

DEBRA SHERRER

TEACHING ARTIST

• 706-662-2263 • ddsherrer@yahoo.com •

All Teaching Experience with the Springer Theatre Academy-6 years

Intern Captain

The student to teacher ratio at the Academy is approximately 5:1. We were able to keep that ratio with the assistance of teaching interns between the ages of 13-18. These interns were our most advanced students and were hand-picked by the Academy director and myself. The interns were students who would lead younger students by example and assist teachers and teaching assistants in the daily running of each classroom. Interns were responsible for helping maintain discipline as well as assist with medical emergencies. The largest part of my job was assigning each team of interns to the appropriate group, and then if necessary, switching interns between groups if I felt that it would help with the overall class dynamic. Each year I would have approximately 40 interns that would need to be placed, trained, assigned and then followed up with during weekly group meetings or individual meetings when necessary.

Intro to Stage Management (13-18 year old students)

Teaching a stage management class to middle and high school aged students was a challenging and rewarding class that was offered at my suggestion. In a six week course, the students received an overview of what a stage manager is expected to do as well as practical applications for use as a stage manager. During the course students learned to record blocking, read a ground plan, tape out a set in a rehearsal space, make calendars, make lists (prop needs, set needs, costume needs, etc.), record cues, call a cueing sequence in a performance space, shadow a professional stage manager and first response medical training. At the completion of this course, and with a recommendation from me, students were then eligible to become assistant stage managers with the Springer Children's Theatre.

Intro to Technical Theatre (13-18 year old students)

With the assistance of the costume shop, scene shop and lighting/sound department; I was able to give students a solid beginning into the world of technical theatre. With a hands-on approach, students were able to hang and focus lighting equipment as well as learn to assist a lighting designer by programming a lighting console. Students learned the basics of sewing with an emphasis on possessing the ability to make a quick fix to a costume backstage during a show. In the scene shop, the students learned how to read tech drawings, basic color mixing and basic building skills necessary to assist with the build of a set. Students were also incorporated into the build and paint of the current production allowing them more time to use the knowledge they received in class.

Stilt Making (13-18 year old students)

After completion of this course, students would walk away with stilts that they built with my assistance. Students learned basic carpentry skills and the proper handling of hand tools and power tools. As the teacher, I cut all necessary components of the stilts, but left the construction, sanding and finishing to the students. Using pine, 3/4" ply wood, bicycle tire, L-irons and screws the students combined the parts and were responsible for obtaining the end result of a new pair of stilts.

Stilt schematics are available upon request

Stilt Walking & Juggling (Beginner class: 9-12 year old students & Advanced class: 13-18 year old students)

The goal of this class was for every student to learn to juggle and walk on stilts at the same time. Students began with juggling scarves, and then progressed to juggling 3 balls and then some began to learn clubs. With an emphasis on team building, the students were also asked to partner juggle and to team juggle. The main goal of a stilt walker is to be able to do everything on stilts that can be done on the ground. Most students master the basics of walking very quickly so during the class we would take walking trips around the city so the students could become more accustomed to everyday walking conditions. The most advanced students were challenged to pick a juggling scarf up off of the ground in 18" stilts and to climb a large staircase on 24" stilts without handrails.

Education:

Point Park University

Pittsburgh, PA

B.F.A Theatre Arts-Concentration in Stage Management, expected graduation May 2012

Special Skills:

Excellent with students and their parents/guardians, CPR and First Response Certified, Able to easily incorporate teaching interns

References:

Ron Anderson
Director-Springer Theatre Academy
Cell: (706) 315-6982
randerson@springeroperahouse.org

Lisa Česnik
Director-Rose of Athens Theatre Academy
Cell: (706) 315-2115
lisacesnik@gmail.com