

KOGER BEHIND THE SCENES

DRAMA

INSTRUCTOR RESOURCE GUIDE

This video guide is presented by the Koger Center in partnership with The South Carolina Arts Commission. This guide will take students on an interactive journey through the various careers in the Theatre industry, predominantly focusing on “behind the scenes” or technical aspects of theatre. Students will participate in a number of instructor guided activities, discussions, writing exercises, and hands-on learning opportunities.

This guide is intended as a resource for educators. It is written in adherence to the South Carolina Educational Standards. This resource is recommended for middle school education*.

Anchor Standard 2, Benchmark T.CR NM.2

I can recognize the function of the designers in the creation of technical elements.

<https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards/visual-and-performing-arts/standards/theatre-design-and-media-arts-standards/>



*Modifications are available on certain activities/exercises for the younger student

**Please note that not all available careers are included in this video and guide. Each Koger Behind the Scenes video illustrates several different careers in the industry. If needed, please reference the Orchestra, Ballet, and Visual Art videos (as well as their corresponding guides) for additional information!

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OVERVIEW



*What is theatre?
What is technical theatre?*

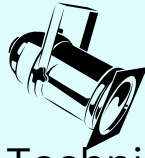
Whether it's a school play, a backyard production, or a Broadway show; chances are you've seen theatre! While you may remember the **performers**, there is so much more that happens behind the **scenes**, or offstage. There are many people who work to make each show possible.

Everything that happens onstage, from the lights and sound to the **set** and costumes, has been carefully prepared by a professional. But there are lots of careers that have a "part to play" in this process. Let's read about some of the possible careers you could have in the theatre!

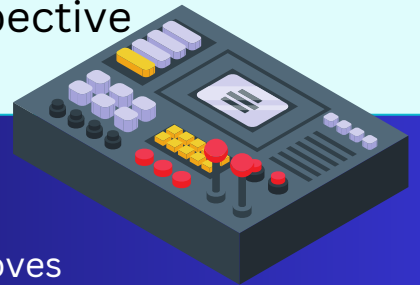
 **Connection Question:**
Before beginning, what is your idea of theatre? What do you immediately think of? There are no wrong answers, this is just to show what you know!

LIGHTS, CURTAINS, ACTION!

Steve needs lots of skills in order to do his job well. He needs to have a full understanding of every piece of equipment at Koger; how the equipment is used, how the equipment is maintained, and how to **safely** interact with all pieces of equipment. Safety is really important when it comes to theatre, everything moves quickly and you don't want to get hurt!

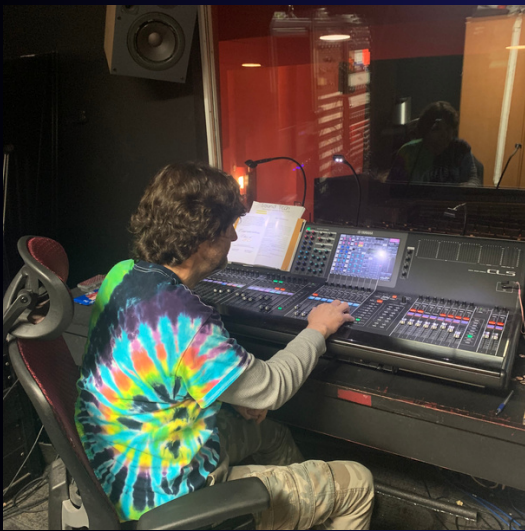


SPOTLIGHT: Steve Borders, Technical Director of The Koger Center
Steve is the **technical director** here at The Koger Center. That means he is responsible for all **technical aspects** at Koger, from **lighting** to **carpentry**! It also means he is in charge of all theatre equipment and its respective maintenance.



 **Classroom Connection:** You are working as technical director at a large theatre! It's important to make sure you are being safe around your equipment. Which of these safety precautions should you take? Select all that apply (right>)

- Gloves
- Protective eyewear
- I will pay close attention at all times
- I will close my eyes
- I will be aware of my surroundings
- Flip flops
- I will talk A LOT so everyone knows I'm excited
- Close toed shoes
- Nothing, I don't need to be safe!
- A bathing suit and flippers
- I will be quiet to ensure that everyone around me can hear and is able to pay attention



Above is a photo of some of the theatre equipment in the Koger Center that Steve is responsible for!





BROADWAY COMES TO KOGER: THE LION KING



When a show is traveling to different locations, the head carpenter is responsible for supervising the loading and unloading of the trucks, as well as making sure all of the sets and equipment are in the right places for the show!

