

Interview Assessment #1

Hannah Stone

Actress/Director

North Texas Performing Arts

10/11/2017

Going into this interview I was overjoyed. I have worked with Hannah in the past and I absolutely adore her with all of my heart, but I wanted to know more about her personal experiences. I see a lot of myself in her, and I wanted to start my interview process with someone that I was comfortable with, and seemed to have many things in common with me. As I began speaking with Hannah, she gave me details of her past experience as an actress. She started in the homeschool community, and found NTPA her sophomore year of high school. This was when she realized that this was really what she wanted to pursue as a profession, so she increased the amount of shows that she was doing and took everything much more seriously.

When she was sixteen she found that many directors were asking if she would want to intern for them because of the leadership and the initiative that she took with students. As she began to do internships, she basically found that she could make jobs for herself by proposing camps and shows to the board members at NTPA. This is something that I admire about her and would like to take into account when pursuing my own career, is that if I seriously want certain things, then I have to step out of my comfort zone, and just go for it. Propose ideas, get my beliefs and wants out there so that I can be heard as a person.

The next step in her life was the leap to college. This is where I'm about to be in my life, so I wanted to know what happened with her college experience. She began her college career solely on theatre. She only took theatre classes, and basically ate, breathed, and slept theatre. While she enjoyed this, she found that she didn't feel the passion that she had once felt. This was something that really hit home to me. Don't get me wrong, I love performing with all of my heart and soul, but she got me to think about if I would really feel fulfilled in life if all I was doing was performing. It's something that I would love to continue to do as I get older, but I want to do so much more.

Hannah continued to tell me that what she loves most about theatre is the kids. They keep her motivated and wanting to come back. She loves the opportunity that she gets to not only teach the kids theatre skills, but life skills as a whole. This was something that completely stood out to me because I realized how much my mentors, teachers, and directors have taught me about life as a whole on top of theatre itself. These people have been my inspirations throughout my life. They have taught me how to be confident, how to work with other people, how to overcome obstacles, and so many other things. When she said this, I had a breakthrough. I realized that that is what I want to do and be. I want to do so much more than just teach or direct theatre, I want to make a difference in students life's. I want to make a change, and be an inspiration. That was the biggest thing that I got out of this interview, and I will continue using that goal to push me through ISM and life as a whole.

Emma Vestal

Mr. Speice

ISM - 4B

20 October 2017

Interview Assessment #2

Liz Shurr

Theatre Teacher/Director

Frisco High School

October 18 2017

Through this interview, I wanted to learn more about what the mindset of someone who had been teaching and directing theatre for a long time was. With this interview, it was slightly different because I already knew Mrs. Shurr, and so I kind of knew her personality and how she acts. However, this was what made my interview pleasantly surprising. I asked many questions about her past in theatre. She was heavily influenced by her parents as they enjoyed the theatre very much. She began her theatrical career as an actress, and wanted to pursue the performing aspects of theatre. As she got older, she was able to focus more on theatre instead of sports, and found that she almost enjoyed theatre because many people believed it to be impractical for her to find a career in theatre. This is honestly something that I admire greatly because it's so easy

for people to submit to the influences around them, but she stayed true to herself and did what was going to make her happy.

Throughout her college experience was when Mrs. Shurr found that she had an affinity for technical theatre. She went to The Ohio State University where they teach theatre students all aspects of theatre. When she was asked to stage manage a production, she found that she fell in love, and wanted to continue diving into technical theatre. She had many ups and downs during college; she even changed her major to premed her sophomore year, but changed back very quickly. This was something that I enjoyed to hear about because at this point in my life it seems as though I have to have everything figured out, but in reality, I have a whole life ahead of me. I don't necessarily need to have every aspect of my life planned down to the T.

As a teacher, Mrs. Shurr found that she finds it extremely important to teach her students how to be better people. She even said that the theatre aspects of teaching took a backseat to the life skills that she needs her kids to learn. As she continued, she said something that stuck with me and resonated with me beyond belief. She said that she knows she can't change the world, but if she can change one kid's world, then she feels as though she has been successful. That, that statement right there is exactly why I have decided to pursue theatre as a teacher. I want to continue my performance experience as a hobby, but I know that what I want to do with my life is teach kids and be that mentor for them.

We finished the interview with some quick advice that she had for me. She told me many different things; anything from "go with your gut", to "ask questions", to "learn people's styles and techniques". Mrs. Shurr gave me a very insightful interview while still being completely open and honest. She definitely gave me a lot of things to think about, and she basically

solidified my wanting to be a teacher. She has given me a zeal for this topic that I had felt as though I had lost. I am beyond excited to continue with my interviews, and to figure out an original work that will benefit my journey.

