

00:00 - I'm gonna go ahead and get started.  
00:02 I want to first congratulate all of you  
00:04 for your acceptance to Suffolk.  
00:06 We are so excited to have you join us today,  
00:08 as you really continue your journey  
00:10 through the college search process.  
00:13 My name is Diandra Berthiaume.  
00:14 I'm an Assistant Director here at Suffolk University.  
00:17 I typically work with first-year students  
00:19 from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Colorado.  
00:22 So if you are tuning in from one of those areas  
00:24 I had the pleasure of reading your application.  
00:27 We have a great session planned for you today.  
00:30 I'm going to turn things over to Marilyn Plotkins,  
00:34 who is the chair of the Theater Department  
00:36 as well as the co-chair of Creativity and Innovation.  
00:39 And she is gonna introduce some of our other guests shortly.  
00:43 Throughout this session definitely utilize  
00:46 that question and answer box  
00:47 at the bottom of your screen to ask questions.  
00:51 And without further ado,  
00:53 I am going to turn things over to Marilyn and enjoy.  
00:58 - Thank you so much, Diandra.  
01:00 It is great that you are here.  
01:02 If only we could see your faces,  
01:04 but we do wanna connect with you beyond our little rooms.  
01:09 And so we're wondering if you could just take a moment  
01:12 and type in the chat your name,  
01:15 where you're Zooming from,  
01:18 and what your favorite play or musical is.  
01:21 So ready.  
01:23 Get set.  
01:25 Chat.  
01:27 Get right in there.  
01:28 And we'll do that, too.  
01:29 Okay?  
01:30 Why don't all the panelists, and,  
01:34 why don't all of us just get right in there.  
01:43 - I was ready.  
01:45 - Come on get in there. - I was right there, ready.  
01:48 - Okay.  
01:56 - "Spitfire Grill."  
01:57 Nice, Abby.  
01:59 Of course, Maddie, "Last Five Years."  
02:03 Of course.  
02:07 Rose from Salem.  
02:08 I'm right here.  
02:10 I'm right- - Oh boy.  
02:12 Oh boy.  
02:13 - Fantastic.  
02:14 Three sisters.  
02:15 - Let's just see who is Zooming from

02:19 (indistinct) Abby.  
02:19 Hi, Abby.  
02:22 I was so glad you're here.  
02:25 Maddie from Maryland.  
02:26 You're so alliterative.  
02:28 Hey Vinny.  
02:32 (laughing)  
02:33 - California, Philly.  
02:34 We've got everyone.  
02:37 - "Heathers."  
02:38 Oh, you are not alone.  
02:40 You are not alone.  
02:42 - Oh, Vinny, we've gotta talk about  
02:43 "Sunday In the Park With George."  
02:45 - Hey, Misty, "Spring Awakening."  
02:50 Oh boy, what a great show.  
02:54 How we doing?  
02:55 Are we all?  
02:56 Yeah,  
02:57 - I think we-  
02:58 (voices muffling)  
03:00 - Do we have a few more?  
03:02 (voice muffling)  
03:04 Adriana, "In the Heights," all right!  
03:07 - Oh hello, yes.  
03:08 I can't wait. - Getting ready for the movie.  
03:10 Getting ready for the movie, yeah.  
03:14 All right, I think we can start.  
03:18 So, as you've heard, I'm Marilyn Zooming from Arlington.  
03:22 I actually have so many favorite musicals  
03:24 that I couldn't begin to pick one,  
03:28 but I just wanted, before we begin,  
03:30 I just wanted to tell you a little bit  
03:32 about the Theater Department and what makes us distinctive.  
03:36 First of all we take a integrated,  
03:38 interdisciplinary approach to theater.  
03:41 We just don't teach acting.  
03:42 We teach playwriting and directing  
03:45 and design and stage management and arts administration.  
03:49 And very often students start thinking  
03:51 they wanna do one thing  
03:53 and they end up doing quite something else.  
03:56 And we have a lot of stories  
03:57 about that kind of a journey in the Zoom room today.  
04:02 A second thing that makes us distinctive  
04:04 is that even though we do lots of all kinds of plays,  
04:07 we really have a special focus  
04:08 and a special appreciation for new work.  
04:11 We do a lotta new work and we empower students  
04:14 to write and direct and design their own plays every year.  
04:19 We typically do 12 to 14 student plays annually,  
04:25 and we don't know many other schools in the region  
04:28 or around the country that can have  
04:31 that kind of bragging rights.

