



## NEWSLETTER

October 2021

### SUPER SPOOKY EDITION

#### IN THIS ISSUE!

Popportunities.....	1
Announcements.....	1
Spooky Column by Anabel.....	2
If Techies Were Actors.....	2
Plant (?) of the Month.....	2
First Time Designing.....	3
A Biography of Megan's Cat .....	3
My Favorite Spooky Gobos.....	4
Spooky pets .....	5
Upcoming Season.....	5

#### POPPORTUNITIES

- Department job listings for:
- dance stage manager
  - house managers
  - box office assistants
  - props PA
  - lighting PA
  - scenic carpenter
  - scenic painter



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### Jr. Board Member -

<https://forms.gle/9Hrj2Wq7uWUXVzrF9>

We are opening up interest applications for our 2021 – 2022 Jr. Board Member! This is a new position created last year to give someone an opportunity to shadow the USITT Board and learn from current board members. While this spot does not guarantee a position on the board next year, it's a great opportunity for anyone interested in running for a board position when the time comes!

##### USITT National Conference -

<https://forms.gle/FgbxPWKATfU7zT47A>

Conference time! If you couldn't make it to our last meeting, we talked all about the national USITT Conference, happening March 2 – 5, 2022. Every (non-COVID) year, we organize a club trip, and it's coming up fast! At conference you'll have the opportunity to attend workshops in every tech theatre area, led by industry professionals, get resume advice, and meet people looking to hire summer interns, play with new equipment, and more! This form is so that we can begin collecting interest of who wants to go to conference now so that we can start planning out transportation, hotels, and funding.

##### USITT Stickers -

<https://forms.gle/Juci3FinS5kVdZT87>

We're selling out our remaining stock of last years stickers! Grab 'em quick, they're the last ones we have before this year's stickers come out

STAY UPDATED!



@USITT\_AT\_PITT



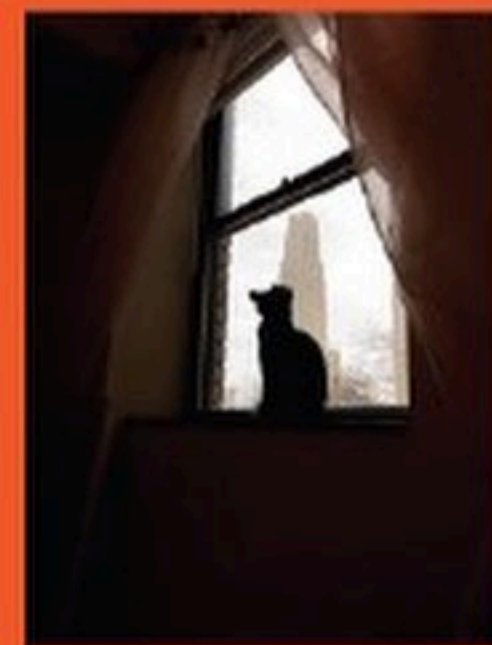
USITT at University of Pittsburgh

## BLACK CATS

Black Cats were worshipped as goddesses in Ancient Egypt. Now they're seen as bad luck. What changed?

The demonization of black cats began in the 20th century as churches started to label them as bad luck. These were linked to witches as the Church demonized witches during the same period. Witches and black cats became linked ever since. Now, they have the lowest adoption rates and the highest euthanasia rates of all cats. These cats are curious, talkative, the sweetest little furry friends. Next time you see a black cat, give them some extra head kisses. Gabriella Walko has generously given us pictures of her adorable cat, Moon, who just turned one! Happy Birthday Moon!

By Anabel Blackford



## PLANT (?) OF THE MONTH

This is Frederick! He is a tiny pumpkin that Megan bought from the farmers market outside the WPU. Frederick is a very studious little pumpkin! He went to a history class and did loads of homework before finding his new home in the window next to the skeleton friend (currently nameless).



## IF TECHIES WERE ACTORS

My opinion of what parts you would get based off of your tech theatre area

Scenic Designer = The fun, ambitious, best friend of the main character

Scenic Charge = Featured dancer in the ensemble, perhaps you get a solo too

Props Master = Main antagonist, either that or the oddball character who no one understands

Lighting Designer = The pragmatic, serious friend who tags unwillingly along with the lead

