

Amy Clement – Assistant Stage Manager

I left Rugby High ...

in 2012 (almost 10 years ago, wow!). I came away with 3 A's in Psychology, Drama and Theatre Studies and Media Studies.

After Rugby High ...

I attended the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (University of London) and studied BA(Hons) Theatre Practice: Stage Management. I took my placement at the Royal Shakespeare Company and finished my degree in 2015.

My first professional job was 3 weeks as Assistant Stage Manager on a version of Sweeney Todd. The show was actually set in a pie shop and it was just fantastic, there was fake blood EVERYWHERE. Then I went on to do a year at the English National Opera where I had the opportunity to work on some epic operas such as La Boheme and Akhnaten.

I am currently working as ...

an Assistant Stage Manager on the UK & Ireland Tour of Disney's The Lion King! I am obviously furloughed at the moment and have been since March 2020, with a view to returning in the autumn.

My role is ...

both challenging and enjoyable, some days more challenging than enjoyable but the good certainly outweighs the bad. I like the challenges it presents, for example, on one occasion the Pumbaa puppet got caught on a line on stage and he had to swing his rear end into the wing for us to try and untangle him before the impending scene change (there must have been about 8 people trying to untangle this line - quite a funny sight I imagine!) but it didn't happen and we had to stop the show. Stage Management are crucial in a show stop and they happen more often than you'd think!! You always feel so exhausted after a show like that but secretly, I love it.

During my time in Sixth Form ...

I started to realise it might be an option for me. I have danced since I was 4 and one Christmas I was lucky enough to perform in a professional pantomime, this was the first time I understood how a show really worked from the back! Also, studying Drama and Theatre Studies with Mrs Dermott-Bond played a part, we went to see shows and then we would discuss and study the lighting and sound choices in the shows, so I started to understand the idea of 'technical theatre' more.



My experience at Rugby High has given me ...

Work ethic, for sure! When I moved to Rugby High I was amazed at how hard everyone worked and in my time there I went from an average student to someone who came out with A's at A Level, it's a great place to be. I'd say my Drama and Theatre Studies A Level definitely influenced my decision to have a career in Theatre, it opened my eyes to what Theatre is all about.

Rugby High also helped me to become more confident in myself and my abilities. As a teenager I often doubted myself and didn't believe I was any good at anything but Rugby High helped me to see my own potential. My old dance teacher once said to me that she noticed a HUGE difference in my confidence, commitment and focus from when I started Sixth Form and I truly believe that is down to being at Rugby High, surrounded by talented and lovely girls and fantastic teachers. I'm very grateful!



Make-up artist for the school play