Position: LIGHTING DESIGNER / OPERATOR

Job Description: If you light it they will come. Quite simply, a PLAYERS show combines two rather different lighting requirements into one show. On the one hand it's a comedic play, and needs to be lit as such, with occasional specials. On the other hand it's a rock concert and needs to feel that way by way of the lights. This person both hangs, focuses and gels the lights based on their design, as well as operates the lighting board throughout tech week and the shows.

Tasks during the rehearsal process include:

- Attend occasional production meetings to make sure you know the specific shape of the stage, the basic lighting needs and any specials that might be needed.
- Familiarize yourself with the songs in the show and be prepared to create special lighting that's unique to each song.
- Place your lighting (and stage) order early enough so that there aren't any issues. Plan the pick up and drop off of such (it saves money if you do this yourself).

Tasks during Run of Show include:

- Run the lights! Make sure you know the cues for the beginning and ending of scenes, for any specials and the unique song lights for each musical number. HAVE FUN!

Personal Time: You'll want to spend some time listening to the set list of the show so that you're super familiar with the songs. You'll need to devise a lighting design. Both of these won't take up much time overall.

Toughest Part: Working around last minute challenges that arise – burnt out lights, safety chains missing, gels burning, breakers tripping, etc. But this can be fun too if you've got the right attitude!

Best Part: Running lights that are so seamless that no one really notices the lights but rather the show and songs themselves – they'll notice subconsciously!

Recommended Skills or Experience: Basic theatrical lighting experience.

What it's like and why it's worth it: Working with the PLAYERS crew is fun and exciting. There are always such an interesting variety of personalities and everyone generally gets along swimmingly! Everyone works hard and, in the end, the show totally rocks! Plus you get to sit in the front row, drink beers and laugh and dance all night long while you do your job!

It's worth it because you get to work with an incredibly diverse group of talented people who are all completely dedicated to the task at hand...raising money for charity by putting on a full fledged production with a wicked array of live song and dance numbers, riotous comedy, and bang on impressions of your favourite TV show and movie personalities!

Position: PROPS TEAM

Job Description: Making props and designing/implementing set pieces into a PLAYERS show can be a whole lot of fun! If you or anyone you know has ever referred to you as you a crafty type with a fun filled imagination, then this position is right up your alley! You'll be responsible for gathering and/or creating and crafting all the props as requested of you by the director and then get to see your work being used in all sorts of hilarious ways in a live performance of the show! Best of all, PLAYERS productions tend to have really cartoony and over the top props on display so the bigger, the sillier, and the cheesier the props and et pieces...the better! Filmmaker Ed Wood used paper plates on strings to give the effect of flying saucers in his films. A traditional PLAYERS show would laud the man for his efforts and quickly follow suit! :-)

Tasks during the rehearsal process include:

- You may want to attend some of the rehearsals to gather any information needed to create certain props. This is a great opportunity to find out if there are items which the cast can provide for themselves and to trade ideas on how to gather and/or create some of the more complicated pieces.
- You may be asked to attend the occasional production meeting in order to go over the finer details of the work and how it is progressing.

Tasks during Run of Show include:

- Unless a prop is badly damaged and needs to be fixed or replaced, your only task during the run of the show is to attend a run, sit back, and watch how all your artsy, crafty, creativity is gracing the stage while the audience responds with laughter and accordingly!

Personal Time: This is where most of your time will be needed. You must be able to manage your own time to ensure that all the props are ready for the date set out by the director and the production team (the final deadline for all props will likely be the final week of rehearsals/dress runs). This includes shopping for materials and items, allotting enough time for all crafting, planning how to get everything to the theatre and making sure the production team has a space for any and all items if the backstage area is not yet available for the production.

Toughest Part: There can be many changes to the props list as time goes on. Additional pieces may be requested as the cast and director workshop the script throughout the rehearsal period. Some pieces may need to be brought to the location and finished on site. Making things cheap yet durable, it's a two week run with people spilling beer all over everything and occasionally tossing the props around (always good to keep in mind!).

Best Part: The chance to get totally crafty and creative and really make your mark on the show!!

Recommended Skills or Experience: Craftiness and resourcefulness!

What it's like and why it's worth it: It's totally worth the hard work!! Props are so important for a stage play (and especially the zaniness that is often involved in a PLAYERS production) and you'll likely be challenged to make some of the funniest and craziest $&!% you'll ever be asked to create! And then you get to see your work come to life on stage!!

Position: SOUND DESIGNER / OPERATOR

Job Description: We all know every actor in a live musical production needs to be heard. Whether it be their dialogue, their harmonies, or their lead vocals, sound is a fundamental element to any theatrical experience. At PLAYERS, it's no different, and, because of the nature of our shows and the type of environment we are catering to, it's sometimes more crucial than it is in other theatrical undertakings! Our shows can get loud and rowdy out there in the audience but they are always more fun for everyone when the volume is balanced accordingly! As the sound designer/operator, you will be in charge of making sure the sound is reinforced throughout the production. Working closely with the actors and the band, this includes making sure that everyone, including the audience, can all hear the show properly. It requires planning how to mic the band and the actors, knowing what speakers are needed so the audience and actors can hear what is happening at all times, and being knowledgeable about any sound processing equipment that is needed to ensure the quality of the show. The entire set up and all connecting wires need to be understood in order to create a list of equipment which needs to be rented. Rentals must be obtained and loaded into the theatre, set up, torn down, counted, and returned at the end.

Tasks during the rehearsal process include:

- For the most part, all you need to do is attend two or three rehearsals to prior to tech week to familiarize yourself with the show and the music.
- Meeting with the stage director to understand any special requirements and the music director to understand band monitoring requirements as well as what instruments will be played.
- Additional coordination by e-mail to obtain rentals.
- A full sound check is necessary before the dress rehearsal takes place.
- The soundcheck is usually taken care of as soon as possible since it brings out any problems that were not thought of beforehand. You need to be able to identify and arrange for failed equipment to be replaced.

