

Professional Service Reflections

Musical Director, Muncie Civic Theatre, "Bugsy Malone Junior", July 2013

-I participated in the entire audition, rehearsal, and performance process of this youth theatre musical at the Muncie Civic. I was recruited by the director (a Theatre Education student and friend) for the position. We casted about 40 kids between the ages of 4-16. The rehearsal process lasted two weeks, rehearsing every weekday, in a day camp format. I worked with the full cast, individual soloists, and smaller choruses and groups (about a dozen pieces in all). My teaching portions consisted of warm ups, part teaching, vocal technique, choral technique, and performance/expression. I taught mostly through rote teaching and used a lot of modeling (lots in falsetto too!). The musical style was very 1920's jazz, ragtime, and blues. This was an unfamiliar performance style to most of the students. Discussing and analyzing elements such as syncopation, swung rhythms, jazz vocal styling, etc. helped in furthering their knowledge of the skills and concepts needed to successfully perform these musical styles. It was a challenging experience due to such a short and fast-paced rehearsal schedule and such a wide age group to work with (many times all 40 performers at once). The students really committed the pieces and my direction to memory and responded well to my feedback throughout the process. I learned a lot about classroom management, lesson pacing, and teacher improvisation through this experience.

Company Manager, Ball State University Singers, 2013-2014

-As manager of the 50th Cast (and Assistant Manager of the 49th Cast) of the Ball State University Singers, the duties that fall under my umbrella are endless and far too many to keep a full record of. It began with assembling the 50th Cast (singer/dancers, band members, sound technicians, wardrobe crew, and production staff) alongside Dr. Alder through auditions and interviews. I then spend the summer organizing our offices, rehearsal, and storage facilities, as well as organizing the incoming cast's contact, medical, and attire information. I then organize our music library and prepare the incoming casts repertoire folders and help choose musical selections for the season. I also assist in setting the performance/rehearsal calendar for the year. We begin the year with a four day "Foundation Days" orientation/camp for the new cast to get to know one another, bond, build a team work ethic, and learn a hefty amount of repertoire before the school year event starts. This is an extensive planning process that involves delegating activities for all returning members to lead per my instructions as well as leading many activities and events myself. I keep our hallway display cases current and informative of our current endeavors. I made individual binders for the entire production staff to follow throughout the year that tells each position what their expectations are and when to begin what tasks and how to go about them. Positions include: philanthropy, traditions, outreach, publicity, dance captains, web manager, lead technician, wardrobe manager, band manager, and others. I lead this team in weekly meetings to reflect on our recent work and leadership, plan for upcoming events, and promote the overall improvement of our group's quality of work. I also lead weekly full company "circle" announcements and discuss the upcoming agenda and strategy for our performances, events, and rehearsals. I have planned receptions, concerts for local schools,

philanthropy projects, collaborative events with other campus organizations, and more. I have also had to deal with a fair share of behavioral and contractual conflicts this year; some leading to resolution, some leading to cast member dismissals. On the musical side, I have had opportunities in leading small group rehearsals (both instrumental and vocal), vocal arranging, part teaching, choreographing, and conducting. I have even cleaned up another student's puke on a bus. This position has prepared me for being a music educator in ways that no other opportunity on this campus could. It is never an easy job and I couldn't be more thankful to have wound up as the leader of this iconic organization.