04:33 Also because we're in the middle of Boston  
04:35 and our faculty and our staff are so well connected  
04:38 to the Boston theater scene,  
04:40 students have a easier path into the profession.  
04:46 If they want internships,  
04:48 if they're looking to get connected  
04:50 to the greater Boston theater, we can help with that.  
04:54 And last but not least,  
04:57 and this is actually the first statement of our mission,  
05:00 is that if you come to Suffolk,  
05:03 we will know your name,  
05:06 and we will work with you over four years  
05:11 to challenge you and to care for you  
05:15 for the four years while you're students here.  
05:17 So that's a little bit about who we are,  
05:22 and now I'd like to turn it over to Heather Stern,  
05:25 who is a professor who teaches stage management  
05:28 and arts administration,  
05:30 and Heather is going to introduce  
05:33 our four fabulous panelists.  
05:38 Heather.  
05:39 - Thank you, Dr. Plotkins.  
05:41 So today we've got four students,  
05:45 former students, two alumni,  
05:46 and two current students with us,  
05:48 and (indistinct) they're the cream of the crop.  
05:53 But it's hard to choose sometimes.  
05:56 So without further ado, I want to introduce Adriana,  
06:02 who is an alumni who will tell a little bit more,  
06:05 because Adriana did a lot at Suffolk.  
06:09 So I can't wait to kind of hear her answer these questions.  
06:13 Then we've got Vinny Douglass who is a current student  
06:16 who is a master of a lot of different skills  
06:23 and is a lot of fun to have in class as well.  
06:26 So if you're able to get into a class with Vinny,  
06:29 absolutely.  
06:30 And then we've got, who's next?  
06:32 Maddie Bard.  
06:34 Maddie Bard is a current student,  
06:37 has written, has acted,  
06:39 is looking to direct her own piece next year.  
06:43 So we're excited about that.  
06:45 And then we're going to finish up with Mr. Kevin Hanley,  
06:49 who is an alumni who graduated in 2017, right?  
06:56 And I think Adriana, you graduated in 2018?  
07:02 - Wow.  
07:02 - Awesome, fantastic.  
07:04 So without further ado I'm gonna pass it over to Adriana.  
07:11 - Hi everyone.  
07:12 My name is Adriana.  
07:13 My pronouns are she, her, hers.  
07:16 And a little bit about my experience at Suffolk,  
07:19 especially as a first-year student,  
07:22 I knew that I did not know what I wanted to study.

07:25 So I think one of my main goals was  
07:29 not letting the pressure and the expectations  
07:32 of others to determine my path.  
07:35 And I was totally okay,  
07:38 and I surrendered to the idea  
07:40 of going in as an undecided major.  
07:43 And I think that is what really allowed me  
07:45 to be curious and open-minded,  
07:48 and I knew deep down in my heart  
07:50 that I always wanted to do theater,  
07:52 but I also grew up in an immigrant family.  
07:55 So that expectation of me was to be  
07:58 a doctor, a lawyer, whatever.  
08:00 I gave them theater instead.  
08:02 (laughing)  
08:04 But I think just realizing that it's okay  
08:09 as an 18-year-old to not know what you wanna study,  
08:12 'cause there is a big societal pressure,  
08:15 and you obviously, there's a pressure from your friends,  
08:18 your family, the university.  
08:21 And I think it's okay to not know what you want  
08:24 and to understand that you will with time.  
08:28 And so my journey with the Suffolk Theater Department,  
08:33 I actually found the Suffolk Theater Department  
08:37 by being a work study my sophomore year.  
08:40 And I kind of just learned  
08:43 that you can make this as a career.  
08:45 And that's kind of what gave me the confidence  
08:47 to declare that as my major.  
08:50 So what I really enjoyed about the Theater Department  
08:56 is it's super robust.  
09:02 There's not just one area.  
09:04 I think the fact that you can take set design classes,  
09:08 playwriting classes, acting, movement,  
09:11 arts administration,  
09:13 I think all of that benefits you.  
09:16 And it definitely makes you a well-rounded theater person,  
09:19 because in the theater industry,  
09:21 you never know if you work at a nonprofit, small theater,  
09:25 maybe you're gonna be asked to be a stage manager.  
09:27 Maybe we need a backup lighting for it.  
09:30 So I think having all of those skills  
09:33 is really gonna help you in this specific industry.  
09:38 And I think for me,  
09:40 I floated from performing to writing to directing.  
09:47 And I think my last year at Suffolk  
09:50 I really enjoyed playwriting.  
09:53 I felt like as a performer  
09:55 I had really horrible stage fright as a theater person.  
10:00 Really horrible.  
10:01 It definitely developed more in college  
10:05 because everyone wants to be an actor.  
10:09 So I turned to writing.  
10:12 I felt like that was where I felt more safe

