

Crazy for You Journal Entry 3

I was looking forward to working throughout tech week as I knew that I would have more to do than I have had to do leading up to this point. We started on the Monday by just watching the show and marking out all the changes made to the choreography and blocking so that El – who was the lighting designer, could work out what she needed to do with the lights. This day I didn't have to do much, but it was a very important part of the process as the lighting of a show is a valuable key to creating emotion and adding to the environment of the different scenes within the piece. I then had a call for 9:00AM on the Tuesday in order to help "focus" the lights. Focusing the lights is where you just make sure that all the lights on the floor and that are on the rig are all in the correct position for what they are going to be needed for. After helping with this part, I started to really admire the work, vision and effort that actually goes into sorting out the individual lights. As I am usually a performer, I have never seen the work that goes into it, but I was fortunate enough to be a part of the process this time round. In order for El to know if the lights would hit the cast correctly, I stood in for them. I was asked to walk through multiple scenes and dances so she could work her magic and make sure it was all looking great. This didn't take long, and I did enjoy doing this because I knew I was contributing to help my friends and peers put on a great show. "Stage lighting is just one element of a stage production, yes. But it is one of the essential factors in affecting the mood of the audience. You can't take it lightly. You can't just allot a single spotlight for a concert and then call it a day."

As we started getting closer to the days of the show, the cast obviously started running it with full energy and my job was mainly to help with the curtains because Cody and Henna were really struggling with the wheelchair. However, my job soon changed when problems started happening. Connie and I were backstage to help with quick changes, props, curtain work and everything in between. The first issue that occurred was Gwion needing his shoes in the loft when he had to take them off at the staircase on the other side of the building. This meant that I had to run to go get them and I only had around a minute before he needed to be wearing them so he could go on stage. I managed to get them too him on time, just about. This was something I then had to do every show. As we got to the show days, I managed to work out the best time for me to go get them, so everyone had plenty of time just in case I was needed for something else. As some of the props weren't being used yet I wasn't 100% sure on everything I would have to do until we got to the first actual show. When we got to the 'actual' shows I had to run around the theatre building many times to help people. I ran to get Gwions' shoes, but then Billy would need his costume to be moved so I had to run back the same way. I then had to run back to where I set Billys costume to help Tom with a quick change as he had a lot to change out of and not much time to do so. This routine stuck throughout all the shows, but I managed to work out the most efficient parts of the show to do so to avoid running back and forth as many times as I did the first couple times.

By the last show I knew everything that I had to do and would be composed if something changed, and I had to do something different. Luckily for 2 of the shows we had the help of the first years, this did take some stress from my shoulders as they helped with the curtains or anything they needed to help with.

Before every show I would use a breathing exercise to get me into the right mindset to make sure I was on top of everything, just like I would if I was acting. "Breathing is the rhythm of life, the sustainer of the human body"

Bibliography

Clark, J., 2022. [online] Available at: <<https://www.jordan-clark.com/how-lighting-influences-musical-enjoyment/#:~:text=%20How%20lighting%20influences%20musical%20enjoyment%20%201,way%20of%20gradually%20giving%20a%20better...%20More%20>>

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