

Alumni Network

Cheryle Marie Honerlah "12"



Area of Focus: Technical Theatre and Design

Describe your career, especially what you are doing now:

I currently work at CSU East Bay in the Theatre and Dance department as a carpenter, scenic painter, and stage manager for Theatre Rentals. Outside of my work at the school, I am a freelance Stage Manager in the Bay Area. Most recently, I have been stage managing with Douglas Morrisson Theatre, Shotgun Players, and African-American Shakespeare. I have also acted as Production Manager for Douglas Morrisson Theatre's Solo Artist Festival, and for ACT MFA Program's Black Orpheus. This summer I will also be back to work with California Shakespeare Theater as one of their season's Production Assistants.

How has your Cal State experience helped your career?

I had originally attended CSUEB as an education major. A trip to Edinburgh for the Festival Fringe with the theatre department, as well as the opportunities to design and stage manage main stage shows, made me switch majors. The connections I have made at East Bay have opened many doors for me, and have allowed me to continue to pursue Stage Management (and even the occasional odd design!).

If friends or family are important to your life's story, say so here:

Theatre has always been a huge part of my life. My family has been constantly supportive in anything I do, and while Theatre probably wasn't exactly what they expected me to pursue, they still maintain all of that same solid support. My cat, on the other hand, isn't so happy about the hours.

Your best advice for students:

Don't be afraid to try new things! It doesn't matter what your major is--that offer to design a show or to come and participate in a new class or program might not be the road you're expecting to take, but it could very well lead to something you unexpectedly love and enjoy.