

Mike Kozmicke

Title / Role

General Manager | Performance Director - HellVault | Musician | Haunt Industry Veteran

Overview

Mike Kozmicke is a lifelong performer, team leader, and dedicated professional whose passion for entertainment and precision has carried him from the music stage to the haunted attraction industry. With roots in St. Louis, Mike has worked alongside **James “Bud” Gregson** since the late 1980s, sharing a decades-long partnership built on creativity, integrity, and hard work. Known for his exceptional discipline and reliability, Mike brings an unshakable work ethic and performer’s energy to everything he does.

At HellVault, Mike serves as **General Manager** and **Performance Director**, overseeing actor management, training, and zone leadership while helping design new performance systems and safety protocols. His deep understanding of both the technical and creative sides of live performance makes him uniquely suited to guide the next generation of performers within the HellVault universe.

Professional Background & Experience

- **Haunted Attraction Experience** - Mike has been active in haunted attractions for most of his life, performing as a lead actor and scene specialist. Most recently, he earned multiple awards for outstanding performance and perfect attendance at **Terror in the Corn** in Denver. His natural showmanship and discipline have made him a model for professional haunt acting.
- **Music & Performance Career** - An accomplished drummer since his teens, Mike has performed in multiple bands throughout St. Louis and Colorado. His musical background and stage experience have translated directly into his work as a haunt performer and sound designer. Mike continues to collaborate with Bud on **music scoring, sound design, and special effects audio** for HellVault, Blackstone Audio, and affiliated projects.
- **Film & Media Production** - Mike worked with Bud as a production assistant on the documentary, **AI Decoded**, serving. He was involved in equipment transport, setup, logistics, and on-location coordination during multi-state shoots, gaining firsthand experience in professional media production.

- **Trade Shows & Event Operations** - Mike has worked alongside Bud and **VFXCreates.com** at major national industry events, including the **TransWorld Haunt and Attraction Show** in St. Louis and **NATPE** in Miami. He has helped design, build, and operate trade show booths, manage logistics, and handle direct sales and customer engagement for both **VFX** and **Catnip Productions**.
- **Retail & Electronics Management** - Mike has extensive experience managing multi-store operations within airport electronics divisions and previously worked in sales for **Bose**, where he received multiple awards for achieving top sales benchmarks. His background in electronics, retail management, and customer relations strengthens his operational leadership at HellVault.
- **Manufacturing & Technical Background** - Earlier in his career, Mike worked at **St. Louis Music**, contributing to the manufacturing of amplifiers and musical instruments under brands such as Ampeg, Crate, and Alvarez. He also has warehouse management experience, forklift certification, and technical knowledge in speaker assembly and product construction, skills that directly support his involvement with **Blackstone Audio** and the HellVault shop buildout.

Role at HellVault

As **General Manager** and **Performance Director**, Mike plays a dual role, overseeing daily operations and shaping the performance culture of HellVault. His responsibilities include:

- Managing actor scheduling, training, and morale
- Supervising zone leaders and operational flow during haunt season
- Helping design new scares, effects, and show timing systems
- Coordinating with Extinction Labs and Blackstone Audio on sound and performance-based technologies
- Providing mentorship and performance training to new actors and staff
- Assisting in facility buildout, safety, and maintenance initiatives

Mike is also developing actor training programs to help performers **pace themselves, stay in character, handle emergencies, and integrate with VFX and Extinction Labs products** effectively and safely.

Key Strengths & Attributes

- Leadership and team motivation
- Stage and performance expertise
- Sales and customer engagement
- Facility and equipment management
- Creative collaboration and problem-solving
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Unmatched reliability and consistency

Philosophy & Approach

Mike's philosophy is rooted in professionalism and authenticity, whether performing in front of thousands or managing a team of actors. He believes performance excellence starts with preparation, respect, and consistency. His approach has inspired countless performers, and his presence within the HellVault team ensures a culture built on accountability, creativity, and fun.