



NEWSLETTER

August/September 2021

WELCOME BACK EDITION!

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Meeting information!

9/3: First Meeting

9/17: Light hang and focus workshop

Social event:

Powerpoint Party: TBD, stay tuned!

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD!

SHAMUS - CHAIR

(he/him)

Tech area of interest: Stage Management

TJ - VICE CHAIR

(he/him)

Tech area of interest: Lighting Design

MEGAN - OUTREACH COORDINATOR

(she/her)

Tech area of interest: Stage Management

ANABEL - SECRETARY

(they/them)

Tech area of interest: Stage Management

ELIZABETH - BUSINESS MANAGER

(she/her)

Tech area of interest: Sound

STAY UPDATED!



@usitt_at_pitt



USITT @ The University of Pittsburgh

The Warmest of Welcomes!

Hello all! If you don't know me already, my name is Shamus and I am extremely excited to be the new USITT Chair for this year! I know I can say for the entire board that we are beyond thrilled to be back on campus, and working towards a semi-normal-ish year, with in-person workshops, department and club productions, and (most importantly) tables back on 16.

While there have been, many adjustments as we came back to campus, and surely many more to come, I can't say enough good things about the year we have planned for everyone. Whether you're brand new to Pitt theatre, an old face, or just simply haven't navigated campus in person yet, the USITT community is here to support you every step of the way.

Enjoy as you read our first newsletter of the year, and be sure to check out the many events we have upcoming. And know that we as the board are here for you - if there's a workshop you'd like to see us do, or you'd like to contribute a newsletter section in the future, don't hesitate to reach out!

We can't wait to see the wonderful things everyone will do this year!

Shamus

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant's name is Roger! He is a Chinese money plant (or pancake plant) and he is an angsty teenage boi.



STAGE MANAGEMENT CORNER

What are 3 things you can do to run a better audition?

1. Keep communication with performers as clear as possible. Good communication with auditioning actors helps them keep calm and allows them focus on giving the best audition possible knowing they have all the necessary information.
2. It is also very important for stage managers to be able to communicate with their teams in and out of audition rooms. This holds especially true for zoom auditions. When holding zoom auditions, it will be easiest to be in the room with your stage management team for quick, easy, and efficient communication. However, facetime will be effective as well in these covid times.
3. It is always helpful to make sure you are on the same page as your director and offer support to them in the audition room. It is important not to insert personal biases unless asked for, but keeping auditions short and sweet can help the emotional state of your director.

By Shamus, Anabel, and Megan

WHAT SPECIALTY SHOULD YOU TRY

Which sounds most like you when approaching a puzzle?

- I prefer to methodically work a puzzle from beginning to end. (1)
- I like to split the puzzle into sections and tackle each one individually. (3)
- I think each puzzle is different and each approach should be different too. (4)
- I place a piece where I think it should go, regardless of everything else, and continue until it all comes together. (2)

Which work method do you prefer?

- I work on a puzzle every single day for a little bit to follow it through. (4)
- I like to jump in on the puzzle after someone has started it and finish it off for them. (1)
- I really like to do the beginning planning of the puzzle and let someone else finish it. (2)
- I spend time planning out where I think pieces should go, sectioning them off, and then put it all together quickly. (3)

How big of a puzzle do you like to take on?

- A medium size, I like puzzles, but I can get bored with them. (3)
- I am okay with whatever size catches my eye! (2)
- I only like to be working on it for a short period of time. (1)
- A big one! I really love to bond with the puzzle pieces. (4)

Do you enjoy working on puzzles with others?

- The more help the merrier! (2)
- I prefer to oversee it, but I enjoy collaborating with others. (4)
- I don't care how many people are there. (3)
- No, not really. (1)

Now tally up your score according to the points at the end of each question and go to page 5 for your B answers

By Anabel Blackford

WHAT SPECIALTY SHOULD YOU TRY ANSWERS

13+ = You enjoy collaboration, a methodical, consistent work pattern, and a high level of involvement in shows. You should try stage management!