Emma Vestal

Mr. Speice

ISM - 4B

26 October 2017

Interview Assessment #3

Cade Butler

Theatre Teacher/Director

Independence High School

October 25, 2017

When I went into this interview, I wasn't expecting a whole lot if I'm being honest. I was very excited because I had heard great things about Mr. Butler, and I wanted to see for myself what he was all about, but he had been upfront with me and told me that he wasn't going to be able to mentor. I was still looking forward to the interview from a research standpoint, but it dulled my overall interest since I knew from the start that he wasn't going to be an option for me. I am so glad to say that I was pleasantly surprised with this interview. It honestly amazes me that it seems like each interview I participate in just keeps getting better and better.

Mr. Butler was very different from the other people that I had interviewed. He had a passion that I had yet to see. I had heard everyone else talk about how passionate they are and how much they love what they do, but I hadn't yet felt that passion radiate off of anyone. From

the second I sat down, I knew that this was his calling and what he should be doing with his life. I resonated with him greatly in the sense that he felt a lot of discontent with the way that people were being treated. He felt as though everyone should be given an equal opportunity and should be treated with respect. He even went as far as to say that that is his goal as a teacher. He wants to create a safe space for his students that he didn't feel like he had when he was younger. That really hit home for me because I know how important theatre has been for me growing up. Not a day goes by that I don't talk to someone that I've met through theatre or one of my mentors in theatre, and I genuinely don't know what I would be doing without them. When he told me about all of the precautions he takes as a teacher in order to ensure that theatre is a welcoming and loving environment, I knew that I wanted to be able to provide that for other people.

He went further into depth of the fact that being the theatre teacher at Independence is one of his many jobs. He also is a director, a leader, a sort of "shoulder to cry on" figure for students, etc. This was something that also appealed to me because there are so many things that I like to do. I love theatre with all of my heart, but I also love organizing and planning, and I love being a leader, and I love helping people. All of these aspects can be concentrated into one occupation, being a theatre teacher. I realized at this moment in time that I want to be a theatre teacher.

This leads me to my last point that Mr. Butler introduced me to. When I asked him if he had any advice for me moving forward, he told me that I have to feel called to this profession. If I wasn't one hundred percent confident in this, then I shouldn't pursue it. This was so important to me because he was the first person to tell me that I need to love this to pursue it. When I saw

that honesty and that ability to be so passionate about something to know that it needs to be what you love with all of your heart, I knew that it was what I wanted to do.

Everything that Mr. Butler said made me excited to pursue this career. I told him that I definitely would've asked him to be my mentor if he had time because everything that he said made so much sense to me and made me love theatre even more. I absolutely loved this interview, and I hope to find someone that inspires me as much as Mr. Butler has.

Emma Vestal

Mr. Speice

ISM - 4B

1 November 2017

Interview Assessment #3

Brad Baker

Professor of Theatre

Collin College

31 October 2017

Going into this interview, I had very high expectations. Mr. Shurr had been telling me for weeks that Professor Baker is an amazing guy and very smart. After many attempts to try to find his office, we finally met, and we hit it off from the very beginning. He is such a warm and inviting individual who has so much knowledge - it's actually ridiculous. Despite me having preconceived notions about Professor Baker, I was still completely surprised for the entirety of the interview. This man has so much professional experience; I don't even know where to begin. He has been in everything from on Broadway shows to off Broadway shows to touring shows to films. He even performed at the 2004 Tony Awards, and was a professor of theatre at the University of Michigan prior to coming to Collin College.

One of the main things that he kept stating was that he gets very bored very easily. He doesn't like to do the same things over and over, or be stuck on one project for too long. This was something that I related to because I have always wondered how people can participate in one show for so long. Professor Baker told me that he begins read throughs of his next show before his current show is even done. This is to make sure that he doesn't dwell in the past, and that he is able to move forward from his other shows.

As I went through my interview with Professor Baker, I found it was so easy to speak with him. We spoke for two hours about everything from ISM to college auditions to upcoming shows that he's working on. I knew that I would be able to have intellectual and thought provoking conversations with him that I wouldn't be able to have with other people that I had interviewed. He even began to put forth the effort to ask me questions about what my main area of focus is in ISM. We decided that it seemed like I want to dabble in a little bit of all aspects of theatre, and he wants to work with me on an original work and final project that will allow me to utilize all of the aspects of theatre that I want to learn about.

Overall, this interview didn't even seem like an interview. I felt like I was just having a conversation with someone that has a common interest with me. I believe that working with Professor Baker is going to open up a lot of doors for me in the theatre world, no matter what I end up doing. I cannot wait to create some amazing works with Professor Baker helping me along the way. I have even started to formulate some ideas with him that are very daunting, but will get me way out of my comfort zone to do something amazing. Knowing that my mentor is someone that I can trust to not only care about my ISM journey, but myself as a person, means the absolute world to me. I cannot wait for the rest of this year.