Master Electrician = Parental/Wise-sage role, just there to give advice

Costume Designer = Lead's love interest, probably caught in a love triangle

Stage Manager = You're the star, the lead, total main character energy

Technical Director = You get one speaking line, then are never seen from again

Run Crew = Probably a townspeople, often seen pantomiming in groups

Sound Designer = Main antagonist's underling, 100% groupie

By Elizabeth Amstutz

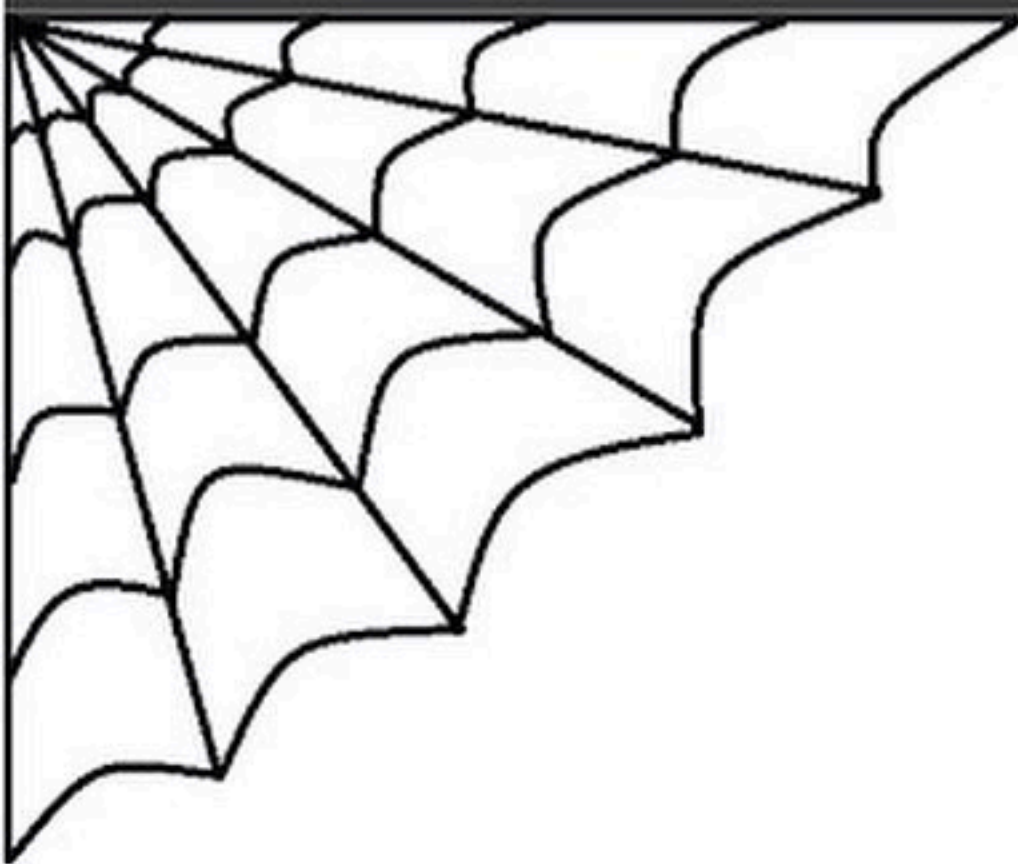


## FIRST TIME DESIGNER

Despite theater quite literally consuming my life from the first show I did, it's weird to think around this time 4 years ago was the first time I ever stepped foot in one as a technician. Of course, this was back in high school where I was a new face helping build sets, tossed back and forth between the booth and backstage (a disappointing event at the time since I came in really fascinated with lights), but by my second show I was assistant stage managing, on track to become my high school's SM for my senior year. I've loved stage management from the beginning, even if I did almost give it up due to the sheer time commitment, but this semester is giving me an experience I still haven't had - design. I've always been interested in tech, going after any chance I had to play around with different equipment, and even "designed" lights a few times, but very much in the "just pick some colors" sort of way.

Sound designing for Somewhere has given me an entirely different perspective though. From the very way I approached the script, I needed to think critically about what I was reading and what images and sounds came into my head, not reading to understand what to expect from other departments and anticipate the director's needs in the rehearsal room. The entire rehearsal period passed by in the blink of an eye, and even still I find myself confused about how to carry myself, and also struggling to remember I have one focus - how it sounds. The tech nerd inside me is definitely happy as I mess around in QLab, set up and fiddle with the sound board, and run cables, but when I signed on I never expected just how ingrained my stage manager habits had become. And for those reasons I am absolutely grateful I have the opportunity to do this. Even if I know I'm still a stage manager at heart.

By Shamus Bonner



## A BIOGRAPHY OF MEGAN'S CAT (PT 2)

Meet: Rocky!

