



John Piper is a licensed hot air balloon pilot, craftsman, creative wunderkind and has always loved parades. His first parade experience came in 1974 when he was a member of All American Marching Band and performed in the Rose Parade® in Pasadena.

John's training and background is in Theatrical Design and Production having studied at the College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois. With a background in theatre, he has worked in scenery and lighting design and taught courses in all facets of theatre production.

John is the former Vice President of the Macy's Parade Studio where he oversaw the design and production of all balloons, floats and elements for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade®. He has been a part of the Macy's Parade Studio since 1980 and has been at the helm of production since 2001, retired in 2020.

Working with artists responsible for the design and production of the giant character balloons and fantasy filled floats, John has led the team in the design and production of over 80 new floats, 67 giant character balloons, 20 balloonicles, dozens of character "balloon heads" and a handful of "trycaloons". John has collaborated with the artistic teams from Disney, Universal, Dreamworks, Cirque Du Soleil, Nickelodeon, the Hallmark Channel, Peanuts, the Oneida Indian Nation and the History Channel.

John and the entire team at the Macy's Parade Studio design and construct elements for other events including the 4th of July Fireworks, Spring Flower Shows in flagship stores across the country, the Universal Holiday Parade featuring Macy's at Universal Studios Orlando and major Holiday promotions in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta and San Francisco. The Parade Studio production team under John Piper's leadership and creative eye bring enchantment to life all year round.