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Kirk Domer: 'A place to embrace unique ideas'

'A place to embrace unique ideas'

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A A



Kirk Domer, faculty member in the MSU Department of Theatre. / Greg DeRuiter/LSJ

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I moved here to become a member of the MSU faculty in the Department of Theatre and in that time I have seen our program transform as a vital member of the College of Arts and Letters and embraced by the larger university. At the same time, I have become friends with a larger portion of the Lansing community.

Through outreach endeavors and most importantly the Friends of Theatre at MSU (our support group) the Department of Theatre has expanded many connections to the Lansing community. This community has been willing to examine our educational mission through our productions and special events.

Kirk Domer

• **Career:** Professor,

Michigan State University

It is so exciting to me (and our students and faculty) to watch the community response to our ever-changing theatrical experiments. And it is equally exciting to see the work of



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• **Hometown:** Orrville, Ohio (Home of Smucker's Jelly)
• **Current City:**

East Lansing
• **Age:** 35
• **Hobbies:** Interior design, decorating, gardening
• **Favorite fall Michigan activity:** Raking leaves
• **Online:**
[https:// www.msu.edu/~domer](https://www.msu.edu/~domer)

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our fellow local artists. In the theatrical world here, there does not seem to be a barrier of community versus education. Competition does not seem to exist. This seems an Eden where all are in it for the thrill of the experience of the audience. Whether it be cheap laughs

or high-brow edification —

the area seems willing to collaborate.

As a set designer, I design landscapes and houses onstage to realize the world of the play. The Lansing area provides a myriad of theatrical and sensory experiences. Each day I discover a hidden treasure as I hunt for props. I meet excited clerks who help me create an environment on which actors will perform. I seek advice on who best to help me create Comerica Park onstage for the play, "Ernie," which explores the life and

times of Ernie Harwell, the Detroit Tigers famed sportscaster. The people of Lansing are always willing and eager to assist. I am overwhelmed.

In nearly every theatrical endeavor, whether designing sets for Williamston Theatre ("Dead Man's Shoes") and Riverwalk ("The Ritz") or the former professional companies of Stormfield Theatre and BoarsHead Theatre, I have been introduced to crew, actors or audiences that have enhanced my appreciation and respect for the Lansing area.

Their love and appreciation for the art form has made me realize how transformative theatre can be and the responsibility I have to provide them with a unique environment.

*To submit an essay about what you love about Michigan and why you choose to live here, contact **Anne Erickson** at aerickson@lsj.com. Essays should be no longer than 400 words.*

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