

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

LIGHTING DESIGN ASSISTANTSHIP

The purpose of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Lighting Design Assistantship program is to nurture the next generation of professional theatrical lighting designers by providing the highest standard of training through immersion in a practical experience with a professional lighting designer.

The Assistantship offers meaningful learning opportunities to young artists from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Technical Design & Production department. Approximately one to two artists are selected to assist a professional artist on a variety of professional projects throughout the school year. The student assistants will be introduced to the beginnings of the design process, preproduction, and the opening of a professional production.

Script Analysis

The Assistant(s) must read the script a total of three times. First, as a piece of literature for its sheer literary value; second to identify its physical lighting points, times of day and locations, lighting changes written into the script and stage directions; and third for characterization and thematic points.

Design Meetings

The Assistant(s) will attend meetings that will introduce them to the creative team: Producer, Director, Set, Costume, and Sound Designers. During these meetings, they will learn the director's concept and vision for the show.

Collaboration

During this preproduction period, the Assistant(s) will learn the collaborative nature of a theatrical production. They will participate in the creation of the show along side the directors, designers, technicians, and actors.

Attended Rehearsals

During rehearsals, the Assistant(s) will learn the actor blocking and overall timing of the play. Here they will learn additional needs of the director.

Design Process

During the lighting design process, the Assistant(s) will be responsible for updating and maintaining the designers' Vectorworks CAD draft of the lighting plot and the accompanying Lighwright paper work. The Assistant(s) will take notes for the designer during rehearsals, focus, cueing sessions, and technical run throughs. During this phase of the process they will be required to create their own set of paper work that can be used for their student portfolio.

Opening

Once the show has opened and the Assistant(s) have returned back to school, they will be required to produce a written report and a lead group discussion with their fellow classmates describing in detail their experiences.