JULIAN MERCER

STAGE MANAGER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Production Stage Manager with 10+ years running plays, musicals, and opera for regional theatres. Member of Actors' Equity who leads rehearsal rooms, calls shows with precise cues, and keeps casts, crews, and designers working from the same information.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Production Stage Manager Aug 2021 - Present
Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago, IL

- Stage manage 4 productions a season, running 5-week rehearsal periods and calling 200+ light, sound, and automation cues per show.
- Led tech and preview periods for casts of up to 16, keeping tech rehearsals to the schedule on 6 of 7 productions.
- Cut daily rehearsal report errors to near zero by issuing reports within one hour of each call and tracking questions to resolution.
- Oversee a team of two assistant stage managers and a crew of 10 and set weekly meetings with department heads.
- Built an emergency protocol for evacuation, injury, and weather delays, then drilled it with every new company.
- Maintained the prompt book and calling script for a long-run production through 96 performances without a missed cue.

Stage Manager Sep 2018 - Jul 2021
Goodman Theatre, Chicago, IL

- Managed six mainstage and studio productions, including two world premieres with frequent script changes.
- Distributed script revisions and updated blocking notes within 24 hours of each change, so cast and designers stayed in sync.
- Tracked union hours, breaks, and turnaround times for 40+ Equity members to prevent overtime penalties.
- Coordinated with the technical director and designers to shorten the changeover between two repertory shows by about 20 minutes.
- Called performances for a touring engagement and trained the venue crew on cue timing in a single afternoon.

Assistant Stage Manager Aug 2016 - Aug 2018
Cleveland Play House, Cleveland, OH

- Supported stage managers on five productions by running backstage tracks, preset checks, and scene shifts.
- Prepared rehearsal rooms, taped floor plans, and maintained props tables for casts of up to 12.
- Took blocking notes and line notes during rehearsals and relayed them to actors by the next day.
- Ran understudy rehearsals so covers were ready to go on within one week of casting.

CORE SKILLS

Show calling | Prompt book | Rehearsal management | Equity rules and contracts | Production scheduling | Cue-to-cue and tech | Crew supervision | Emergency procedures | Rehearsal and performance reports | Props and presets | Cast communication | QLab | Production meetings

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

CERTIFICATIONS

Member, Actors' Equity Association | CPR/AED and First Aid, American Red Cross