

Sophomore Theatre Major Portfolio Reflection

I started my college career at Loyola as a Vocal Performance Major, determined to learn everything there is to know about singing and begin my career as a performer. I explored this path for the majority of my freshman year, always struggling, feeling out of place, and never understanding why. I sensed that something vital was missing from my life and, until a very close friend of mine encouraged me to work with him on Loyola's production of *Fairview* by Jackie Sibbles Drury, I didn't know what that thing was. Through working on *Fairview*, I found a community of belonging, real connection, and learned the importance of empowering critical thinking through the lens of art. Also during *Fairview*, I became fascinated by the process of Stage Managing because of *Fairview*. Observing Sara Segneri's role in the room as the SM and hearing her call the show was what pushed me to explore something that I had only dabbled in during high school. Above all, I discovered my purpose and, in turn, rediscovered my confidence to be creative, collaborative, and analytical in my work.

In becoming a Theatre Major and working in the Production Office at Loyola, I have gained so much knowledge about aspects of production that are invaluable but I hadn't ever realized existed in the capacity they do. Since I have and am continuing to learn these things, I am striving to gain as much knowledge I can about as many aspects of putting a production together as possible. While I consider learning and developing the skills of Stage Managing the focal point of the hands-on education I want to gain from Loyola, I have realized that it is extremely important and not at all uncommon to be as multifaceted as possible, especially as a theatre practitioner. A piece of advice given to me in regards to finding work in the theatre industry that has stuck with me is that it is more important that you be ready and excited to learn how to do the job rather than come in knowing everything about the job. This resonates with me because it is a goal of mine to push myself to be ok with not knowing things. I want to encourage myself to not be afraid to experiment and try new things especially in an educational environment where I know that I have people who are prepared and happy to help me should I need it.

Since Stage Management is my main focus, I want to get as much experience in this field as possible before graduation so that I can have the time to encounter problems and find solutions that I can apply to other experiences in the future. However, I also want to be as diverse as possible in my skills because I believe that it is extremely important to understand and know how to communicate and collaborate with other production team members. I want to get better about not getting stuck in my computer screen during rehearsal so that I can help facilitate a welcoming and fun working environment and build great relationships with the cast and production team. I also think that I am a very naturally organized person but it can become a fault by not digging deep enough, so I want to be better at putting in the effort to really know the ins and outs of a show like the back of my hand without it completely taking over my life and

keeping the healthy boundaries I have set between work, school, production position, and my personal life.

My biggest goal for my final two years at Loyola is to work on things that have been holding me back. I want to be better at doing things that are out of my comfort zone and be ok with not always knowing what to do. This is my first full semester as a Theatre Major, and I feel that already I have grown so much but am looking forward to becoming more comfortable in having critical conversations about history and literature as well as engaging in more aspects of the production process.