



Cuesta College Technical Theater

Wednesday March 22nd 2023 7:00 pm.

Cuesta College CPAC Room 7319 Scene Shop or via Zoom

Richard Jackson
Program Coordinator

Kevin Harris
Artistic Director SLO REP

Bill Gaines
Owner: Bill Gaines Audio

Alexander Woolum
Sfx Engineer Adept.

Clint Bryson
*Technical Director Cal Poly
Theater Program*

Tom McPherron
Technical Director Cal Poly PAC

Minutes

I. Present

All Present

II. Business

Richard Jackson explained the proposed technical theater certificate program. He went through the content of each course in the proposal.

Clint Bryson asked if the courses in the program were specific to the certificate or if they also served the AA degree.

Richard replied that they were both.

Clint asked for clarification about technical vs design skills and felt that design skills would not be necessary for someone who is doing the physical install, these were different skill sets.

Richard agreed that it should be a skill-based program and not a design based one. He pointed to the only course that dealt with design and noted that it was an elective and was still hands on.

Tom McPherron noted that technicians would still need to communicate with designers.

Tom asked for more detail on the entertainment lighting class.

Richard described the entertainment lighting class in detail.

Alexander Woolum noted that it was a lot of content and suggested adding case studies as well.

Tom explained that they work on a compressed timeline. And that they often don't even get a rehearsal or hear the music.



Bill Gaines added that they sometimes don't even see the room before they set up and they have very little time to load in and be ready.

Alex shared an experience where he had to rethink his lighting rig because the space didn't match the plan. He, like Bill and Tom, stressed flexibility and the short schedule they work under.

Richard stated that maybe the only way to reach those requirements is through repetition.

Bill agreed but added that the students should know that they won't always have the infrastructure that is available to them in a conventional theater.

Tom pointed that many do not do well in stressful situations for which they are not accustomed. He also talked about the reality that the technician's time is someone else's money and that they are very sensitive to the technician's work being efficient. All members agreed with that assessment. Tom is looking for people who can think on their feet and problem solve.

Richard talked about building more troubleshooting exercises in the lighting class.

Clint asked Kevin Harris, what he was looking for in technicians with this certificate.

Kevin stated that communication is key and added that they can't be difficult to work with and they can't melt down under pressure. He agreed with Tom's sentiment about the economics and the fiscal challenges.

The group came back to lighting and individually all expressed concern about the amount of content in the lighting class and suggested that it be broken into more classes.

Clint asked to define the skill set that a student leaving the program should have; overview vs skill specific.

Richard responded that he would give that more thought, he wanted a little of both; students who had experiences that were broad and touched on many topics but also with a special emphasis on skills that the industry was looking for initially.

III. Motions

Kevin Harris made a motion to accept the proposal for the technical theater certificate. Tom McPherron seconded.

All five members agreed.