



MIKE RIGGS (*Lighting Designer*) works in theater, opera and dance worldwide for companies ranging from scrappy upstarts to venerable institutions.

Mike is Resident Lighting Designer for two of the most acclaimed off-off-Broadway theater companies to emerge in the past decade: One Year Lease (*The Killing Room, The Bald Soprano, Bed, Machinal,* etc.) and The Debate Society (*Buddy Cop 2, Cape Disappointment, The Eaten Heart,* etc.) Other recent theater credits include *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, Hostage Song, Red-Haired Thomas,* and *6969* (NY Innovative Theater Award nomination).

He regularly designs new dance works by noted modern choreographers including Liz Lerman, Matthew Westerby, Cassie Meador, Chris Elam (including the recently acclaimed *Time Lapse* at the Joyce SoHo), Tony Morales and Jonathan Hollander. He has worked as Lighting Supervisor for MOMIX and Parsons Dance Company, touring four continents and most of the United States. He is the lighting designer of Next Generation Ballet's celebrated annual production of *The Nutcracker*.

Mike has had the distinct honor of designing the past three endeavors of the legendary Maestro Anton Coppola at Opera Tampa: the Maestro's own adaptation of *The Merry Widow, La Traviata,* and a double bill of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. He looks forward to designing the Maestro's farewell gala in February. Other opera credits include various productions with the opera companies of Omaha, Syracuse, El Paso, Shreveport, Sarasota and Naples (among others).

Mike has designed lighting for special appearances by Plácido Domingo, Raul Esparza, Denyce Graves, Patti LaBelle, k.d. lang, Liza Minnelli, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Chita Rivera, James Taylor, Ben Vereen and Frederica von Stade, to name just a few. Standout events include Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg's *The Art of Film Music* with John Williams conducting the National Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Kennedy Center's historic 2009 birthday salute to Senator Edward M. Kennedy (also with Maestro Williams).

A graduate of Vassar College, Mike designed *Vassar Voices*, a theatrical and musical event featuring Meryl Streep and Frances Sternhagen among other notable alumnae/i, which played in cities worldwide during the College's 2011 sesquicentennial.

Upcoming engagements include *Aida* and *Don Giovanni* at Opera Tampa; *How To Lose A Mountain* with Cassie Meador/Dance Exchange; a season of new dance works with Tony Morales, two new plays in development with The Debate Society, and the U.S. premiere of Mark Ravenhill's *pool (no water)* with One Year Lease.