

Jacob Curless

### Senior Project Proposal and Justification

Throughout the course of this semester for my senior project, I plan to develop an after-school program for high school theater organizations that is specifically geared towards behind-the-scenes production work as well as technical theater. From stage management to designing to producing, I want to give students that are interested in the technical aspects of theater production the opportunity to be able to obtain the skills needed to work in these positions. There are a multitude of positions in a professional theater that are not acting, singing, or dancing on stage and there are so many people that lose the passion for theater because this is all they are ever told exists. We will strive to develop an after-school program with an emphasis in stage management, designing, and producing as well as various other tasks that happen behind the scenes in a theater.

Firstly, I plan on developing the curriculum for the after-school program that the students will be participating in. This will be divided up into stage management, designing, and producing. In high school theater the spotlight is put onto the actors on stage and so much is forgotten about what happens backstage and behind the curtain. Through the curriculum I have created for the stage management section, we will give students the opportunity to see what it means to be a stage manager and all the responsibilities of a professional stage manager as well as the role they take on in the rehearsal process. The curriculum I have created for designers will introduce students to the basic elements of design as well as the different opportunities for design, lighting, set, sound, props, projections, and various other elements of design. The curriculum I have created for producing will cover elements such as directing, producing, dramaturgy, and marketing. Additionally, after I have created the curriculum, I will develop a plan to secure funds for a project of this nature. I plan on researching various grants as well as organizations that will fund a project like this, so I can begin the grant writing proposal process.

There are various things I would like to take away from this project, but ultimately, I want to give high school aged students a peek behind the scenes to see what opportunities are out there. High School

arts are already struggling to find funding for the plays that they do as well as musicals, and the funding they have typically gets used for on stage purposes. This is an attempt to change the perspective of high school aged theater organizations to place the same value on the behind the scenes work as well as on stage.

This project seems to me to be a perfect fit for the culmination of my work at Missouri State University because I believe I can take the curriculum I am creating and develop it further so I can introduce it into a high school setting. I plan on getting an Assistant Technical Director Position for a high school theatre and I want to be able to take full advantage of that opportunity that is in front of me, and that job would be a wonderful way to implement this curriculum.