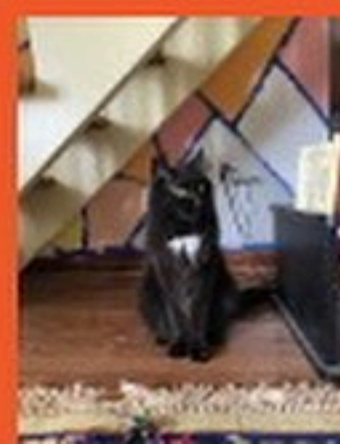
Age: 4

Fun Fact: Took over my sisters old bedroom and made it his own

Rocky is, what some may call, a pandemic cat. He was adopted in April of 2020, when we only had 1 cat. He is the perfect definition of a very quirky cat. We do not know much about his life before we adopted him, but we think he was an only cat. This is mainly because he is not friends with our other cats, nor does he want to be. He's not mean, he's just grumpy. He does not like pets, but if you pet him while he eats he's okay with it. However, if he wants to rub against you that's totally okay; he can touch you, not the other way around. He also refuses to step, sit, or lay down on any soft or squishy surfaces. We tried to get him a cat bed, but he didn't use it until we took the pillow out of it. He will not sleep on beds, only dressers and cardboard boxes. Occasionally, if you are eating food, he will put two paws on the bed or couch you're eating on, this is how we know he's very excited. One of Rocky's favorite treats is Ben and Jerry's Americone Dream ice cream (of course without the chocolate bits). This is unfortunate because this happens to be my favorite ice cream, so whenever I have it, he begs for it. Rocky also once wanted a brownie so bad he felt the need to reach out with his paw and try to grab it from me, but he did not succeed.

One of Rocky's favorite past times is sitting in the same room as you, pretending not to like the company. Secretly though, I think he wants to be around people, but not in a social way.

By Megan Franco



## MY FAVORITE SPOOKY GOBOS

It's Spooky Season my Ghouls! Nothing says spook then a little bit of textured lighting. Let's go through some of my personal favorite spooky gobos to spice up your local halloween display. All of the gobos listed here are a part of our inventory right here in our E-Shop so be sure to try them out the next time you're designing and need something with a little more horror.



### R77862 - Spooky Wood

I mean, it does say spooky in the name so of course it's on this list. This works for all the creepy swamps you need to set the stage with. A little bit of green gel, and you'll feel like you're surrounded by Crocodiles and Alligators in no time.



### G630 - Homespun 2

My personal favorite on this list. Something about this gobo screams (haha get it) haunted house. The texture seems like what you would see if you had your head covered by a burlap sack and you were trying to look out between the threads. It's claustrophobic and works very well with a warm gel in front of it to set the unsettling vibes.



### A3092 - Web 2

Let's make all your Arachnophobic friends uneasy by throwing this one in the mix. Toss this gobo up on a wall and imagine the size of a spider that would create a web that big.



### G811 - Crochet #1

Let's get your Ophidiophobic pals uneasy while we're at it! This gobo most definitely is not crocheted yarn. You can argue with me and say it isn't snakeskin, but you would be wrong.



### R78236 - Thorn Breakup

For all of your Little Shop of Horrors and Plants taking over dreams... or should I say nightmares.



### R78436 - Standing Trees

This one feels like getting lost in the forest. You want to create a show with a 1980's horror scene where a maniacal murder is chasing people through the woods with a chainsaw? This is the gobo for you.



### A3038 - Bat Cave

I am a sucker for bats. I think they are such fun and cute little animals. Let's create a bat cave for the twilight musical we put on in the future. For all the vampires out there.



### R71044 - Poppy Field

I surely do not think of Poppy Fields when I look at this gobo. I am imaging this one with a deep red gel in it, creating drops of blood all around.



### R78462 - Calculations

And finally, nothing scares a theatre kid more than the mere mention of Mathematics.

## SPOOKY PETS!



Vera!!



Coco!!



Oreo!!



Miguel!!



Piper and Bella!!



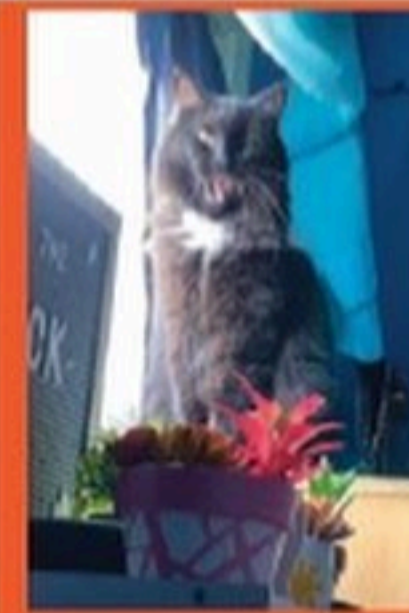
Luna!!



Ashton!!



Maggie!!



Rocky!!



Jackson!!

## SPICY SEASON AHEAD!

Somewhere  
October 16-22  
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



Riley!!



Piper and Bella!!

SENDING SPOOKY (BUT FUN) VIBES

STAY SAFE FRIENDS.