

**BAK**

# BEN ARGENTA KRESS

COSTUME DESIGNER / VISUAL ARTIST

## OBJECTIVE

“Man will be become better when you show him what he is like.”

– Anton Chekhov

Ben Argenta Kress (He/Him/His) is an artist primarily interested in who we are and who we can be, together and alone. Informed by his interest in psychology and sociology, these musings have been central to Ben’s work as a costume designer, visual artist, and manager. Recently returned to the Midwest (his place of birth), Ben previously found an artistic and professional home in Baltimore, MD.

## ADDRESS

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## EMAIL

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## WEBSITE

www.benargentakress.com

REFERENCES AVAILABLE  
BY REQUEST

## · SELECT COSTUME DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Regional Theater	Playwright / Director	Organization
<i>The Prom</i>	• Chad Beguelin / <b>Tor Campbell</b>	• Wirtz Center at Northwestern Uni.
<i>Everything is Wonderful</i>	• Chelsea Mercantel / <b>Noah Himmelstein</b>	• Everyman Theatre
<i>Antigone</i>	• David Feldshuh / <b>Daniel Bryant</b>	• Baltimore Center Stage Mobile Unit
<i>Spring Awakening</i>	• Steven Sater / <b>Ryan Haase</b>	• Stillpointe Theatre
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	• William Shakespeare / <b>Daniel Bryant</b>	• Baltimore Center Stage Mobile Unit
<i>Lady Day at Emerson’s...</i>	• Lanie Robertson / <b>Danielle Drakes</b>	• Rep Stage
<i>Wasted</i>	• Kat Woods / <b>Kat Woods</b>	• Baltimore Center Stage
<i>H2O</i>	• Jane Martin / <b>Kasi Campbell</b>	• Rep Stage
<i>Endgame</i>	• Samuel Beckett / <b>Daniel Bryant</b>	• Baltimore Center Stage Mobile Unit
<i>Wait Until Dark</i>	• Frederick Knott / <b>Donald Hicken</b>	• Everyman Theatre
<i>Macbeth</i>	• William Shakespeare / <b>James Bunzli</b>	• Loyola University of Maryland
<i>Outside Mullingar</i>	• John Patrick Shanley / <b>Donald Hicken</b>	• Everyman Theatre
<i>Technicolor Life</i>	• Jami Brandli / <b>Joseph Rich</b>	• Rep Stage
<i>Ragtime</i>	• Terrence McNally / <b>James Haffner</b>	• Bay View Music Festival
<i>La Boheme</i>	• Giacomo Puccini / <b>Bill Fabris</b>	• Bay View Music Festival

### Recent Costume Design Assistant Work:

*Selling Kabul* at Northlight Theatre, Designer: David Arevalo

*A Chorus Line* at Drury Lane Theatre, Designers: Sarah Cubbage and Heather Jackson

*A Christmas Carol* at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Designer: Dede Ayite

### Recent Teaching Experience:

Introduction to Costume Design, NU, Instructor, Fall 2023

Introduction to Costume Design, NU, Joint Instructor with Lia Wallfish, Fall 2022

Embodied Storytelling: Character, Textiles, and Sculpture, NU, TA for Inst. David Arevalo, Spring 2022

Design Instructor, Cecil College Young People’s Theater Program, Elkton, MD, Summer 2019

### Employment June– August 2022

Interim Costume Shop Supervisor • Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts • Evanston, IL

### Employment July– September 2021

Interim Costume Shop Manager • Repertory Theatre of St. Louis • St. Louis, MO

### Employment August 2016– June 2020

Associate Costumer • Baltimore Center Stage • Baltimore, MD

## · EDUCATION

Northwestern University MFA in Stage Design candidate, anticipated completion Spring 2024

Kenyon College BA, Theatre and Psychology, 2014

## · SPECIAL SKILLS

Costume Construction, Alterations, Shop Management, Returns Management, Show Paperwork, Budget Tracking, Fabric Sourcing, Shopping, DSLR Photography, Microsoft Office, Photoshop and Digital Illustration, Pencil and Watercolor Sketching, Fabric Painting and Distressing, Fabric Dyeing, Costume Rental Coordination, Running Wardrobe, Garment Cleaning and Maintenance.

## · VISUAL ART

### Recent Exhibitions:

2022 Group Exhibition, *Figures*, Chicago Fine Art Salon, Chicago, IL

2022 Solo Exhibition, *Translucency*, Department of Performance Studies at NU, Evanston, IL