



Name: Easton Curtis
Major: Musical Theatre
Job Title: Freelance Performer
Graduation Year: 2022

What is the day in the life like at your job? What are typical job responsibilities for someone in this role?

Every day looks completely different! As a performer, I do different types of shows and jobs throughout the year. The day I'm writing this, I started the morning backstage at Walt Disney World in a rehearsal, and I left in the afternoon to do two performances of a musical that's running at a local theatre. As for "typical responsibilities for someone in this position," that again can change from day to day. Here's a few random things that I've had to do in the last year other than the obvious singing, dancing, and acting: puppetry, improvisational "meet and greets," learning to walk sheep on stage, memorizing 25 songs in 2 weeks, memorizing multiple "tracks" in one show as a swing performer, and all sorts of other fun stuff! Never a dull moment!

What do you love about your job?

I love getting the chance to do all sorts of jobs, tell all sorts of different stories, develop new skills, meet tons of different people, and always be challenged! Being a freelance performer has given me the opportunity to grow and develop in so many different parts of my artistry.

What is challenging about your role?

The uncertainty of knowing what's coming next can be anxiety-inducing! There have been times where I knew I had consistent work 9 months out and times where I didn't know what I'd be doing the next month. You need to be a good planner!

What are the benefits of working in this field?

I would say: constantly making new friends, developing more compassion and understanding for different people types, constant perspective changes broadening my worldview, and getting paid to do what I love (which is certainly complicated at times but can also be so rewarding).

What experiences did you have that prepared you for this role? What types of activities were you involved in at Lipscomb or during college that helped developed your skills? And/or what about your first jobs helped you obtain a more desired career?

Lipscomb's theatre program provides endless opportunities to explore different aspects of

Fall 2023

your own artistry and different skillsets. Diving in to the department's available developmental resources like Foundation Dance Theatre, the myriad practicums, being encouraged to take electives, seeking professor mentorship, and trusting my professors' guidance are all what made my Lipscomb experience immensely invaluable.

What do you see happening in the future for these types of careers?

I believe that the industry as a whole (as well as the general public) is becoming more and more fascinated with "immersive" experiences.

What advice do you have for a student considering a career in your profession?

It can be easy in the world of musical theatre to feel pressure to be the best at everything. Relieve yourself of that pressure. Always ask questions, always dive in to the deep end, always be challenged, and always rest.