

Weston Breshears

Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

### A Stagehand's Perspective

I used to work at my local theater as a stagehand. Working as a stagehand was the best job I could have hoped for. Great co-workers, fast pace, and diverse tasks made this job one of the best.

First, working as a stagehand was great because of all the great people I got to work with. As soon as I walked in, I was met with smiling faces greeting me for the day of work ahead. Everyone I worked with was very helpful when I had questions about how to perform a task. For example, when I was needing to move a large set piece or set the props in the right place, my co-workers were always willing to lend a hand. Also, all of the people I met on the job had great stories from all the shows they had worked on in the past.

Second, in addition to liking the job because of the great co-workers, working as a stagehand was amazing because of the fast pace. After I completed one task, I was quickly off to the next one. After setting the gels in the lighting instruments, I would have to transition swiftly into focusing and positioning the lights. As soon as I finished running on stage to move a large set piece, I'd have to return quickly to my position at the ropes and hoist large set pieces out of sight. During another job, I'd have to help actors change costume as fast as possible so they would be ready for the next scene.

Finally, on top of enjoying this job because of the fast pace, stagehand work was fantastic because of the diverse tasks. I was met with a new job and different position on a lot of the

shows I worked. On occasion I would get to drive the scissor lift and hoist lights and speakers for placement on one of the batons. Other times I would get to wire communications and power to all the various equipment on stage. For a few shows I also got to operate a spotlight and follow specific actors on stage during a performance.

All in all, my experience working for my local theater as a stagehand was a great one. The wonderful co-workers made my job easy. Furthermore, the fast-moving work environment and different tasks kept me from being bored and made this job the best one for me.