

Emma Gold Anderson, Props Designer/Master

Mainstage Musical Team Feature

Where do you currently live, and what do you do?

I am based out of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I am a freelance props artisan, and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic I was often touring with different Broadway shows as the head of props.

Have you ever worked at or been a part of Trollwood previously?

This is my first summer working with Trollwood.

In one sentence, describe your job.

I oversee the creating, sourcing, and managing of all props in Cinderella.

What skills are necessary for a person in your position?

A lot! I need to have knowledge in woodworking, sewing, painting, other crafting techniques, color theory, budgeting, and so much more. Props Masters need to be able to identify the props needs of a show, both named props in a script and the props used to dress up a set piece to make it more realistic to the world.

What is your background in the performing arts?

I started working in technical theatre during my sophomore year in high school. I was fortunate enough to go to a high school with a theatre on campus where we could create our own shows. I went to college at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for a degree in drama, concentrating in props creation and management, and graduated in 2018. Since then, I have worked tours, musicals, and even a renaissance faire.

Why do you think theatre is important?

I think theatre helps present different stories and perspectives to people who may not get a chance to see such things otherwise. I think by seeing the lives and stories of others, whether they be fictional or not, people can gain more empathy to all different kinds of people.

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What's the most challenging part of your position?

Props is what I like to call the "catch-all" department. This means I have to be ready for anything! Sometimes I need to provide a completely reupholstered couch, sometimes I need to create something out of garbage and make it look new, and sometimes I might have to bring in 40 latkes for a week of shows. These are all things that I have actually done before for my job.

What makes you most excited about this particular show?

After the pandemic, I was really excited to get back to work. I was especially excited about working in youth theatre this time, as the students I get to teach are about the same age I was when I was first introduced to technical theatre.

What do you enjoy most about working at Trollwood so far?

I love working in an outdoor space, even if it often brings more challenges with it. Usually, I am stuck inside a dark theatre for most of the day, or in a shop basement until the sun goes down. Here, I get to experience nature all throughout the day.

Favorite song from Cinderella?

The Prince is Giving a Ball! It's such a fun dance song.