9+ = You enjoy having your own task to do with some collaboration, time to plan, and working in a fast-paced environment. You should try lighting!

5+ = You enjoy the option for collaboration, having a task you can finish before a show really starts, and getting instructions/plans from others. You should try carpentry!

1+ = You like little to no collaboration in your workspace, to get in and get out with your job, and to have some work done by others before you jump in. You should try electrics!

ON MY FIRST TIME USING FANCY LIGHTS

This past summer I worked at a local theater as their lighting designer. I got to work in an impressively large middle school auditorium where they had...LED lights! *gasp* My high school auditorium had old, crusty lights that hadn't been replaced in who knows how long, so this was my first encounter with LEDs in a theatre. No more strictly red, white, or blue. The whole rainbow was my oyster, and I had the power to paint whatever color I deemed fit. I spent hours creating the perfect color schemes for my characters and settings. I probably used the side lights way too much, but I couldn't resist, because they looked soooo good. Everyone looked so shadowy and broody. It was dramatic as heck, but it was perfect in my opinion.

I also got to work with moving lights. The second I threw on a gobo, everyone instantly thought I was a genius. I got so many awestruck stares from children, pointing, oohing, and ahing. I barely knew how to work the lights, but if I got them moving in a circle, I was a lighting goddess among the plebeian actors. (My only qualm with the LEDs is that they absolutely suck for face light. Finding a nice warm color for skin tones is incredibly difficult. I discovered that pure white in LEDs is not actually pure white.)

Overall, LEDs and moving lights are very good boys, and I can't even imagine what the budget for that auditorium renovation must have been.

