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Culmination Reflection Paper

On December 6th, 2019, Trillogy performed their first concert together since they reunited at the Voorhees Theatre. When Nick Mallios came up to me in May and told me that his band was getting back together, I thought that it would be a great idea to put a show for their band. This is how I became the production manager for the show. I never produced a show, so it was a new and exciting challenge for me. I also got to learn the process of putting the show together.

My first challenge for this project was changing up the schedule. After sending in the application to reserve the theatre in April of 2020, Professor Sue Brandt told me that the faculty loved the idea. The only problem was that they would much rather have the show on December 6th, 2019 since there would be many shows in spring 2020 and it would fit better with the department's schedule. I made sure with the band if the date was okay and we all agreed with the idea. We then have to update the schedule to make sure that we made all our deadlines and everything was ready for the show day. Sadly, over the summer, one of the guitarists in the band had to leave due to complications with their schedule.

Once the fall semester started, my next challenge was to get money for my budget. Luckily, Professor Brandt told me the best way to get money for my project, without spending any from my own pocket, was through the Student Government Association (SGA) and from a club. Through lots of paperwork and patience, I became the president of the Stage Craft Club. I gave SGA my budget and waited for them to approve it. It took longer than I thought it would with SGA since they didn't explain to me how everything worked until three months into the semester. I realized that for me to get the money from my approved budget, I had to show them receipts and request for an reimbursement. That meant at the time being, I had to spend my money. I ended up buying food and drinks for the band and crew on the day of the show, and one of the band members took an uber and lyft since it would have been a bad idea to bring their equipment on public transportation. After collecting all the receipts and giving in my reimbursement form for both me and the band member, it took 3 months before I was able to get my checks. Never-the-less, I still received it.

Team communications was another challenge I had to face. I had hired friends to be the designers for the show which became one of the challenges for me. It is hard being authoritative when you don't want to hurt your friend's feelings in any sort of way. It also was difficult when the show was happening on campus and it made them feel as if it was just another school show and might have relied on the professors for some approval instead of me instead. I also believe it was my fault for not taking the lead when it comes to our production meetings and just asking them how they're doing. They would usually respond that they're doing good and they have everything together. I should have instead asked them to show me any documents that they have completed or any update on their work. I also relied heavily on text messages instead of in person meetings. Text messages, although are great for some quick responses, are not great for getting sort of big updates on the projects. It would have been better with a bit more in person

meetings to help understand how everyone is really doing based on their body language and tone of voice.

Another challenge I had to face was CUNY's requirements for metal detectors. I was informed by Professor Brandt that the school was requiring me to get metal detectors for my show. I wasn't going to fight the school with their requirements and understood their concerns, but what did surprise me was that they wanted me to pay for it out of pocket. Lucky enough, Professor Brandt has helped communicate to the school with me and she was able to get them to drop the metal detectors and replace it for 2 security guards. I was also fortunate to have the department pay for the insurance and the security guards for the event. Now, I just had to focus on who was coming. Professor Brandt informed me that because we got it down to 2 security guards, they also wanted a guest list of who was coming. I asked the band on the list of people and their first response was that they invited everyone on their friend's list from Facebook, which was a total of about 300. I did panic a bit first. The Voorhees Theatre couldn't even hold that many people. But I also had to remember that not everyone responds to those invites on Facebook. So, I got a good list of about 60 people that would come to the show.

The Trillogy show has taught me many things and it's lessons that I will use in the future. Learning that, although some people I work with will be my friends, I have to learn that I'm on the job and have to act more professional to make sure that the work gets done in a timely manner. I also learned to be patient and that not everything will be on my schedule, so I must always be able to adjust. Being able to work on this project was amazing and has helped me be more prepared for the future and be more ready for when the time comes to create another project. And maybe even create another show for Trillogy.