

# GRIFFIN DISTASI

[griffin.distasi@gmail.com](mailto:griffin.distasi@gmail.com)

(224) 688-4438

griffindistasi.com

## **Education**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Dec 2022

*Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering*

GPA: 3.44

## **Work Experience**

**The Actors Gymnasium**

Evanston, IL

*Rigging Coordinator*

November 2025-Present

- Ensured proper usage of company spaces
- Instructed students on safe rigging practices
- Rigged aerial apparatuses for performers and students based on changing needs
- Conducted rigging checks

**The Actors Gymnasium**

Evanston, IL

*Education Coordinator*

January 2025-Present

- Ensured proper usage of company spaces
- Completed various admin tasks
- Assisted students with rigging needs
- Ensured safe usage of aerial equipment and rigging
- Interfaced with students and parents on a regular basis
- Offered advice and resolve concerns with students and parents of students

**Freelance**

Evanston, IL

*Poster Designer*

June 2024-Present

- Digitally illustrated & painted poster designs for circus theater productions
- Integrated differing client needs into design edits
- Evaluated graphic design elements including font, text size, and layout
- Created multiple versions of posters for various platforms

**Manual Cinema**

Chicago, IL

*Costume Assistant*

April 2025-June 2025

- Collaborated with director and performers to customize costumes for performer needs
- Fabricated costume accessories based on costume designer drawings
- Altered leather goods for comfort, fit, and functionality
- Communicated with creative team to find solutions to various hurdles

**The Actors Gymnasium**

Evanston, IL

*Puppet Designer*

December 2024-February 2025

- Designed an articulated wolf puppet mask for use in a circus theater production
- Fabricated articulated wolf mask using Worbla thermoplastic & EVA foam
- Fabricated 9 ensemble wolf masks using FDM 3D printing
- Customized masks to performer dimensions

**Lookingglass Theater Company**

Chicago, IL

*Circus & Rigging Consultant*

December 2024-February 2025

- Instructed performers on proper circus safety and form
- Advised run crew on proper usage of performer flying equipment
- Choreographed movement pieces for the stage
- Devised tricks on novel aerial equipment
- Designed and embroidered patches for use in costuming

## **The Actors Gymnasium**

Evanston, IL

### Production Associate

January 2023-March 2023

- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team of professional artists
- Choreographed circus acts for performers' unique skill sets
- Advised on creative, safety, and implementation decisions
- Designed faux armor to be used in active and varied settings
- Constructed armor to physical and aesthetic specifications

## **Siebel Center for Design**

Champaign, IL

### Shop Team

August 2022-December 2022

- Instructed guests on proper usage of machines ranging from large-format printers to shop equipment such as bandsaws and CNC routers
- Enforced and educated guests on relevant safety standards
- Assisted guests through technical problems and project questions

## **Blick Art Materials**

Evanston, IL

### Retail Associate

June 2022-August 2022

- Advised customers on usage and selection of project materials
- Coordinated with team members to provide accurate and applicable information to customers

## **Cabinet of Curiosity**

Chicago, IL

### Engineering Apprentice

May 2020-August 2020

- Collaborated with a cross disciplinary team
- Planned and delegated responsibilities for performances
- Designed a freestanding ladder using Autodesk Fusion 360
- Adapted ladder design specifications based on changing user needs
- Began manufacturing of metal ladder by utilizing shop equipment

## **The Actors Gymnasium**

Evanston, IL

### Production Assistant

March 2018 - May 2018

- Coached 30 students in circus skills
- Advised on the directorial process, costume design, and the choreography of circus acts
- Assigned circus acts following evaluation of the students' skill sets
- Modified aerial rigging depending on performances' needs
- Educated students on proper safety standards
- Operated rigging, transitions, and instruments for performances

## **Skills**

- |                       |                             |                            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ● PTC Creo            | ● Textile Arts              | ● CNC Router               |
| ● Autodesk Inventor   | ● Leather Working           | ● Laser Engraver           |
| ● Autodesk Fusion 360 | ● Blender                   | ● 3D printing (FDM/SLA)    |
| ● AutoCAD             | ● Digital Illustration      | ● Rapid prototyping        |
| ● Apriori             | ● 2D Animation              | ● Performer flying rigging |
| ● Matlab              | ● Linocut printing          | ● Circus rigging           |
| ● Microsoft Office    | ● Comic layout/writing      | ● Theater production       |
| ● Google Suite        | ● Costume Design            | ● Choreography             |
| ● Wordpress           | ● Puppet design/fabrication | ● Teaching                 |