*

- Directed operations of a professional Chicago theatre company, overseeing programming, staffing, budgeting, marketing, development, and production
- Produced 18 main-stage productions and 8 new work festivals
- Negotiated production collaborations with 6 theatre organizations and city agencies including the Chicago Department of Culture and Special Events
- Managed casting processes, literary department restructuring, and post-show symposium series

Founder & Artistic Director · Black Sheep Productions · *2006–2009*

- Founded and incorporated a 501(c)3 nonprofit theatre company; produced 4 mainstage productions, including work recognized by TimeOut Chicago and NewCity year-end lists

Skills & Tools

Production: Event production management, assistant stage management, live event production, vendor relations, travel logistics, presenter support, budgeting, scheduling, load-in/strike, SAG-AFTRA

Software: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), Google Workspace, Dropbox, Adobe Photoshop, and Premiere, Wix, Squarespace

Education & Training

Tulane University — BA cum laude with honors, Theatre & English

The School at Steppenwolf — Theatre training, Chicago