10:14 and more heard and more seen through my writing.  
10:17 And from there I wanted to see  
10:22 how I could transfer that into a career.  
10:27 And so kind of just leading to my post grad life  
10:35 I looked into literary apprenticeships,  
10:40 and the first one that popped up  
10:42 when I literally just Googled it  
10:44 was the Huntington Theater Company.  
10:46 And at the time they weren't  
10:49 accepting a literary apprenticeship  
10:51 because they had just created a different position  
10:55 that was a literary associate,  
10:57 so I was super persistent.  
11:00 And when there's a no, you gotta keep going.  
11:03 And I had applied to both of them,  
11:06 even though I had absolutely no experience.  
11:08 And they saw that,  
11:10 and they called me and they were like,  
11:12 "Hey we can't offer you this literary apprenticeship,  
11:14 "but we can do a split apprenticeship  
11:17 in the literary department and the marketing department."  
11:20 And I was like, "Okay, yeah, that sounds perfect.  
11:23 "I have absolutely no marketing experience."  
11:27 And it's actually very funny because I ended up  
11:31 loving marketing more than the literary department  
11:35 because I just realized I can't be reading plays  
11:38 for fun for work.  
11:40 It was just creatively draining for me.  
11:44 And so I turned to marketing 'cause in the artistic world  
11:48 it's a lot of observing and it's a lot of just  
11:53 being in the rehearsal room, seeing the work in development.  
11:57 It's a lot of, the artists are doing the work,  
11:59 and you're just kind of helping support that.  
12:02 And for me, I didn't really feel  
12:06 like I was being productive, even though it's a job  
12:08 and you're getting paid to see plays  
12:10 and all these amazing actors  
12:12 I just felt like I didn't have that.  
12:15 I couldn't see my progress.  
12:16 But whereas in marketing, there's sales, there's numbers,  
12:20 you're hitting all these revenue goals.  
12:21 I could see that work productivity  
12:25 in my personal mindset.  
12:29 And so from the Huntington I had peers  
12:33 who came from the ART, American Repertory Theater,  
12:36 that's associated with Harvard,  
12:38 and they told me that they do  
12:42 a marketing apprenticeship every summer.  
12:44 And at the time they had created a brand new role  
12:46 which was a sales and social media apprentice.  
12:50 And I also, again, had no experience with social media.  
12:54 And so I think my main point, too,  
12:58 from my journey is go for what you don't have experience in.  
13:02 Like, if you don't put yourself out there

13:04 and you don't try,  
13:07 you never know what's gonna happen.  
13:09 And so I had applied to the social media  
13:12 and sales apprenticeship,  
13:13 and that was an amazing, incredible opportunity  
13:17 because not only was I working for the ART,  
13:20 but I was a Harvard employee.  
13:22 I got to take classes at the Harvard Extension School.  
13:25 I had the opportunity to see "Waitress" on Broadway,  
13:29 "Jagged Little Pill."  
13:31 (laughing)  
13:32 And so, my journey from the Huntington to  
13:37 not wanting to do plays to marketing led me to the ART,  
13:41 and then now I am the marketing manager  
13:44 at Commonwealth Shakespeare Company,  
13:46 which is the company that does free Shakespeare  
13:49 on The Common.  
13:51 And I think something that you should all know,  
13:56 especially as a young theater professional,  
13:58 is to always go for it.  
14:00 Because again, I doubted myself,  
14:01 I didn't want to apply to the role that I'm in  
14:04 because I thought I didn't have enough experience.  
14:07 You know, it's a lot of imposter syndrome,  
14:09 but you just gotta go for it.  
14:11 And you gotta work hard.  
14:14 It's definitely not an easy industry.  
14:17 There is,  
14:19 you have to sacrifice,  
14:20 I had to sacrifice a lot being in two apprentices.  
14:23 And I think that's the thing about  
14:25 how you get your foot in the door is you have to kinda  
14:29 do those apprentices first to create your network  
14:35 and then work your way up.  
14:37 But that's a little bit of my journey.  
14:40 And then I'll say one last thing,  
14:42 'cause I don't know how long I'm taking,  
14:44 but I think the best skills that I've gained from theater  
14:50 are how to manage stress.  
14:53 You really know how to handle things under pressure,  
14:57 whether you're on stage, backstage,  
15:00 something will always go wrong, and that's just life.  
15:02 Life is super imperfect  
15:03 and you're just surrendering to the flaws.  
15:06 And that is the beauty of theater.  
15:09 So learning how to manage stress.  
15:11 The second one is being present.  
15:13 Theater is the most present experience you will ever have.  
15:18 You have actors who are on stage.  
15:20 We're asking you to be present, not be on your phone,  
15:24 listening to what they have to say.  
15:26 And then the last part is just being self-aware.  
15:30 The more self-aware that you are  
15:32 that's gonna lead you in all different paths in life,

