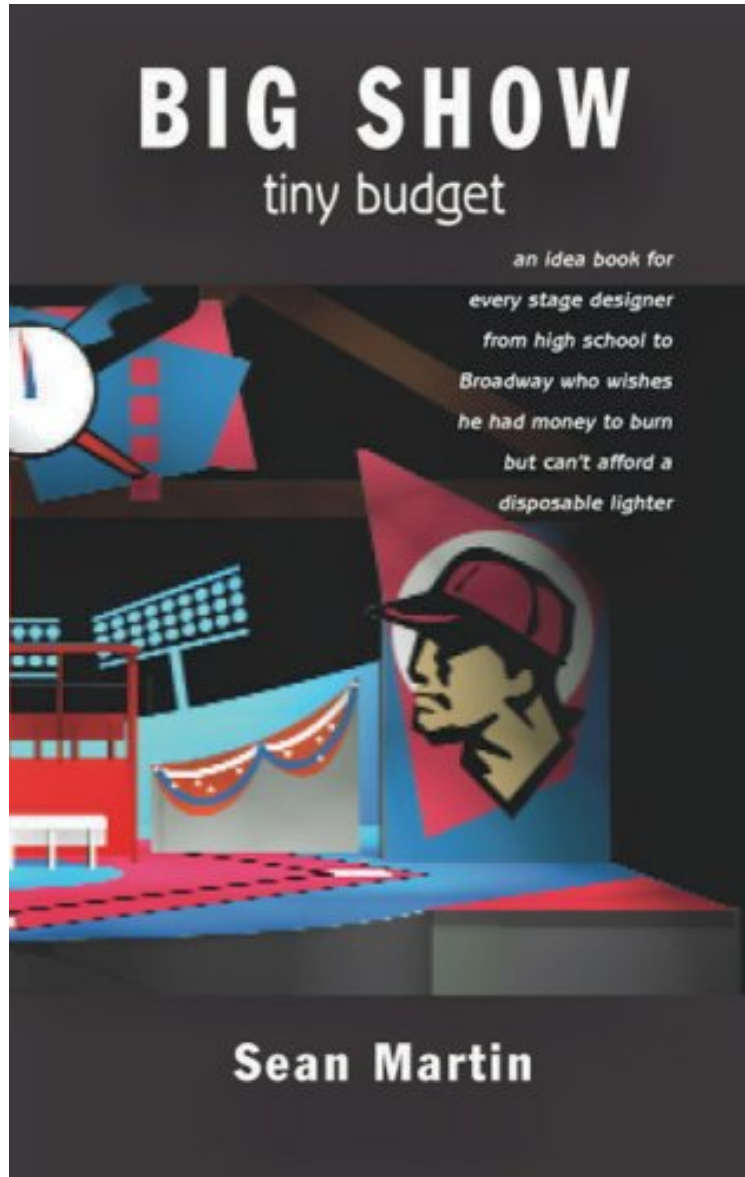


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## Big Show, Tiny Budget (Career Development Series)

*Sean Martin*

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**Sean Martin : Big Show, Tiny Budget (Career Development Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Show, Tiny Budget (Career Development Series):

Book by Sean Martin

Many a community theater or high school drama teacher has faced an audience expecting the bright lights of Broadway at pennies a head. Martin, a designer with over 200 productions to his credit, shows producers and directors how to whittle down large scale plays and musicals to fit their size. He explains design keys, the basics of stage design, the clues in a script that will lead to a fresh production, and examples of the staging of big plays, musicals and even grand opera at a pauper's budget. He begins with seven case studies and continues with a portfolio designs from classic musicals, straight plays, and opera, giving readers hundreds of ideas for their productions. In a very good final chapter, Martin puts the theater in its living contexts, which include guts and magic. --Book News, November 2008

From the Back Cover See the design process in action as award-winning stage designer Sean Martin walks you through the decisions, both creative and practical, that made each production an artistic and fiscal success. In the summer of 2001, I decided to solicit the assistance of a professional scenic designer via the Internet for our fledgling high-school theatre program. I had several responses on the job posting, from young designers fresh out of undergrad to those who have drafted from every angle of a proscenium and then some. None of the designers came close in comparison to Sean's talents. I am pleased to say that we have collaborated on every production since Forum in 2001 to our most recent productions of Godspell and Scapino in 2006- 2007, and I doubt it'll stop there. For a high-school theatre program with a shoestring budget, Sean has made us look pretty darn good when the lights go up. Our approach has been to create a clean, polished, aesthetic feel on a tiny stage with a tiny budget. With a thirty-foot proscenium and about twenty-five feet from apron center to the center of the cyclorama (not to mention the closet-size wings), Sean and I have faced many a challenge to turn out major musicals and plays in this space. And we've met every one. Most of the shows have been built for under five hundred dollars. Seriously. At the same time, they have won awards and have been recognized at one-act play competitions, the Georgia Theatre Conference, and state thespian conferences-all this from a small-town high-school theatre program in central Georgia, on a small stage, and, most importantly, on a small budget! It can be done! Scott Price Director, Theatre Department

About the Author Graphic designer, illustrator, and stage designer, SEAN MARTIN's work has been seen across North America, Europe, and Asia, with over 200 productions to his credit. He has served as resident designer for four companies, worked on a major international premiere in Spain, and donated his services to a score of schools and theater companies around the world. Directors and critics have hailed his work for its sense of style and concept as well as its distinctive use of color. Author of several articles and a noted lecturer on virtual design, Martin's company At This Stage has pioneered the use of computer technology to combine virtual actors, sets, costumes, speech, music, and choreography into a fully animated in situ preview. Martin was a 2004 semifinalist for the Theatre Communications Group/National Endowment for the Arts Award for Mid-Career Design. A native of Texas, he now makes his home in North Carolina.