

## **Artistic Statement**

I look at theater as a puzzle. Before you begin, you need to lay out all of the pieces, see what their attributes and qualities are, and where they may fit in with the full picture. That is how I function. I aim to have an understanding of where everyone's puzzle piece fits and contributes, in order to do my job correctly so that no one is left behind and everyone feels like an equal. If a puzzle is missing a piece, it does not go unseen. Similarly, to the public, if a theater or production is missing an important part of the show, they'll notice that something is off.

Ever since I could remember, I've always loved to perform and sing on the stage. As a young girl, I always grasped any opportunity to be involved in a show. As I grew older, I realized being on the stage wasn't my only passion. I've never found myself leaning more towards any one particular aspect of theater. Instead, I've always strived to explore every possible avenue of the performing arts. My passion in theater has and always will be to remain as well-rounded as possible. My curiosity for life is never-ending, especially within theater.

In my senior year of high school, as the president of the drama club, I produced and directed my high school's first-ever musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. While I did have some experience in backstage positions prior to this, producing and directing this show helped me identify what my goals in theater truly are. During the course of this show, I was in charge of the casting, directing, space rental, ticket sales, marketing, stage management, choreography, costumes, set, lights and sound. Even though there were students helping out within these various areas, I was providing guidance and oversaw all of these aspects come together. It was during this project that I could finally articulate

where my passions in theater lie: not just with acting, directing, or another specific role, but to coordinate and blend all departments, both artistic and administrative, into one performance. While that's the big picture for me, I love working on any and all positions within the realm of theater.

When attending performances, I am immersed in not just the show itself, but everything on and off the stage and behind the curtains. In any scene, I will find myself analyzing where the stage manager's cues may be called, where a costume change happened, when a sound cue fired, or details that may not be obvious to most theatergoers. I will even notice details involved with the concession stands, lobby décor, program book, or house management efficiency. The way I observe a show is very similar to the way I work on a show. I'm able to see the big picture to the smallest detail, beyond the story itself, to conceptualize how the production will realistically and logically come together.

I believe that those who have a multidimensional theatrical background, or have trained in various areas outside of their specific expertise, attain a vital understanding of how everyone's role matters and plays a part in reaching a shared mission and united goal. By being able to see the holistic idea of how a production comes together from multiple perspectives at once, problem solving and communicating between multiple departments becomes a lot smoother.

As a junior in college, during my time stage managing *Hamlet* for The Legacy Theater, I was propelled into a situation where I was expected to perform and lead at the same caliber as all of the professionals around me. Through this experience of stage managing such a tech-heavy and complex show, I came to the realization that the group or community around you has the power to build you up and make you a stronger asset to the

team. While working on *Hamlet*, I surprised myself as to how much I was capable of doing. The people around you have so much strength to bring you to your fullest potential. That is exactly how I want people to feel when working on a production that I am leading or involved with: To feel a sense of growth, empowerment and motivation. I strive to build a community atmosphere because I know that people do their best work when others are supporting and believing in them.

I also want audiences to feel a sense of self-improvement, strength and inspiration to be better because of my work. The ability to take audiences on a meaningful journey that can build them up, and hopefully add more happiness to their lives, is one of the main reasons theater is so special to me. Just like when I was working on *Hamlet*, where the inspiring community fueled me to do my absolute best to serve the project, I want my audience to feel the same way about the community and opportunities around them. In essence, theater has taught me how to be a good community member and value those around me.

I appreciate when theater elicits emotion, whether that be jubilation, sadness, sympathy or even anger. I also acknowledge and respect how theater has the power to persuade or dissuade the opinions of audience members. In my work, I intend for theater to be escapism from every day, normal life to experience something that can be meaningful, impactful and thought-provoking. Theater can truly materialize into endless possibilities and I never want to stop learning new forms and techniques of executing various jobs within the performing arts.

I find myself leaning towards Theater Management because administrative theater roles allow one to see every aspect of a production as it comes together. As someone who

has studied many positions, I value every member of the team whether it's the director, crew members, actors, sponsors, etc., and I have an understanding of how everyone's parts fits together. I can communicate with multiple departments because I've had experience working in so many of them myself. I look forward to utilizing my skills to the best of my ability and continuing to follow my dreams.