

Alfred University alum Jason Dearing '16 guest-lectures to virtual Prop Design and Construction Class
4/21/20



Jason Dearing '16, who currently serves as props artisan for the Olney Theatre Center in Olney, MD., recently paid a virtual visit to Associate Professor Zachary Hamm's Prop Design and Construction Class at Alfred University.

"Classes of all types change formats and approaches during this response to the Covid-19," says Hamm, Clinical Associate Professor/Technical Director for Performing Arts in Alfred University's Division of Performing Arts. He is conducting his Prop Design and Construction Class on-line with meetings via Zoom.

Jason talked about his career path, starting when he was asked to make props for Alfred University's 2014 production of the musical Droid when he was a second-year student. He also shared examples of his work and projects with many of the theatre companies who he has worked for. His work has ranged in scale and detail from a baby grand piano for *Singing in the Rain*, to a giant phrenology head made of papier-mâché for *My Fair Lady*, to detailed paper props such as newspapers and product packaging.

Jason graduated from Alfred with a BFA in Art and a minor in Performance Design and Technology. Following his graduation, he served as a props apprentice at the Olney Theatre Center before being hired to work in theatre props shops and as a freelancer. He also has also worked at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Williamstown, MA, the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson, AZ, the Signature Theatre in Arlington, VA, and as a freelance props artisan

and stagehand in the Washington, DC area.

Currently, while home sheltering in place, Jason has been drawing actor portraits from production photos and posting them to Instagram.

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