

Matthew Phillips

Senior Seminar

Professor Gibson

22 September 2019

Self SWOT Analysis

Career Planning: Currently, my areas of interest are Fabrication and Technical Management. Right now I am employed as a carpenter in MTSU's scene shop, a member of Tucker Staff, and as a Technician for LabeLive, and eventually I plan to apply as a Rigger for CrewOne. I will no longer be employed by MTSU after graduation, and as for my outside work, work with LabeLive has been sporadic (likely due to my school schedule) and though I am hopeful to get some rigging work, I have not yet applied and do not know if I will be hired. Plus, I don't want to remain in the Nashville area long after graduation.

After graduation I would like to end up either touring or working as a technician on a cruise ship. I believe either of these would be invaluable experience that would serve me in the years to come. My top pick for touring would be with Cirque De Soleil, and while I have talked with and interviewed with them, I don't think I am quite up to the level which they require. My most actionable move at the moment is to apply for Princess Cruises or Carnival Cruise Line. I interviewed with them and they seemed quite interested to bring me on as a floor tech or as an automation tech/crew lead. I feel very confident about landing one of these contracts. I am planning on submitting my application for June or July of 2020, but I may submit it for August and attempt to either work with Santa Fe Opera (who have stated they want me as an apprentice, and would present a great training opportunity for fabrication and a foray into working in Opera) or potentially apply to be staff for Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (which would not be as much

fabrication as I would like, but could present opportunities for management, as well as further training in rigging and electrics as well as access to a job fair).

If I get onto a ship, that will take my time for up to 8 months, at which point I may attempt to sign up for another contract, or to get onto a tour.

As far as thrival careers go, I feel I could get into an entry level construction position or potentially apply as a commercial handy man and work in one of those fields, improving my fabrication skills while I search for a job in the field.

Further down the line, I would like to own my own production company, so while I am working other contracts, I will do further self-study in business and management, while saving up for overhead startup costs and building skill, experience and connections.

Currently my biggest weakness is maintaining connections and time management. I need to be better about keeping up with my colleagues as well as making sure I keep up with all of my professional and school obligations

Resources: I currently have a car with hauling and storage capability as well as savings to help out as I get myself established. I also have friends several industry areas I would be comfortable contacting should I need to stay for a bit in an area while pursuing opportunities.

Obligations: Currently my most important familial obligations are to my mother and grandmother, but they understand and are supportive of my career and what difficulties and swerves from “the norm” that might entail. My dog currently lives with my mother, and as much as I call him mine, she is his primary caregiver and it should stay that way as I do not currently have a lifestyle in which I could give a pet the attention it deserves. Most of my friends are involved in theatre/entertainment, are career driven themselves, and understand that our lives will take us down different paths. I do not currently have any romantic obligations to speak of,

and any that would have any value in the long term would have to be with someone that is equally as driven, thereby hopefully more understanding that I may be moving around after I graduate. There is not much tying me down to this area so I am free to move away if a contract is offered.

Physical/Psychological: I am in adequate shape to do jobs of a hands on and physical nature, which is likely where I will get my start and if I have my way, be able to continue doing as I age and progress in my career. To be perfectly honest and vulnerable, I know I deal with anxiety which makes things difficult at times, and I have been wondering if I deal with depression, but I do not feel like making that diagnosis myself, nor do I particularly want it made for me. My own self doubt has been a obstacle which I continue to try and overcome, with a degree of success. I am aware of these difficulties and am doing my best to work with them, confront them, and overcome them.

Talents/Skills/Abilities/Knowledge: I have a strong scenic fabrication background and bring the wood and to a lesser degree, metal fabrication skills which that entails to the table. I believe that I have a good sense for people, how they work and how to empathize with them, which I think is much needed in any career path as well as just being a person in general. I've also realized more and more that I do have a bent towards management and leadership which is an avenue I would like to further develop. Several areas which I could improve upon are in software literacy (learning new software as well as practicing the programs which I already have knowledge) as well as electric work and work with video servers.

Training/Experience: During my time at MTSU I will have completed majors in Theatre, Video & Film Production, and minors in Entertainment Technology, Audio Production, and Musical Theatre Performance. I have tried to participate in as many productions as possible

during my time here and have done so in varying roles, but primarily in the areas of Management, Technical Direction and Fabrication. Before I leave, I would like to do more work with lighting, video and electrics, while continuing my work in Technical Direction and fabrication. Ideally, I'd also like to continue working for companies outside of MTSU, but that is difficult with a production schedule and class obligations.

In addition to my experience at MTSU, I have also had professional contracts and professional training with outside companies and institutions, namely Stagedoor Manor (Carpenter), Nashville Shakespeare Festival (Technical Director), Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas (Student), and LabeLive (Technician).

Goal 1: I need to establish myself as I reliable technician/manager outside of a collegiate setting.

Objective 1: Build experience.

Activities: **Ongoing**

I will continue to work in the shop

I will continue to work on Tucker Staff

3 Months

I will apply for a Cirque Tour, Carnival and Princess Cruises

I will apply for an apprenticeship at Santa Fe Opera.

I will ask about the possibility of being staff for SILV

6 Months

I'll work contracts as they become available

Objective 2: Network

Activities: Ongoing

I will keep my social media presence professional, yet personable.

3 months

I will attend LDI and KCACTF

6 months

I will attend SETC and USITT

Objective 3: Fill in knowledge/certification gaps

Activities: Ongoing

I will seek out a way to get my AWP card

I will ask questions to the faculty as I run into knowledge gaps

3 Months

I will try to excel in my technical classes and production work

6 Months

I will read up on areas that interest me

Goal 2: Start my own company

Objective 1: Learn more about how to run a business

Activities: 1 Year

I will research entrepreneurship

I will ask questions of professionals when I have the chance

Objective 2: Find a viable market

Activities: 2 Years

As I work under contracts, take note of emerging markets

As I work, take note of underserved markets

As I work I'll build connections with fellow technicians

Objective 3: Establish myself as a self employed freelancer as a launch pad

Activities: **5 Years**

I will find a market which is sustainable and desirable

I will build my reputation in the area

I will use my knowledge of the market to build a business

Goal 3: Find a way to live a life stable enough to have a relationship/family.

Activities: **5 Years**

I will establish steady work in a home market

I will save and invest for my future.