Music Entrepreneurship Learning Journal 1

1. **What is your unique gift? – Do you believe in it enough to invest everything you have in it?**

My unique gift is the ability to empathize deeply with others and to read body language, and then apply these observations and understandings to both my relationships with others and my performances. I believe in this gift enough to invest everything, because I feel it can allow me to connect with others (those above, at the same level, and below me) in ways that many people can’t, and that it allows me to perform with a nuance that many people can’t.

1. **What difference are you trying to make in the world? – How passionate are you about doing this?**

I believe it is unrealistic to think I can make a worldwide difference, but I hope to and have faith that my performances can touch the lives of each individual audience member. I want the audiences of my performance to feel some sort of catharsis, whatever that may be, and for that to improve their lives for at least a little while. I am extremely passionate about this, because it is feeling that catharsis that inspired me to pursue this career, and it is that catharsis that shaped the person I am today.

1. **How do you define success for yourself? – What challenges do you face in order to create success?**

Success to me is booking steady, paid work in shows that allow me to explore the depths of humanity as an actor. A short-term challenge I face is getting into grad school, an long term I face the challenges that every performer faces; booking gigs, and the exorbitant housing costs in every city that has a lot of work available.

1. **What is career vision and a mission?**

Career vision is a plan and idea of the general path that you want your career to follow. A mission is the motivation and less tangible reason for why you have that specific career vision.

1. **Can you innovate and creates value and successfully communicate that value to intended audiences?**

Yes. I’m adept at exploring unique avenues and I have a solid understanding of how specific audiences best respond to theatre and musical theatre.

1. **Do you have a positive attitude?**

To be frank, not always. I’m a realist when it comes to my field of study, but I do have the mindset that if I don’t try, then I’ll always fail. I know that I would be miserable doing anything else, so I have no option but to do everything I can to succeed. However, I do have a very positive attitude as an employee and as a friend.

1. **Have you set your goals? What is your road map to success? Can you set inspiring and realistic goals?**

My road map is:

1. Get into a good grad school on a scholarship in a city with a good theatre community. (I have already begun this process and Prof. Erik deCicco is assisting me in this)
2. Graduate grad school with a job anywhere in my field, but preferably at Disney as a performer.
3. Work for a year to secure my AEA card.
4. Move to a bigger city, such as Chicago or Atlanta, and pursue regional theatre work.

These goals challenge me, but ultimately, I believe they are achievable with the right focus and determination.

1. **Do you have and/or acquire the necessary expertise to actualize your vision?**

Yes. What knowledge I don’t already have, I will acquire by finishing my bachelors and master’s degree.

1. **What are your priorities? Can you set priorities?**

My priorities are and have always been school first. I am a very organized person, and I am skilled at creating a list of tasks and prioritizing them accurately.

1. **What opportunities are you looking for? What opportunities are you creating or intend to create?**

Currently, I am working on securing an internship with Set Studios Jax, and I am also looking for grad schools with assistantships and fellowships. I intend to set myself up for opportunities by networking and leaving good impressions wherever I go.

1. **How comfortable are you with uncertainty? What risks are you willing to take?**

The only thing that’s certain is uncertainty, and I accepted this a long time ago. I am willing to risk everything except my dignity, my life, and hope for the future.

1. **When facing challenges, do you persevere or do you walk away?**

I always persevere.

1. **What experience have you learned the most from?**

I have learned the most by working and performing in shows. I feel that real-life experience always offers more opportunities for education than a class, but only if you take advantage of them. Shows teach me professionalism and nuance that can’t be learned in a class room.

1. **What actions are you taking to realize your vision? Are you consistently taking action?**

I am carefully choosing courses that will most benefit me, and taking additional classes to give me a leg up. Furthermore, I take time to cultivate relationships that may benefit my career in the future, as well as making plans far in advance for my next steps after graduation.

1. **How well do you put things in context? Are you able to easily respond to changes in your environment? What’s your best example?**

I easily respond to changes because I can quickly make and adjust plans and priorities. For example, this semester, I am attending KCACTF with String. I did not plan my semester with this in mind. Now that this responsibility has been added to my plate, I have had to rearrange my time significantly. However, I am handling it well, especially considering my rehearsal schedule for both String and Legally Blonde are decided/announced 1-2 days in advance of each rehearsal. I am coping with this by doing things as early as possible and using every free second I have to accomplish things, so that if/when I have rehearsal, I am not forced to leave other things incomplete.

1. **What is your plan to continually grow and evolve? How have you grown or evolved in the past year or three?**

My plan is to constantly pursue education in whatever form that may take, and to take opportunities that come to me, even if they may not line up with my original plans. Over the past few years, I have grown greatly as a performer thanks to JU, and I have also evolved as a professional in both behavior and my idea of what a career in theatre looks like. My eyes have been opened to the many, many paths theatre can take, and how many of those I would enjoy. I have also grown in my ability to assess performances and to choose what I appreciate and respect. I no longer praise work just because those around me are doing so.

1. **How easy is it for you to reach out to others to ask for support and to offer help?**

This is one area I struggle in. I feel comfortable reaching out to a few professors for assistance, but I typically feel weak asking others for help. One of my greatest faults is pushing myself to the point of misery because I refuse to reach out. However, this is something I’m working on. Plus, while it may not be healthy, it has stretched me to grow and learn to handle much more than I ever thought I was capable of.

1. **How are you inspiring others to join and/or support your mission in order to create a financially sustainable enterprise that allows you to live your gift and contribute something valuable to society? – If you aren’t currently, how do you intend to?**

I try to promote myself and my performances as much as possible, as well as cultivate professional relationships. However, I could do a much better job of maintaining and growing my online presence. I need to set myself up for success in publicity post-graduation.