

“Lights Out”

During the run of CAMELOT (1994) under the direction of Steve Pastrick, Denny and I were called in the last week of production to fill in backstage. I would be handling lights.

The Valley High light board at that time had a huge bank of levers on a wall in a cage. I had a cue sheet and newbie, sophomore Shawn Sadecky to cover the levers that spanned the bank about 8 feet in width and 6 feet in height (it seemed larger). We used a couple of 2 by 4 boards to handle multiple levers. This was Shawn's first show, and I had once before handled a couple of levers.

Steve, ever the perfectionist, was stage managing and tweaking the light plot nightly. Steve would occasionally direct Shawn and me to "bump up" or "take down" a couple of levers to a different level.

As I watched my cue sheet, I saw my next cue was "lights out" at the end of a scene. Shawn and I were in position for "lights out," which required the use of arms and legs balanced on levers and 2 by 4s. I thought the cue was a couple script pages away, but suddenly I thought I heard Steve shout, "Lights out."

I said, "Go" to Shawn, and the lights went out. However, Steve was shouting, "Knights out" to the group of actors who were lagging in their entrance.

I could see in my peripheral vision about 8 knights banging into each other in single file in the dark, while seeking their positions on stage.

Steve shouted, "Knights out, not lights out."

Shawn and I scrambled to reverse our error. As the saying goes, the show must go on. It did.

I'd like to think that I was responsible for launching Shawn on what is now an accomplished avocation of lighting expert. But, of course, I would be giving myself too much credit.

Shawn as a child had had a great fascination with lighting and lighting effects. He actually would suggest to his parents how to "light" their living room, I had learned.

Shawn still maintains an august position as a consultant to NKCT. As then, he remains the sweetest of souls and one of our most trusted "go to" guys for advice on lighting.

And so goes one of the joys of live theatre at NKCT.

Contributed by Colleen Clark Sulava

