**Here’s How To Work Backstage On Broadway**

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So, being center stage in the spotlight during the eleven o’clock number isn’t your thing. Instead, your calling is creating the art the actors onstage can then live in for a few hours. Whether you want to work with costumes, sets, props, sound, lights, makeup, hair or any other technical aspects of theatre, here are some steps to getting those coveted behind-the-scenes jobs and how to climb the ladder to eventually work on Broadway.

**Learn Your Trade and Get Work Experience**

If you are in school, work in the theatre department. Delve into any and all aspects you can. That work experience counts, since everyone must start somewhere. Also, take the time to ask your teachers about their lives in the theatre and how they built their resumes.

Seek out local theatres in your area. Many need volunteers or have internships, apprentice/mentorship programs or production assistants. All of these are geared toward those with little to no experience. Show your interest through an application, phone call or written inquiry. Then, get in there and start working. Those entry-level positions and internships could lead to a very lucrative career with that theatre if they like you.

Also, remember many theatres bring in artists and designers from across the country you can work directly with. It’s possible you may start to develop a successful working relationship with one or more of them. In turn, this newfound connection may allow you to be put in the mix for when a job opens at another theatre company they are affiliated with. You just never know! If nothing else, you build up your resume, network and overall skill set to apply for bigger jobs.

**Get Those Resumes Out**

Is your skill set up to the professional level? Do you have the hands-on experience and theatre credits to book regular backstage work?

Your next step is to format a clean, concise and clear resume listing all your experience. Get someone to help you if you don’t know how. Once your resume is complete and you have a professional cover letter stating your interests, it’s time to start applying for jobs. Be bold and brave and see which theatres bite once you send out your resume.

**Connect with Your Local Unions**

Have the skill set and resume and are working in your local performing arts scene? The next step in the career ladder of a backstage artist eventually moving toward Broadway is to consider joining your applicable union. Wardrobe, sound, stagehands, hair, makeup, etc., all have union locals in cities nationwide. Joining is a great steppingstone to a lifetime in the theatre as a backstage professional.

The Broadway touring shows that travel from city to city all use union stagehands who are based in the local city in which the show is playing. Many professional regional houses also use stagehands.

No matter what, don’t give up. Your Broadway gig might not happen right away, but if you are professional, proactive, passionate and pervasive, it’s bound to happen one day.