Rating my experience: 8/10

By Elizabeth Amstutz

A BIOGRAPHY OF MEGAN'S CAT

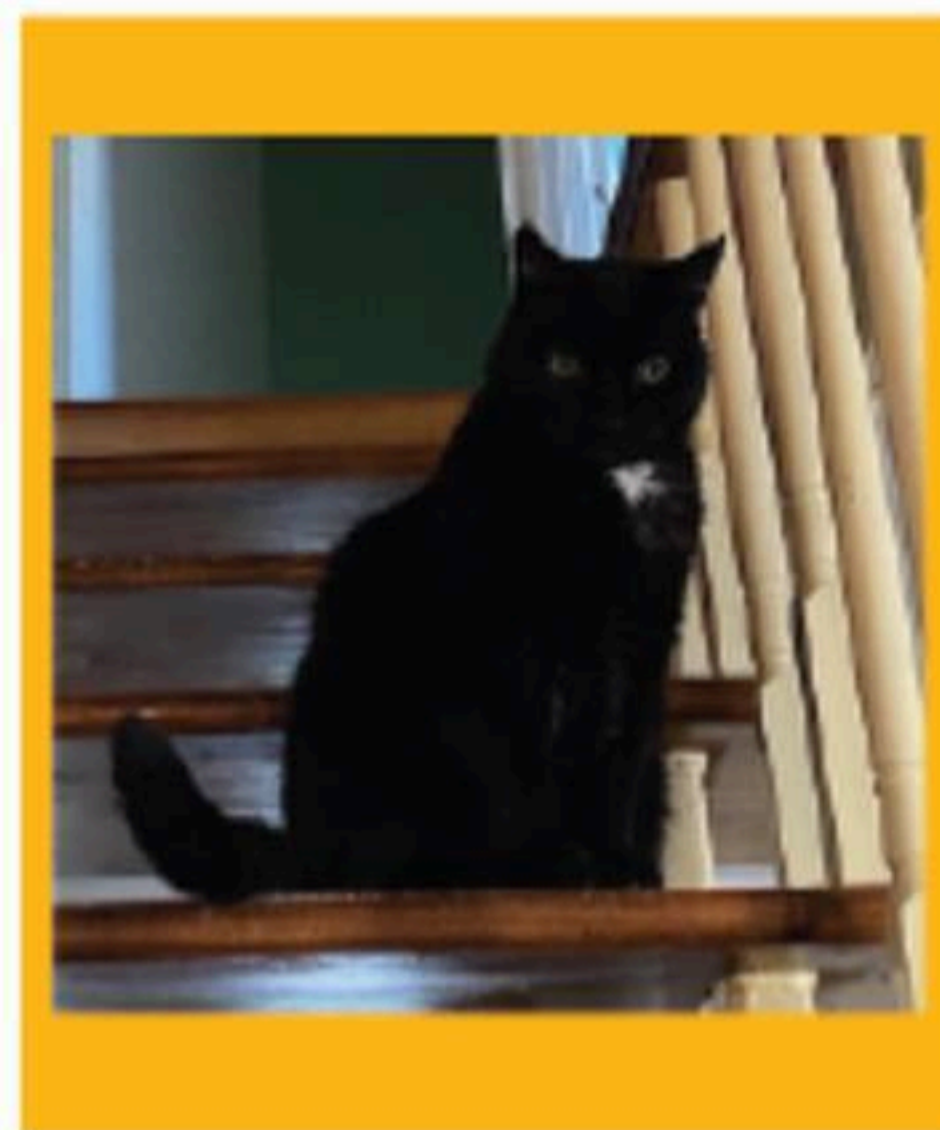
Meet: Blackie

Age: 16 (old man!)

Fun fact: is old enough to drive a car, however he is not tall or human enough to do it

Blackie is a very loveable old man. We have had him for about 15 years and he's always been a good little friend. We found Blackie under a bush in the middle of January in about 2006. He's lived most of his life in bliss, always having other friends with him. He has always been a typical cat in the way that he is scared of those he doesn't know. He is so scared in fact, that one time as a younger man, Blackie climbed up to the top of a telephone pole, then he jumped off it. He only hurt his leg, but he definitely learned his lesson.

For a brief period of time when he was 15 he was an only cat, and we are starting to think he liked that. Since he now has a whole bunch of new friends, he has fully accomplished the status of cranky old man. He meows at the other cats as they walk by, and he is getting possessive of my dad's lap and doesn't want anyone else sitting with him. He also seems to only outwardly like my dad, but sometimes he sleeps on the bed with my mom or me. Generally he'll sleep just far enough away from you so that he can pretend he's cold and aloof, but we know he still wants company. Despite his best efforts, we still try to give him all the love we can, even though he likes to act like he doesn't want it.



By Megan Franco

WHAT YOUR FAVORITE SHOP TOOL SAYS ABOUT YOU

Adjustable Wrench - You are a good friend. Much like the tool to an electrician you are always by your friend's side.

Stapler - You are great at holding things together. You are not here for temporary fixation, you are going to stick around for a bit.

Impact Driver - You are cool. I understand you. This is the most fun tool. And your lying if you say you don't pull the trigger once before you use it to make the little bzzshh sound and feel a little powerful.

Tape Measure - You are good at planning your life out. You always double check your work and ensure you're doing everything correctly.

Table Saw - You have no fear. If you use the table saw without even a bit of fear, you scare me.

Band Saw - You are fun and funky. Much like the shapes you can make with this saw, you are unique and follow no guides.

Anything Else - Maybe you're a TD and have a really cool tool that no one knows about that you hold really close to your heart. Maybe you are not and you did one really cool niche job for a show once and the tool you used really stuck with you. Either way I respect you. There is also a good chance that I forgot some really integral shop tools. After all I am merely just a lighting design student writing about shop tools.

By TJ Hays

SPICY SEASON AHEAD!

Somewhere

October 16-24

Written by Marisela Treviño Orta

The Drag Seed

November 5-14

Written by David Cerda

A New Brain

February 18-27

Written by William Finn and James Lapine

Why We Have A Body

April 1-10

Written by Claire Chafee

Emilia

April 8-16

Written by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

POPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL 2020!

--The Drag Seed needs an assistant lighting designer

--New Brain needs an assistant sound designer

--We Have a Body needs assistants for

-scenic

-costumes

-lights

-master electrician

--Emilia needs an assistant sound designer

--Dramaturgs needed for mainstages

SENDING TONS OF HUGS!

STAY SAFE FRIENDS.