15:35 not just the theater industry, but you're gonna,  
15:39 it's just gonna benefit you overall.  
15:45 - Thank you.  
15:46 That was awesome.  
15:49 Let's move on to Vinny.  
15:54 - Cool, so, hi, I'm Vinny,  
15:56 I'm a sophomore theater major at Suffolk.  
16:01 So going into college, even,  
16:04 I, in high school had done acting like  
16:08 all of high school and the very,  
16:10 my senior year I did some directing,  
16:14 mostly because I was obsessed with my theater teacher,  
16:16 and she was a director and I was like, I wanna be her.  
16:19 So I'm gonna do this.  
16:21 But my biggest trouble  
16:22 was going into college and auditioning  
16:24 I was like, I wanna do both, I wanna do it all,  
16:28 and none of these places are letting me do it all.  
16:31 And then I found Suffolk,  
16:32 and not only do they let you do it all,  
16:34 they want you to do it all.  
16:36 They are desperate for you to do at all.  
16:39 So I came and my goal was just to  
16:43 figure out what was going on  
16:45 and where I was gonna fit in.  
16:48 Spoiler alert, you fit in everywhere.  
16:50 Every nook and cranny is for you, which is great.  
16:52 So I auditioned for shows,  
16:56 and I took Heather's stage management class  
16:59 and I took Broadway Musicals,  
17:00 and now I'm in an acting class,  
17:02 and I took a directing class,  
17:04 and I'm gonna take a playwriting class.  
17:05 So you do it all and it's really fun.  
17:08 But yeah, as a freshman I just wanted to see everything,  
17:11 and I did.  
17:12 And now as a sophomore I'm still seeing more.  
17:15 And I think within the Theater Department  
17:19 I have been privileged and honored and blessed  
17:22 to have been cast in most of the show seasons  
17:27 we've had so far.  
17:28 So I've had a pretty well-rounded,  
17:30 so far, experience of that.  
17:32 And every show has been incredible  
17:35 and I've learned something amazing.  
17:37 I've been...  
17:38 I was in a couple of shows before the pandemic,  
17:40 but I've been in a couple Zoom shows, and they're great.  
17:43 They're fantastic.  
17:44 I learned so much and I met people I would never have met  
17:47 because they were off campus or that kinda thing.  
17:49 So I think that's like,  
17:51 that kinda made me think differently about my goals  
17:54 because I found a really big love of theater accessibility,

17:59 which wasn't something I thought about a lot,  
18:01 but now it's like all I think about  
18:03 is theater education and theater accessibility.  
18:06 How can I get everyone into this thing  
18:10 that I love so much and make it easy for it?  
18:14 Because it shouldn't be hard.  
18:15 And that's something I never thought about before Suffolk.  
18:18 And now this summer I have a job as a theater artist,  
18:22 teaching artists at a camp, and yeah,  
18:25 fun fact, I'm gonna teach children improv.  
18:29 I'm really excited about it.  
18:30 And that is just, I never in my life  
18:35 thought I was gonna be doing that before I got here,  
18:37 and now it's my, probably my number one passion,  
18:40 even over acting and directing is teaching.  
18:43 I want to be  
18:45 there for anyone, children, other adults,  
18:48 people my age, adults, and be like,  
18:50 I think theater's school.  
18:52 And I think we should all get into it, and here's why.  
18:55 So that's kind of like Suffolks done that for me,  
18:56 and I'm incredibly thankful because  
19:00 I think it's really great when you find a passion  
19:02 and you can stick with it.  
19:04 And within that, I've learned the skills of,  
19:07 this is so corny, but like kindness gets you everywhere.  
19:14 And not in, don't be fake,  
19:16 but when you're nice to people,  
19:19 they like you and usually like them.  
19:20 And that is really, really helpful.  
19:25 Like Heather said, not to toot my own horn,  
19:27 but I'm pretty cool guy to have in class,  
19:30 and that helps when I'm struggling in class.  
19:32 They like me.  
19:33 So I get, I,  
19:35 it helps when you have support.  
19:38 So I really learned to be  
19:39 the kindest person I can be,  
19:42 and be there for other people.  
19:44 That's also the other thing  
19:45 is theater is such a vulnerable community.  
19:49 We're just spilling our hearts out.  
19:52 And not even just on stage.  
19:53 As a stage manager, as a director,  
19:55 as a producer, as a set designer,  
19:57 you're always involved so emotionally,  
20:00 and it can be taxing, but you find family,  
20:03 and it's really, really important  
20:06 to be there for each other.  
20:07 And like for the show we did an earlier,  
20:10 last semester "To Gather Apart."  
20:13 It's cast of 25 and then maybe 10 or so crew,  
20:18 crew and creative team.  
20:21 And that is the closest show I've ever been in.

