Brooks Walsh

THTR-027 Hang/Focus/Strike/Lab hours report

Due: End of the Semester

Total Lab Hours: **9 hours**

9/16: 10am – 6pm // **Show 1 Hang**

* Show 1 hang went smoothly but could’ve been faster. For our level of experience at the time, I am happy with how much we did. I completed 3 or 4 of the light hang cards as well as helped setup a few of the balcony fixtures. This was a long day, and we didn’t quite finish everything, but as a team we were very productive.

9/19: 2pm – 5pm // **3 Lab Hours**

* These lab hours were a preparation for the Show 1 Focus shifts coming up the next day. We spent some time finishing up the balcony fixtures and moving ladders (with the beautiful geometry of similar arcs). Cole and I then spent the remaining time preparing the color gels by putting them in frames that fit in the gel-slots of the fixture barrels. I also did some other miscellaneous tasks as requested such as moving things to/from the booth and checking/fixing some lights in the grid.

9/20: 7:30pm – 11:30pm // **Show 1 Focus**

* I was on the night shift for Show 1 Focus, but from what I understand, both shifts were essentially the same. We spent most of our time up on the grid; we would wait for the lighting director to decide the next spot, then we would use the shutters, barrel-bolt, etc. to focus our lights on the correct spot as directed. While at first this process seemed slow, we gradually picked up speed and finished all but a manageable amount of the focusing before 11:30.

10/3: 3pm – 5pm // **2 Lab Hours**

* These lab hours were in preparation for Show 1’s first actual performance. First, we moved the ladder and preemptively replaced some gels (as this was our last opportunity to do so). Then, we were tasked with clearing out the diamond theatre seating area such that it is totally ready for an audience to come and (hopefully) enjoy the show. This preparation included moving the lighting console and the 2 tables that sat in the seating rows. At the end we spent some time cleaning out some storage areas to make room for everything and did a final sweep to ensure we didn’t leave a bunch of lighting equipment laying around in the seating area.

10/8 10am – 2pm // **Show 1 Strike**

* This was an unfortunate day for me. I had a terrible night because I was taking care of a friend who was in the hospital. The next morning, I was still back and forth to the hospital, so I missed the first 2 hours of this strike. By the time I arrived, the grid had already been cleared off, so I spent most of my time at the flyweights helping as we were unloading the fixtures from the lighting bars.

10/10: 2pm – 5pm // **1 Lab hour** (plus 2 make-up hours)

* I had planned to do these lab hours already, but after missing half of Show 1 Strike, 2 hours of this lab were allocated to making that up. For these lab hours, I helped with various tasks that hadn’t been completed during the most recent strike. This included tasks such as sorting/cleaning in the booth, carrying things to/from the booth, and generally just getting the booth ready for the next show.

10/21: 10am – 6pm // **Show 2 Hang**

* This was a long and satisfying day. Show 2 had far more lighting fixtures and complexities compared to show 1. As a class, we were much more comfortable hanging lights without instruction and finding the places where lights are found/stored. Considering the number of lights to hang, this day was remarkably productive as all we had left to do were fancy stage lights and the balcony rail.

10/24: 2pm – 5pm // **3 Lab hours**

* These were my final lab hours of the semester. We did a wide variety of tasks such as checking the grid for mistakes, finishing the balcony rail (with Cole’s assistance), and moving around the lighting terminal thing that’s normally in the booth. As a general overview, I found my lab hours quite enjoyable. They were laid back and fun, but also productivity focused with endless tasks to complete. Plus, I made new friends :)

10/25: 7:30-11:30 // **Show 2 Focus**

* Show 2 focus was a doozy. There were countless lights to be focused on the grid, and when that was done, there was far more to do on/around the stage. Both electric fly-rails were very full and required lots of adjustment. Despite all of this, show 2 focus was primarily a success and we worked quite efficiently. My only inefficiency comment is regarding the fact that some students finished what they were doing, but then would just sit around waiting for the next task to be assigned to them. Perhaps something like a checklist for students could help solve this problem. Overall, stressful but doable.

11/19: 10am – 2pm// **Show 2 Strike**

* This was our final event together as the THTR-027 class, and I think it showed the progress we have made both as individuals and as a whole class. Students were present and ready to work, things got done fast, and most importantly people kept a positive attitude. After clearing off the grid as a group, I spent most of my time up with the flyweights again. There wasn’t too much to do once we had finished this strike, and considering the size of the production, I’d say that’s something to be proud of.