

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

JOIN US FOR MEETINGS! EVERY OTHER FRIDAY AT NOON IN B20

## EVENTS THIS MONTH!

- **Intimacy Workshop!** - come learn more about staging intimacy safely and effectively  
October 3: 12-3 PM  
*Spots are limited! Please remember to sign up through the form on our facebook event!*
- **Need a Halloween Costume?** The costume shop will be selling pieces from Oct 21st-25th!
- **SAFE** - a prevention and awareness program offered by the National Defense Institute that teaches self defense tactics  
Fall 2019 workshop dates: 11/04, 11/20, 12/04 - all from 6-8 pm.  
email Officer Heather Camp to sign up for a slot- hlc33@pitt.edu
- **CPR/AED Certifications**  
email martin.ashleyj@pitt.edu if interested!

## SPOTLIGHT

October is Disability Awareness Month. Individuals with disabilities are underrepresented in design, technical theatre, administrative, and education positions. They are often overlooked when talking about inclusivity. We have a



long way to go when it comes to making theatre accessible and inclusive for all.

We need to listen and collaborate to design accommodations just as we collaborate to tell a story on stage. We, as in industry, can't just focus on completing a show and leave people behind in the process. We also need to normalize awareness of individuals' access to spaces, especially in spaces where things

*Costumes by Mallory Kay Nelson* are constantly moving.

Check out this necessary read: A series curated by the **National Disability Theatre: The Future of Theatre is Accessible.**

Remember: language is important! Some people prefer to identify with identity-first language (disabled people) vs people-first language (person with a disability) unsure of how someone identifies? Ask!



*Lighting by Michael Maag*

## FALL PRODUCTIONS TO SEE!

*next to normal*  
10/03 - 10/13

*Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights*  
10/02 - 10/06



*photo by Samantha - Sami Saunders Studio*

congratulations to all the wonderful people that worked on these shows!

STAY UPDATED!



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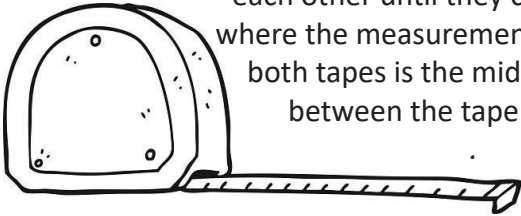
## POPPORTUNITIES!

- MTC'S Production of Merrily is in need of an ASM!

## SOPHIA'S TECH TIPS

### MEASURING THE CENTER OF AN OBJECT OR SPACE

Take two tape measures and place them facing each other. Pull the tapes towards each other until they cross. The point where the measurement is the same on both tapes is the middle of the line between the tape measures.



## MELINA'S SM STORIES

### The Legend of Julianna Pillets and the Very Angry Light

*In a dark and scary wood, there lived a grandmother in a house. She was stressed because the wood nymphs who moved her house on and offstage had to hide behind it.*

*There were three of them Bear, LandDolphin, and the mystical Emily. Hark! Suddenly! A wolf arrived promptly at Grandmother's house. AND ATE HER!! But there was no blood 'cause that effect didn't work. A tiny red human arrived at the house and encountered the timely wolf. AND HE ATE HER TOO!!!!!! A bread making man with no other name came to van Quish the wolf. When Grandmother escaped the dank prison of the wolf's stomach, she made her viewpoint firmly known, yelling "Kill the devil!". In her great rage she threw her hands to the sky and obliterated a glass scone with a sound so great it was mistaken for the God CueLab. (The same CueLab that strikes fear into the hearts of SM's everywhere.) She really did smash it.*

## INTERVIEW WITH M.K. HUGHES

*make sure to say hello to a new wonderful face in the theatre department!*

### Q: How did you get into theatre?

A: My actor mother joined a community theater full of retired theater professionals when I was five years old, and she would bring me to rehearsals with her. By about age seven I was a stagehand, and I learned to operate a board at twelve. There was so much fun to be had doing the work and learning the skills that I stuck with it, even choosing to be in a show instead of attending my senior prom.