As a major performance **venue**, The Koger Center is lucky to host the **national touring cast** of several Broadway shows! These performances happen several times a week, sometimes even multiple times a day! This means that everyone behind the scenes has to make sure everything runs smoothly and works the way it needs to. Let's take a look Behind the Scenes at some of the people who make this large **production** happen:



SPOTLIGHT: Lindsey Roller, Head Carpenter of The Lion King national tour

Head carpenter- The Head Carpenter is responsible for building some of the sets, or pieces of the stage. The video highlights Pride Rock, a large set piece controlled by electronics, like a remote control car! The Head Carpenter has to have an understanding of math, science, and technology as well as art. This a job that requires lots of skills and problem solving, as well as creativity!

Lindsey describes her job as *"The blend of technology, engineering and the arts"*

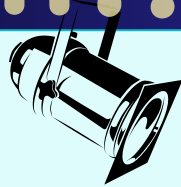
Classroom Connection:

Beginner: How are you creative in your daily life? Draw two (2) "**set pieces**" from YOUR life! Ex: your bed, your refrigerator!

Advanced: Congratulations, you have just been hired as Head Carpenter of the Lion King! Sketch a few set ideas you have, and explain how each set piece will be used in the **plot** of the show!

BROADWAY COMES TO KOGER.

THE LION KING



SPOTLIGHT:

Michael Riley, Puppet Supervisor

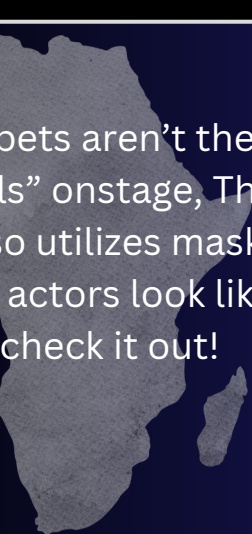
The Lion King uses puppets in order to portray the animals onstage. These puppets have to be very advanced, because they need to be light enough to dance and move with while also looking like real animals! Michael has a very hands on, technical job.

Michael uses creativity as well as math and science skills to build these puppets for the show.

 **Classroom Connection:**
Using “found objects” (paper plates, plastic bags, paper towel rolls etc.) create your very own Lion King puppet! It can be one of the characters from the Lion King, or you can create your own! You may need to ask an adult for help



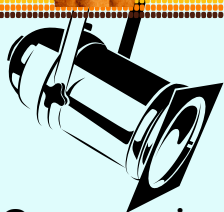
These puppets aren't the only “animals” onstage, The Lion King also utilizes masks to make the actors look like animals, check it out!





BROADWAY COMES TO KOGER:

THE LION KING



SPOTLIGHT:

Gregory Young, Costumer

Gregory is the **costumer** for The Lion King, which means he is in charge of every **costume** piece that actors wear. The Lion King uses large masks in order to make the people look like animals. The costume designers drew inspiration from traditional African masks like the ones pictured, while also incorporating animal elements. These masks have to be very intricate while also being light enough to wear!

Fun Fact!

While the masks in The Lion King may look like wood, they are actually made of Carbon Fiber!



Advice from an Expert:
Gregory says, "Go for it,
learn EVERYTHING!"



THE LION KING: **CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

COSTUME DESIGN

**HOW DOES A COSTUME HELP DEFINE A CHARACTER?
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER
WHEN DESIGNING A COSTUME FOR A CHARACTER OR SHOW?**

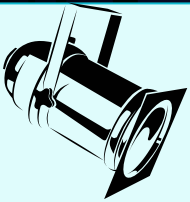
**CREATE THREE (3) COSTUME RENDERINGS (DRAWINGS OF YOUR
COSTUME). THEY SHOULD BE IN FULL COLOR, WITH WRITTEN
EXPLANATIONS OF EACH ELEMENT. EX) "THIS CHARACTER WILL BE
WEARING A BLACK DRESS MADE OF WOOL BECAUSE THIS CHARACTER IS
ATTENDING A FUNERAL IN DECEMBER." FEEL FREE TO MAKE BOLD CHOICES
WITH YOUR COSTUME DESIGN, JUST MAKE SURE TO EXPLAIN EACH
CHOICE, AND HOW IT SERVES THE PLOT AND THE CHARACTER!**



MAKING A HOME HERE

What it takes to run Koger!

Before a performance can even happen, the **Building Director** and **Maintenance Manager** have to make sure everything is ready! When Koger hosts a large production like the Lion King, lots of pieces have to come together. However, that doesn't mean everyday life here at Koger just stops! Our Building Director and Maintenance Manager have to make sure everyone is comfortable and safe in the space at all times



SPOTLIGHT: Nate Terracio, Koger Building Director

In order to be a good Building Director Nate has to:

1. Know enough about other people's positions to be able to fill in for them when needed! This requires him to be flexible as well as capable!
2. Nate is directing a company that is about the people but also the building. Part of his job is making sure The Koger Center "feels like home," this means the overall environment has to be comfortable, and he often works closely with the Maintenance Manager
3. Nate also works with scheduling performers and events. He is a representative for Koger, so it is important that he works well with others!



