

Rover Dramawerks

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To Whom It May Concern:

Rover Dramawerks has hosted summer interns through the Theatre Network of Texas for more than a decade. We pride ourselves on giving interns the opportunity to actively participate in both the administrative and production ends of live theatre. We invite our interns to share their personal skill sets while challenging them to learn new things about the business of theatre. TNT sent Rover a special gift for our 25th anniversary season when they assigned Joy Stachmus as our summer intern.

Joy arrived just in time to take on the massive challenge of stage managing our Ten Minute Comedies Festival. Rover produced nine one-act comedies selected from more than 300 entries in our annual playwriting contest. Each comedy had a different director and rehearsal schedule. About 20 actors filled more than 30 roles. Joy coordinated with each cast, participated in most rehearsals for all, and seamlessly transitioned the festival from our rehearsal space to our production venue. She actively listened to every participant and built rapport quickly, making it easier for her to resolve any conflicts that arose. Actors, directors, and technical crew members sang her praises throughout tech week and beyond. I was shocked to discover that this was her first time to serve as stage manager. It could not have gone more smoothly.

When not engaged in stage management duties, Joy shared her social media marketing skills with us. This is an arena where we definitely needed to improve. Joy created Canva templates that were used to market each of the one acts and the festival as a whole. When auditions were held for upcoming productions, she created the templates for those and worked with another board member to teach us how to carry on after her internship ended. Organization and time management skills are the foundation of Joy's approach to production. She even squeezed in time to participate in a round of auditions, and assist with costume & prop lists for an upcoming show.

Rover's Artistic Director Carol Rice and I write for online theatre review networks. We take our interns to see any shows that we are reviewing during the intern's stay. This serves a dual purpose of exposing interns to the rich theatre experiences available in the Dallas area and giving us an opportunity to discuss the artistic vision, creativity, and storytelling involved. We were very impressed with Joy's analysis of these shows, as well as her input on scripts she read that we are considering for next season. A group of Rover team members are planning to take a road trip to Oklahoma this fall to see Joy's work as a director. Her five-week stay with us was far too short. We look forward to working with her again in the future, and highly recommend her to any other theatre company.

Glynda Welch