Tasks during Run of Show include:

- Running the sound board and acting as operator of all the levels and special effects sound cues.
- Sound checks are required every night before during the run before audience arrives. There is usually a limited time not only for the performers but also for the setup and for any troubleshooting that may arise.
- The ability to solve sound problems "on the fly" as soon as they come up is extremely important to the success of the show.
- Once the show is running, you can focus on enjoying making it sound good...and helping give everyone in attendance the most rocking show they have ever witnessed!

Personal Time: One visit to the location of the production and a few evenings spent planning out what equipment is required to rent and how it should be set up is all that is really necessary. The Tranzac club (our current location) has a limited inventory and not everything works so it's important to know before going in how it will be set up and where the equipment is coming from. It's also important to note that this position becomes more involving a few days before production week and every day during production week. If you currently hold a day job, you may have to leave your place of work early during the first few days of the run and tech week to make sure that everything gets set up on time.

Toughest Part: It's definitely a lot of work during production week. There isn't much time to relax during set up, the pace is hectic, and there are technical and logistical problems that need to be solved every day. But once everything is working and the show gets going, it's all very rewarding.

Best Part: Running sound means you get to enjoy the show every night from the audience. PLAYERS has excellent singers and musicians, so it's rewarding being able to bring that out and help make the show sound awesome.

Recommended Skills or Experience: Sound operator experience!

What it's like and why it's worth it: Working sound on a PLAYERS show means more that just knowing about sound gear. The actors, musicians, audience, and production team all have different sound requirements: from using microphones, and location of equipment, to what the band needs to hear versus what the audience needs to hear. There are a lot of different people to work with when putting a show like this together but working with all of them as a team and taking part in all the social activities makes it all a great experience.

Position: VIDEOGRAPHER / EDITOR

Job Description: Imagine a world where you set the initial tone for the most awesome, fun filled, hilarious theater event of the summer. A show that kicks off with your work being showcased on the big screen (OK, so it's a drop down projector screen but it's still JUST as special!) before the actors take to the stage. Think of it like the opening credits to a movie or TV series but with the flash and panache of a finely tuned music video! If you're technically savvy when it comes to video production, have an eye for camera work, an editor's mind for comedic pacing and an ear for the music that ties it all together, then PLAYERS wants you! The videographer/editor is responsible for the creation, shooting and post production/ editing of the opening video, in addition to having a script and shooting schedule prepared in advance of the day of principle photography. You also set up the camera/shots and make sure all the necessary equipment and tools required for the shoot are available and ready to use. We have most recently moved in to the realm of HD so any experience with that particular format is an asset. It's like being a part of a no budget film set where you get to have both creative and collaborative freedom without having to fear the Hollywood suits showing up and breathing down your neck! :-)

Tasks during the rehearsal process include:

- There are no real rehearsals for this position other than possibly meeting with the producer(s), writer(s), and director of the show to brainstorm ideas and figure out a schedule, and/or meeting with actors to discuss some of the things you have in mind for them and to hear what they may have in mind for themselves.
- If a shooting script is prepared in advance of the shooting day, you may want to help the actors familiarize themselves with the material and go over any blocking notes you have for them.
- Each year has been slightly different from the years prior (depending on the skills and ideas of the videographer in conjunction with their collaboration/communication with director and writer of the show) so the process can vary. It really all comes down to the time you are able to commit to and what your strengths are as a filmmaker/editor.

Tasks during Run of Show include:

- None! All you'd want to do is show up for one of the runs (or more depending on where your heart lies) to see how amazing your video looks on a screen projected to a packed room of excited people laughing at the hilarity of your work! You and the cast you worked with are comedic geniuses and all your hard efforts are finally paying off!

Personal Time: If you haven't seen them, you'll want to spend some time researching the TV series and/or movies and characters the particular show you are producing the opening video for is parodying. This requires watching TV on a regular basis which can be painstakingly hard!!! Getting to know the characters, their relationships, and what motivates them (and, in certain cases, even the editing and camera styles of those series and movies being parodied) is integral to the humour on display in the final cut of the video so any information you gather from your research will go a long way!

Toughest Part: Shooting and editing the video with such a tight deadline. More often than not, you are given only one scheduled day for principal photography and may need to set aside a time for reshoots depending on what was missed. As for the final cut of the video, it must be delivered to the producer during the earlier part of tech week which does not leave a lot of time between the day of the actual shoot and the delivery date. You have to be able to think quickly, readily, and efficiently during the post production stage in order to meet the deadline.

Best Part: Having an abundance of freedom with what you film and how you opt to shoot it and watching the video unfold at the actual show with everybody. The laughter is infectious and the great feedback you receive for the hours of hard work you've put in is truly wonderful! Also, being able to play around with various editing techniques, using the music of your choosing in post production, and getting creative control of the final edit (dependent on its running time...we generally try to keep it under 3 minutes)? In a word...awesome!

Recommended Skills or Experience: Camera operator and editing experience

What it's like and why it's worth it: Working with the PLAYERS crew is fun and exciting. There are always such an interesting variety of personalities and everyone generally gets along swimmingly! Everyone works hard and, in the end, the show totally rocks! Most of the past videographers come for the show but stay for the beer! ;-) (Just kidding!) It's worth it because you get to work with an incredibly diverse group of talented people who are all completely dedicated to the task at hand...raising money for charity by putting on a full fledged production with a wicked array of live song and dance numbers, riotous comedy, and bang on impressions of your favourite TV show and movie personalities! And the show starts every night with the opening video!