SET DESIGN & FASHION DESIGN

[STEFF CHELARU]

Professional Journey

CURRENTLY BASED IN TÂRGU-JIU, Steff is collaborating with director Dumitru Acriş on the upcoming premiere Morphine by Mikhail Bulgakov.Earlier this year, she worked in Iaşi on A Lady at the Door Who Inquires About the Lord (based on The Bird by Georges Feydeau, directed by Cristi Avram), later staged at the National Athenaeum of Iaşi and in Sfântu Gheorghe with director Vlad Massaci for Ordinary People by David Lindsay and Neil LaBute.

2025

The year concluded with the opening of the first private theatre in Romania after 60 years—namely TEATRUL GRIVIȚA 53—with the production "5+3=9", directed by Ștefan Lupu.
At the beginning of the year, a premiere took place in Iaşi with "There Is a Lady at the Door Asking for the Gentleman", based on the original text "Fazanul" by Georges Feydeau, directed by Cristi Avram at the Iaşi National Athenaeum.
The second premiere of 2025 was staged in collaboration with director Vlad Massaci, with the production "Ordinary People" by David Lindsay-Abaire, at the "Andrei Mureşanu" Theatre in Sfântu Gheorghe.
The third production was "Morphine" by Mikhail Bulgakov, directed by Dumitru Acriş, at the "Elvira Godeanu" Dramatic Theatre in Târgu Jiu.
In September, rehearsals began for the premiere of "Marriage", based on the play by Nikolai Gogol, directed by Mihai Brătilă, at the "Elvira Godeanu" Dramatic Theatre.
The month of November concluded with the premiere of "The Star Without a Name" by Mihail Sebastian, directed by Cristi Avram, at the "Elvira Godeanu" Dramatic Theatre.

2024

IN 2024, she premiered Farfuria by Maria Manolescu, directed by Dragoş Muşoiu, as part of the Bucharest Scenography Biennale at Masca Theatre. She designed the set for The Memory of Water by Shelagh Stephenson, directed by Mihai Brătilă, at "Elvira Godeanu" Dramatic Theatre in Târgu-Jiu, and for The Beast by Raluca Mănescu and Denisa Nicolae at Metropolis Theatre, Bucharest. Returning to her hometown, Botoşani, she worked with Andrei Măjeri on Pieces of Resistance. She also served as assistant scenographer for Robert Icke's Mary Stuart, directed by Andrei Şerban, under stage designers Helmut Stürmer and Corina Grămăşteanu.

2023

IN 2023, she created scenography for several premieres. The most recent was at the German State Theatre in Timişoara, in collaboration with the Jewish Theatre of Bucharest: Sisyphos. A Stand-up Tragedy by Thomas Perle, directed by Clements Bechtel. At Andrei Mureşanu Theatre in Sfântu Gheorghe, she designed the set for Sakura Sandwich by Doru Vatavului, directed by Tirsza Kovacs, and also the costumes for How We Met, Bought a House, and Found Happiness in Orlando, based on Chuck Palahniuk's story, directed by Vlad Massaci. She further collaborated with Andrei Măjeri on Medea (Ben Power's modern adaptation) at Mic Theatre, Bucharest. Later that year, she joined the Power Lab project residency at Metropolis Theatre, where her project Aquatic Ballerinas by David Drabek received recognition alongside scenographer Monica Stoica.

Events & Special Projects

2024

INTERNETICS2024, cultural event „MARELE BAL LA MIȚA BICICLISTA".

FESTIVALURI – participation at Ideo Ideis.

WORKSHOP-URI – scenography and costume, coordinated by Helmut Stürmer, Corina Grămăşteanu, and Adrian Damian

Awards & Recognition

2022

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST SCENOGRAPHY,– „Lecții despre iubire și creier", directed by Alina Grigore, Festivalul DbutanT

SCENOGRAPHY CAMP – DBUTANT – Mentor: Helmut Stürmer.

DIPLOMASHOW – THE INSTITUTE.

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST SCENOGRAPHY, UNATC – „Lecții despre iubire și creier", directed by Alina Grigore

INVITAT NEXT ON STAGE – Scenografi Români, FNT.

Assisting & Collaborations

2021

ASSISTANT SCENOGRAPHER FOR HELMUT STÜRMER & CORINA GRĂMĂȘTEANU- at „Mary Stuart" by Robert Icke, directed by Andrei Șerban, Teatrul Național București

„PĂRINȚI ȘI COPII"– directed by Vlad Massaci, set by Adrian Damian, costumes by Luiza Enescu

OPERA NAȚIONALĂ BUCUREȘTI – „Norma", directed by Alice Barb

ROMANIAN DESIGN WEEK – Project „Network of Emotions", coordinated by Adrian Damian

2017-2016

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER AT FUNDAȚIA PRINCIPESA MARGARETA A ROMÂNIEI (TT2016, TT2017)

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