

## **Robert Joyce C'82--Achievement in the Arts**

Bob was at times a Zoology major, a Psychology major, a Political Science major and graduated as an English major, all the while a Philosophy minor. Bob is the poster boy for the Liberal Arts education. His claim to fame came from a cold call made to the NBC offices of Saturday Night Live to the in-house graphics head--a woman named Tara Donnelly—in 1995. Through her, Bob met Joe DeTullio one of the four designers of SNL. Besides Joe, there is Keith Raywood, Akira Yashimora (Leo), and Eugene Lee. Leo and Eugene have been there since show one, which is 1781 shows in at this writing and will be at show 1789 by year's end—after 45 years. They saw something in Bob and began over the years to trust him with all the backdrops and signage. Bob basically takes things off their plate. The show does 8 sets for every show. They don't have concepts till Wednesday night for a live Saturday show. If you were to design a set for a Broadway show, you would get at least a month. Bob has done some work for those shows, they have no idea what pressure means. SNL does 8 sets in two days. Bob is valuable to them for a couple of reasons: he keeps records of every backdrop, and he has dealt with every intern who perhaps was in over their head for the last 20 plus years. They are thrown into this incredibly stressful environment and Bob always says they should ask him first. People get testy under pressure—especially when there are three shows in a row.

When you get people to trust you, and you deliver on that trust, you get rewarded. Bob is not an NBC employee, but when they receive an Emmy, they think enough of him to send him a signed certificate from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. That is what Bob is most proud of. Leo once called him "The Fifth Musketeer". That designation came from one of the most iconic set designers in television history: Four of them and Bob--he'll take it.

Plus, Bob got to see Mick Jagger perform with the Foo Fighters as the back up band at one of their after parties and that was kinda cool.