

To some, theatre symbolizes the grace of a well-trained actor. To others, it may represent the playground for artists to showcase their abilities. For me, however, theatre exists as a well-oiled machine functioning off dozens of moving parts and people. I am fascinated by the complexity of it all and how collaborative the process is for everyone involved. The allure of stage management lies in the ability to tie things together, allowing all members of the theatre to function at their peak and bring the show great success.

I have found myself dabbling in many aspects of theatre including acting, lighting, sound, and costumes but was never really in love with one position. Sure, I loved to be on stage (who doesn't love to be applauded by a full house) but to me, something was missing. When I decided to try my hand at stage management, it was as if I had found that missing link. The organization was incredibly satisfying, being able to tie dozens of people's work together into a show. I loved talking to people and being able to help them achieve what they were passionate about filled me with joy. There was nothing better than a well-functioning cast and crew and the ease that comes with well-scheduled rehearsals, deadlines, and the relief of knowing that everything was going as scheduled. As a stage manager, I strive for these things every day.

I consider the stage manager's role to be not a position of higher importance but servitude. It is our responsibility to help every department and provide support in any way they can. There may be some duties such as props tracking, rehearsal notes, and blocking notes that are left solely to the Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Managers but beyond the rehearsal room, we should be the shoulder other technicians can lean on. This is one of the most important guiding principles for me as an SM because I know firsthand how helpful a good SM can be. In high school when I designed the lighting for *The Great Gatsby*, I felt very overwhelmed with creating cues. We had a wonderful SM working on the show who guided me through the process of turning designs into reality and then into cues. I took her guidance to heart and she inspires me to be that same helping hand to anyone that needs it. This experience made me realize the cast is not the only ensemble in theatre. We are all a company and must work to support each other in every way we can. This unwavering collaboration is what creates the well-oiled machines we know on Broadway and other successful theatres.

Outside of the theater, I enjoy activities such as cooking and embroidery which offer creative release all through the lens of organization that I so enjoy. Cooking is a time where I can unwind and practice self-care with a lovely edible reward at the end. Embroidery on the other hand offers a much more detail-oriented activity perfect for listening to music or calling friends. Both hobbies complement my professional life by teaching me how to be patient and not rush into the final product. They have taught me to become task-oriented and find joy in the little details which elevates my appreciation of technical elements even more so than before.

This newfound knowledge of enjoying the details and my intrinsic desire for organization are the essences of what defines my Stage Management style. Creating structure where another might otherwise see chaos is my ultimate goal. I seek to uplift my colleagues through this process and keep the theatrical machine running full steam ahead.