Nate Terracio, The Koger
Center for the Arts

*"Our job is to make
sure it feels like
home!" -Nate*



Connection Question:

How is Nate's job similar to your job in the classroom? How is it different?
What are a few ways you can make your classroom feel like home?



MAKING A HOME HERE

What it takes to run Koger!

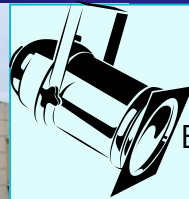


Nino even says that the Koger Center has “**air conditioning units the size of houses,**” wow!

 Connection

Question:

Circle chat! Why do you think it is important for Nino to be resourceful in his job? Do you believe resourcefulness is an important quality? What are ways in which you can be resourceful in your everyday life? Talk about it!



SPOTLIGHT: Nino Calderon
Building/Maintenance Manager

Nino is our **Maintenance Manager** here at Koger. He is a tradesman, like an electrician or a mechanic, but he works to ensure that the entire building is working the way it should. Koger is a very large building, so it takes a lot of work to make sure everything is working the way it needs to. One of the key aspects of Nino's job is **adaptation**, or being flexible in order to fix a situation. Things don't always go to plan, and so Nino has to adapt, or change, in order to get everything done! Nino also has to be **resourceful**. When needed he must be able to fix things, not just replace them!



Donor Room



Green Room



Large Rehearsal Room



Gonzales Hall



Lobby



Hallway



Here are several photos of the heating and air units (below), plumbing (top left), and electrical systems (top right) that Nino is responsible for!



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

ACTIVITIES AND EXERCISES FOR THE STUDENT

Connection Question: Before beginning, what is your idea of theatre? What do you immediately think of? There are no wrong answers, this is just to show what you know!

Connection Question: How is Nate's job (Building Director) similar to your job in the classroom? How is it different? What are a few ways you can make your classroom feel like home?

Classroom Connection: You are working as technical director at a large theatre! It's important to make sure you are being safe around your equipment. Which of these safety precautions should you take? Select all that apply:

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Classroom Connection: Beginner: How are you creative in your daily life? Draw two (2) "set pieces" from YOUR life! Ex: your bed, your refrigerator!

Advanced: Congratulations, you have just been hired as Head Carpenter of the Lion King! Sketch a few set ideas you have, and explain how each set piece will be used in the **plot** of the show!

Classroom Connection: Using "found objects" (paper plates, plastic bags, paper towel rolls etc.) create your very own Lion King puppet! It can be one of the characters from the Lion King, or you can create your own! You may need to ask an adult for help.

Connection Question: At the beginning of this guide, you were asked what your idea of technical theatre was. After finishing this guide, what is your understanding of technical theatre? Has your understanding changed?

How does a costume help define a character? What do you believe are the most important things to consider when designing a costume for a character or show?

Create three (3) costume renderings (drawings of your costume). They should be in full color, with written explanations of each element. Ex) "This character will be wearing a black dress made of wool because this character is attending a funeral in December." Feel free to make bold choices with your costume design, but make sure to explain each choice, and how it serves the plot and the character!

LEARNING THE LINGO:

KEY TERMS TO KNOW!

Actors The people in a play or dramatic work who portray the characters. This may be done through thought, action, dialogue, costumes, and makeup.

Audience The group of people attending a performance.

Cast (v.) To select specific actors for character portrayal in a play or dramatic work (n.). The term given to describe the actors in a play or dramatic work.

Character The personality in a play or dramatic work. A character may be portrayed by an actor and developed through thought, action, dialogue, costumes, and makeup.

Costume Clothing worn by actors to portray specific characters.

House Describes the audience as a whole or where the audience sits in the auditorium.

Lighting The illumination of the performance dictated by the given circumstances of the play, including the source of light, the time of day, the mood of the play, as well as the specific requirements of the scenic design (for example, the areas to be lit).

Performance Referring to the production of a play or dramatic work, or the specific acting/technical job of a production member in a play.

Plot The main events of a play or scene, written or improvised created by the playwright or improvisers.

Production Staff A group of theatre practitioners who work together to create a performance. Production teams are often comprised of a director, stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, costume designer, scenic designer, and publicity staff.

Set The visual elements used in support of a play production or scene. Used to denote place, time, and atmosphere.

Technical Elements Include the set, lighting, sound, costumes, properties, and hair and makeup.

*All Terms and definitions provided by The South Carolina College- and Career Ready Standards for Theatre Proficiency

<https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards/visual-and-performing-arts/standards/theatre-design-and-media-arts-standards/>

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KOGER CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA