

Aaron "Smiley" Cate

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Introduction

I am a live music lover with 1000s of shows under my belt, turned live visual artist, turned self-taught audiovisual technician with years of hands-on experience in live event production. My expertise comes from working directly in the field, setting up and operating AV systems at festivals, raves, and concerts. I have honed my skills through real-world applications rather than traditional certifications, making me highly adaptable and efficient in fast-paced environments.

Credentials & Qualifications

- Years of hands-on experience in AV setup, live visuals, and event production
- Deep knowledge of 2D and 3D digital visuals, projection mapping, and LED wall operation
- Strong background in live visual mixing and VJing for music events
- Proficient with industry-standard AV software and hardware
- Experienced in troubleshooting and problem-solving under live event conditions
- Extensive collaboration with artists, musicians, and event organizers

Work Experience

Freelance AV Technician / Visual Artist / Stagehand (2018 – Present)

- Designed and executed live visuals for concerts, festivals, and raves
- Set up and operated LED walls, projectors, and other display technologies
- Managed audio-visual components for multi-stage events
- Coordinated with event organizers and technical teams to ensure seamless execution
- Worked hundreds of shows in various roles, from pushing cases to doing security to running visuals.

Smilebot Productions (2012 – present)

- Designed logos, merchandise, websites, brands, visuals for clients from many different areas.
- Video Production (installation, rental, operation, maintenance) for events, music videos, parties, and businesses. Including Smart installs, LED panels, TVs, Lighting, Audio, and Projectors
- 3D / VR design and implementation for virtual experiences and events
- Live streamcast producer/technician for large virtual events and concerts

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Notable Events & Projects

- Country Music Awards – Local I.A.T.S.E Prop Dept – Assisted in stage setup, prop management, and breakdown for live televised event
- Imagine Music Festival – Video Production Lead (V1) – Led video production for one of the larger stages, managing visuals, coordinating live content execution, and overseeing the video build and programming
- Believe Music Hall – Visual Director & Video Lead/VJ – Oversaw and assisted with the planning, installation, upgrade, and maintenance of all video aspects for the club. Managed hiring for the video department and collaborated with tour managers to ensure correct content execution for every show.

Skills & Technical Proficiency

- Visual & AV Software: Resolume, TouchDesigner, MadMapper, Adobe Suite
- Hardware Knowledge: LED walls, projectors, media servers, lighting control systems
- Live Production: VJing, video mixing, Projection Mapping, stage setup, Stagehand
- Troubleshooting: Quick problem resolution, equipment maintenance, system optimization
- Collaboration: Working with musicians, DJs, festival teams, and stage crews

References

Joey Appleseed (Iris Presents/Imagine Music Festival) 770.912.6752

Aireon "Ployd" Grimes (Slow&Low Presents) 678.480.5784

Brannon Boyle (SpeakeasyPresents) 404.281.2373

Kevin Rodriguez (Aisle5, Georgia Event Specialists) 470.725.8323