After receiving my bachelor's degree (in philosophy, of all things) I realized I still loved theater and art and wanted to do it professionally. With an MFA in theater design, and having made good professional connections while in grad school, I began to get consistent work all over the country.

### Q: Theatre can be very intense (if that's the word) and sometimes it can be hard to balance work with self-care and life outside of theatre - how do you find a balance between all these things?

A: Of course it is. To put it as simply as possible, I'm still working on it. I try to pay attention to my emotional health as much as my physical health. Therapy can be good for almost everyone, but perhaps especially for artists, whose work requires frank self-assessment and emotional honesty.

As for balancing work with my personal life, it's easier now than when I was traveling and teaching and working shows here and there. Nowadays I have a stable routine and make it a priority to do things outside of theater once in a while. I don't always succeed, but I try.

### Q: Any advice for young people trying to work in the theatre world?

A: Done is better than perfect. Get it done the best you can, take the note, and try again. You are ALWAYS going to be learning/improving, so be okay with getting it done and then getting better.

Also: It's okay to ask for help. It's okay to get frustrated. It's okay to cry. It's NOT okay to fight or place blame. We all work together to make this art, so find a solution together.

### Q: Favorite tech week snack?

A: Yes.



## KAMI'S SPICY DESIGN CORNER

Design is all about iteration! I'm guilty of getting stuck on one idea, clutching onto it, and being unwilling to explore even more ideas. But doing that may block you from even better ideas to come! I get my best models in architecture when I literally cut my model in half, rotate it 90 degrees, and glue it back on. I'm not joking. When you get an idea you really like, go to the extreme and do the exact opposite of that idea. Then scale it back. Then find a middle. Every idea, even the ones that you think are bad, get it down on paper. The design process is dynamic, and things can change quick - whether you suddenly get an idea or make a mistake that you like. What's your process?

## SUMMERSTOCK CORNER

### RESUME TIPS FROM ASHLEY!

*check out these tips from the wonderful Ashley as you start to create/ revise your resume!*

- 1 - A resume is ONE-PAGE only. Anything more and the reviewer might remove them from consideration
- 2 - Put your education at the bottom section.
- 3 - Leave thumb-room on the sides, so if someone actually printed it, their thumbs aren't covering your information
- 4 - Have at least three people skilled in your field/area review the resume for format, layout, phrasing – the more eyes, the better it gets
- 5 - Always format with your position first in the sections – not the company, year, or show. Make your work speak first and the keywords stand out for someone reading it

come to our upcoming Resume workshop to learn more!

*Also remember that summerstock is not the only path you have to take! Nothing you can do will hurt you - whether it's attending extended training programs, research, studying abroad, residencies, really dedicating time to personal projects, or anything in between. Any experience is good experience! Keep an eye out for research opportunities (within theatre archives!) that'll come later!*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Pitt students interested in technical theater and design have created a Student Chapter of USITT to provide them with opportunity to learn and experience as much as possible in those fields of interest. These include but are not limited to the design and production of scenery, props, costuming, lighting, and sound, as well as stage management and dramaturgy.

## PORTFOLIO TIPS

*A portfolio is collection of your work that helps to tell your story.*

Have you been taking progress pics of all the wonderful work you're doing? Have you been scanning in your sketches so you can keep them somewhere safe? Are you saving your research images? It's one thing to display the final product in your portfolio, it looks amazing! But the design process is just as amazing. The portfolios that stand out are ones where you can follow the process of design to get to the final product. Every step of your design process is part of a story, make sure to tell it all!

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

Websites to look for jobs!

- Playbill
- Offstage Jobs
- ArtSearch (ask Gianni for a code to use this resource for free!)

If there is a theatre you like/know of, search and see if they have an internship program!

Here is also a link to documents with lists and info about a whole bunch of theatres with summer gigs! Pay attention to the due dates for applications - because of the nature of summerstock, applications are usually due earlier than you'd expect.

HAVE A SPOOKY AND SAFE  
OCTOBER FRIENDS!