

Sven Ortel grew up in Cologne, Germany. After high school he lit small-scale theatre shows for six years and complemented this with lighting for movies, advertisements, and music videos.

His subsequent studies of theatrical lighting design in London, UK led him to develop a keen interest in digital technologies and their potential for the live arts

In 2001 he joined up with Dick Straker and his company mesmer to explore and further the use of imagery and projection in the live arts. For the National Theatre, London mesmer provided realization and design services for over 20 productions and established a video department which introduced technologies and techniques that have become de-facto standard today. Together with Straker he also conceived the video system and process that realized the technologically groundbreaking musical *The Woman in White* in London's West End and Broadway in 2004.

In the last 14 years Ortel's work has been seen all over the world. His range of collaborators comprises some of the most established and celebrated artists ranging from directors Michael Blakemore, Simon McBurney, Gregory Boyd, Matthias Hartman, Jonathan Kent, David Leveaux, Trevor Nunn, Deborah Warner, Bart Sher, Julie Taymor and Francesca Zambello to choreographer Helgi Tomasson, conductor Valery Gergiev and set designer George Tsypin.

With the UK company complicité, namely 2005's *Measure For Measure* and 2008's *A Disappearing Number* he achieved new degrees of integration between lighting, imagery, live video and physical sets. Both shows also toured world wide to universal acclaim. Other notable projects include *Swan Lake* for San Francisco Ballet, the re-staging of the *Kirov Ring Cycle* under maestro Valerie Gergiev in St.Petersburg, Russia and the Royal Opera House as well as the musical *Rebecca* in Austria, Switzerland and Germany, *Newsies* at the Papermill Playhouse and Broadway, the off-Broadway production of *Carrie* and Julie Taymor's *Midsummer Night's Dream* at TFANA's new home in downtown Brooklyn.

Other Broadway design credits include *Jumpers*, *Faith Healer*, *Deuce*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Woman On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown* and *Wonderland* .

Recent projects include *Svadba* at the Opera Festival in Aix En Provence, *The Other Place* at the Alley theatre in Houston as well as the world premiere of *A Confederacy Of Dunces* at Boston's Huntington Theatre.

In 2012 he was nominated for a TONY award for his work on *Newsies* and for a drama desk award in 2014 for *Midsummer*.

To foster the future of his profession, Sven mentors young projection designers, gives master classes and has created an online resource for projection design (www.projectn.com). He also leads the area of Integrated Media at the University of Texas at Austin.