

WEEK 1: MAY 29 – JUNE 4 (approx. 30 hours)

The first 6 days of this week were pretty slow for me since this was my first week and they were well into the run of a show I had nothing to do with. I mostly got to sit back and help the ME prep gel and solder some LED tape for the next show.... And then the evening of June 3rd happened and everything got crazy. The second RENT finished their bows, before the house was even clear, everyone started strike. And that was actual insanity.

WEEK 2: JUNE 5 – JUNE 11 (approx. 72 hours)

This week was much different than the last. The end of changeover and the start of tech was insane. We brought RENT down on the evening of the 3rd and previews for Swing! started on the 7th. We had to strike then re-hang, re-cable, and then focus an entirely different plot. I spent a lot of time soldering LED tape, climbing up ladders, and crawling underneath the bandstand this week. We ran spot for this show using Source Four's on sticks from the box booms and it was a pain in butt to say the least.

WEEK 3: JUNE 12 – JUNE 18 (approx. 60 hours)

Now that the show is up and running, there hasn't been too much to do. The intern, staff electrician, and I have just been on show call (9 show weeks and we're called 2 hours prior to curtain) while the ME and AME worked on paperwork for the next show and did repairs in the shop. For the most part, our pre-show duties are just a lot of troubleshooting, which usually ends with us up in the dimmer loft pulling cards to reset them or smacking PAR64 ceramics.

WEEK 4: JUNE 19 – JUNE 25 (approx. 72 hours)

Lots more soldering LED tape for this next show. We started getting really into prep for On the Town before changeover on the 24th. There were approximately 20 signs that needed to have LED tape put into them with decoder boxes and power sources. Got my first real injury of the season during our overnight changeover when I'd been putting anderson connectors together and stabbed through my finger with a precision screwdriver. Super fun way to end the week.

WEEK 5: JUNE 26 – JULY 2 (approx. 80 hours)

Well if I thought the last changeover was eventful, this one was actual insanity.... Aside from my self-inflicted stab wound, things got especially exciting when we all got really good first-hand experience on how flame retardants work when a 1000W lamp in a PAR64 burned through a gel and started to burn a leg that was way too close to where the booms had been hung. Previews started on the 28th and to say we weren't totally ready was an understatement. The amount of troubleshooting we have had to do has been insane. Also, I got to run lights for a the kids bubble show that came in and that was fun (especially the part where he did bubble tricks just for the two of us who were working) despite having to be in at 7am after working til midnight the night before.

WEEK 6: JULY 3 – JULY 9 (approx. 72 hours)

9 show weeks are rough y'all. Running spot for Madagascar Jr. on top of running spot for On the Town means I'm in the theatre from 9am til 11pm. On a non-kids-show day, I'm there from noon to 11pm, which honestly isn't much better. I am very tired this week.

WEEK 7: JULY 10 – JULY 16 (approx. 80 hours)

Closed On the Town and Madagascar Jr. this week and then our ME told us he was putting his two weeks in. For the next show, we're moving to a different theatre so prep for this show has been inventory and packing (almost) everything we have in our shop into a truck. Why does everything we use in this business SO FREAKIN HEAVY. I AM A TINY PERSON. Please send overhire.

WEEK 8: JULY 17 – JULY 23 (approx. 72 hours)

Getting Mamma Mia up for the 19th has been rough. Taking up a lot more responsibility now that our ME has stepped down and started to care less and less about doing anything. We're all working way harder and longer than we should be, even with the few overhire we have. I wish they'd throw us a bone and hire some more people. But man this show is cool so it's been SO worth it. These next couple weeks will be so much fun.

WEEK 9: JULY 24 – JULY 30 (approx. 72 hours)

9 show weeks are still insane, we're getting up even earlier to commute to the other theatre and getting home later because of the commute back... But holy crap are we having fun. Every day is a dance party with this show and the cast has been so lovely to work with. Also, the ME and I started work on programming for Lion King Jr. He's the LD for the show and getting to be his ALD and programmer has been awesome because he's a total beast on the board so being able to sit down next to him and let him teach me how to program quickly has been awesome and probably the most useful thing I've learned so far this summer.

WEEK 10: JULY 31 – AUGUST 6 (approx. 80 hours)

Load-in for Cirque has been absolutely wild. They added an entire truss system which we had to set up, hang, and weight. But their touring crew is INSANE. They are so good and so efficient. Honestly it was a really cool experience getting to work with them and I totally wouldn't mind doing work for a Cirque show again. Closed Lion King Jr. this week too, which was so sad. I'm so proud of the kids and the work we've all done. It's been so much fun to get to assistant design, program, and run the board for this show.

WEEK 11: AUGUST 7 – AUGUST 13 (approx. 72 hours)

Cirque has been amazing. I luckily got out of work early enough one day to watch the show and it was so cool. Plus they let me jump on and do flips on their trampoline, so that was bonus fun. We struck the show last night and holy crap I knew they were efficient getting the show up, but they took it down and packed it up even faster. I've never done a load-out so quickly before. Also, got to work briefly with a magician and run spot for his show they brought in for a day.

WEEK 12: AUGUST 14 – AUGUST 20 (approx. 80 hours)

Craziness begins for Little Shop. Getting all our stuff out of Patchogue and back to Gateway has been a mess. Not sure why things weren't planned better but it got done eventually and despite our truck being left all the way on the other side of the property from our shop, we managed to get it all back in and back to normal. On top of getting Little Shop prepped, we've had to also start prep for the huge gala they do every year. Running multi-cable is my least favorite thing to do and running it 1000ft across property is even less appealing. But at least we got to dress up nice and spend a few hours at the gala (and the open bar) before we had to take it all down. It was several days of work for a few hours of an event, so it's been a hard and busy week and I don't think I've slept more than 6 hours any night. I need a nap.

WEEK 13: AUGUST 21 – AUGUST 25 (approx. 36 hours)

Well, it's official... I've come full circle. Ending this apprenticeship as I started it... Soldering LED tape and making Anderson connectors. Haha. The ME told me to officially change my resume to "expert soldering" and luckily, I didn't get any more finger stab wounds. The biggest and best thing that happened this week was that the production manager allowed me to be eaten by Audrey II. Not many people would be as excited as I was to be eaten by a murderous, singing space plant, but I was. Little Shop was the first show I ever saw on Broadway and I credit it to being the reason I love the theatre, especially the technical side, as much as I do. So, getting the opportunity to work on the original set I saw nearly 15 years ago and then be eaten by the original Audrey II was a highlight of my life. I can't think of a better way to have ended my summer here at Gateway.