

Terry Podgorski

Producer, Writer, Designer, Experience Creator

www.cafenordo.com/terry-podgorski-production-design

With 20+ years of experience self-producing art, theater, and live events I have worked with dozens of companies and hundreds of artists to bring the imagination into reality. I have worked in typical theater settings, in site-specific settings, in festivals, and in film. I co-founded Nordo, an immersive theatrical dining company in Seattle, WA based upon my own writings and designs. In its 13th year of existence, Nordo remains the longest running and currently only Seattle based immersive art experience. As both an artist and a manager of the arts I understand the process of collaboration and realizing a vision. My life's passion has been to create a laboratory for artists to invent magical worlds for delighted audiences. My career includes practical professional carpentry, a body of professionally produced playwrighting credits, and production and design credits on dozens of original pieces by artists diverse in craft, skill, and background.

Producing History

Café Nordo 2009 – Present

Co-founded an immersive theatrical dining experience in 2009 with “The Modern American Chicken”. Built a team of designers and performers that created a unique theatrical institution in Seattle.

- For 6 years created site-specific work across Seattle. Productions ran for 2-3 months.
- In 2015, company found a permanent home in the historic Pioneer Square district where it resides today. Constructed the 2000 sqft theater called Nordo's Culinarium.
- Wrote, designed, and managed the construction of 13 original productions. In each production the Nordo's Culinarium was transformed into another world.
- As co-artistic director and producing manager shepherded 18 productions designed and written by others.

Notable Nordo Productions: Devised, produced, designed, and written

- *Down the Rabbit Hole* – Currently running. Opened Fall 2021. The Knife Room at Nordo: Tumble down into the karaoke club hosted by the White Rabbit and friends and watch as Alice discovers the hit song “The Jabborwocky”. Combines dinner and immersive art installations.

- ***Violet's Attic* - Fall 2019** Nordo's Culinarium "A Grand Ball for Wicked Dolls." Join Violet and her friends as they search for a new friend who will stay forever.
- ***The Witching Hour* - Fall 2018** Nordo's Culinarium. In the basement of a Natural History Museum an occult society unwittingly opens a door to the Otherside and all our Fears cross over.
- ***Onerus* - Fall 2017** Nordo's Culinarium. As one of the privileged, sit in the Viewing Chamber under the Dream Machine and feast on the dreams from one of those who still can dream.
- ***Hotel Nordo* Fall 2016** Nordo's Culinarium. While seated in the lobby of a haunted hotel hear the deeply tragic tales trapped within the walls and learn of the original event that spawned them all.
- ***Cabinet of Curiosities* Spring 2012**- Site- Specific Washington Hall Building. Wander the three-story building that is a trans-dimensional library cataloguing all the myths and history of the culinary arts from time immemorial.

Notable Nordo Collaborations

- Sara Porkalob's *Dragon Cycle* now in development for Off Broadway by ACT in Boston.
- Devin Bannon's *Alien/Angel* A moving tribute to the life of Klaus Nomi.
- Joanna Garner's *Please Open Your Mouth* Part of Nordo's Pressure Cooker, a new works development program.

Nordo's Room Service Experience Oct 2020 – Present: Devised, Designed, Written

During the Covid shutdown Nordo pivoted to create "escape room boxes". The boxes included ephemera, puzzles, and film elements to bring immersive storytelling into the home. The products continue to be sold today and have received national exposure.

- Three products were produced within a year. All were based on previous theatrical productions. "Do Not Disturb", "The Witching Hour", and "The Interrogation of Alice".
- Wrote copy for letters, pamphlets, secret society invitations, etc.
- Collaborated with graphic designers and puzzle makers.
- Wrote scripts and designed the film elements that accompanied the boxes.

Other Notable Collaborations

[Circus Contraption](#) 2001 – 2009

An avant-garde circus troupe that toured the West Coast, the Midwest, New York, and Portugal. Unique blend of circus arts and performance art delighted thousands in theaters and festivals for over a decade.

- Began as tour manager and stage manager.
- Became Technical Director and Production Manager specializing in set design, lighting design and rigging.
- Designed set for Grand American Travelling Dime Museum that showed in Seattle, San Francisco, and New York (2004 -2006).

[Degenerate Art Ensemble/Frye Art Museum](#) (2009 – 2011)

The Seattle based avant-garde performance troupe in residence at Seattle's premiere modern art museum.

- As technical director implemented exhibits integrating music, visual art, and site-specific performances.
- Designed numerous elements with the other dozen artists that participated in the project.

Applicable Skills

Residential carpenter 17 years- Woodworking, Tilework, and Construction
Artist Recruitment & Cultivation
Basic Aerial Rigging
Stage Manager/ Tour Manager 8 years
Technical Direction
Project Management
Creative Writing/Playwrighting/Game Design
Excel/Budgeting
Basic Adobe Suite
Drafting- Sketchup
Basic ServoCity Construction

Education

University of Michigan- English Literature and Philosophy of Religion