

A Fresh Experience

In the production of *Street Scene*, I was the stage manager/assistant director. I worked side by side with Clark Lewis in order to ensure the success of the play. I handed out scripts for auditions and was on book for auditions and rehearsals. I recorded the names of all the on-stage persons and helped finish casting of the show. I wrote down blocking for all characters in the play as well as any notes the director had on costumes, lighting, sound, props, or set. I kept in contact with the director outside of rehearsals in order to send him reminders and other needed information such as the contact list. I gathered cast members together and timed show run-throughs. I also kept a record of conflicts and scenes that needed work. In the end I was in charge of all curtain, lighting, sound, and music cues.

I did not face many challenges during the grading period. It was slightly challenging to take on such an important role that I was so inexperienced in, but I overcame the challenges that it posed. Dealing with hours of rehearsal and hours of homework was difficult on top of my extracurricular activities. I struggled at first with being in charge of 60 teenagers, but with time I discovered how to make it work. Probably the most intense challenge I faced was dealing with irresponsible members of production that did not perform their jobs properly, but in the end it worked out.

I grew much more in this production than in the last one. I was able to figure out how to get a large group of people to respect me and listen to what I needed to say. I grew closer to my fellow members of Nueva as well as forming a new professional relationship with Clark. I also realized that I am quite apt at learning completely foreign things quickly, such as what a stage manager does, how to tune the microphones, and how to change light cues. I was able to handle a maximum level of responsibilities without getting stressed out, even though the entire show depended on me doing my new job correctly. I also learned that I cannot do everything all by myself, despite the temptation at times. Overall I feel much more professional now.

I acquired quite a few transferable skills in this process. I am now a proficient stage manager, and the leadership aspect of that can be applied to almost any professional position. Due to spending so much time giving cues in the sound booth, I also know fairly well how to work a light board, as well as a sound board, which can be useful in any technical position. I also learned how to work with people that are not always reliable, and how to deal with their lapses, which applies to practically any job as well. Lastly, I figured out how to best communicate with both professional adults and amateur teenagers by having to relay between Clark and the cast.

Throughout production, I worked my hardest and attempted to do my best as per usual. I was always by Clark's side, ready to help him in any way possible. When Clark was

elsewhere, I was helping people run lines or going through the script to help costume, set, props, and sound. I completed every task I was presented with, and tried to help as much as possible. When there was a problem, I took care of it myself and sought to fix it as soon as possible. If needed, I sought the help of others more experienced in the area to help out. I kept in contact with the cast, teachers, and director to ensure everything went smoothly. Before this production, I never realized how good I was at adapting to circumstances and learning quickly. After seeing my work, Clark offered me an internship at Roustabout as his show stage manager, so I believe that I did pretty well. I never thought that I would be involved in stage managing, but I quite enjoyed working with Clark and I look forward to continuing my work with him. I eagerly anticipate seeing what future productions bring.