20:23 And it was all over Zoom.  
20:26 Which is crazy.  
20:27 But we were there for each other, and that's what mattered.  
20:30 So I've learned to really just support people  
20:35 as much as I can.  
20:36 And I'm a huge musical theater nerd,  
20:39 and I'm in a singing class right now.  
20:41 And all I do is bother everyone else  
20:44 and tell them here's what,  
20:45 here's songs you can sing  
20:46 and here's shows I think you'd like.  
20:48 So yeah, those are the things I've learned, and yeah.  
20:52 - Thank you, Vinny.  
20:53 - Wow, that's fantastic.  
20:55 Thank you, Vinny.  
20:57 - Maddie Bard, another fabulous one to have in class.  
21:03 Awesome.  
21:04 - Hi, everybody.  
21:05 Okay, so I am a senior.  
21:10 I'm graduating early in December.  
21:13 I'm also a transfer student.  
21:15 So I lost about a year and a half with Suffolk Theater,  
21:19 which is kind of sad.  
21:22 But at the same time, I think on the other side of the coin  
21:27 when I came to Suffolk, I really knew what I wanted  
21:30 out of my experience that I wasn't getting.  
21:32 And so I really chose Suffolk,  
21:37 and there are many reasons for that.  
21:39 I, first of all my tour guide was a theater major,  
21:43 and she was the best.  
21:44 So she really just sold me on the school, Ally.  
21:48 And I also just really enjoyed getting to know  
21:52 the faculty and staff and looking at the curriculum  
21:56 and how comprehensive it was.  
21:57 I was like, this is what I wanna do.  
21:59 I came into college, primarily an actor.  
22:02 Then when I was at a different university  
22:04 I didn't get cast in a single thing.  
22:07 And I thought that I was the worst.  
22:10 (laughing) And so when I came to Suffolk  
22:13 I thought I was terrible.  
22:15 I was like, I don't know,  
22:17 I don't know if I'm gonna get cast in anything,  
22:19 but then I came here and I just auditioned  
22:22 for everything that I possibly could.  
22:26 And I ended up getting cast quite often.  
22:31 (laughing)  
22:32 A lot more often than I thought  
22:33 I was going to be cast, actually.  
22:35 And I just really found the confidence  
22:38 to explore other things as well.  
22:41 Like Heather said, I'm writing a lot now.  
22:44 I am a dramaturg right now as well  
22:48 which is something that I love.

22:49 If you love research and like a sprinkle of directing,  
22:52 dramaturgy might be for you.  
22:54 So try it.  
22:56 And then also, as Heather said,  
22:58 I'm directing a show next semester for my capstone.  
23:03 I also am now dipping my feet in Shakespeare,  
23:05 which I typically hate.  
23:07 I'm actually doing the apprenticeship  
23:08 at Commonwealth Shakespeare this summer.  
23:10 So I'll hopefully be seeing Adriana, which is exciting.  
23:15 But I never would have wanted to try that if I wasn't here.  
23:18 And I didn't have mentors like Professor Laura Shank,  
23:21 who is fantastic.  
23:22 If you're an actor you will work with her.  
23:25 In professional development you'll work with her as well.  
23:27 I wouldn't have discovered my passion for nonprofit work  
23:31 if I hadn't taken class with Heather.  
23:33 So now I'm an arts admin minor  
23:35 and I'm really passionate about that.  
23:37 Same thing with Vinny.  
23:38 I never thought about accessibility  
23:40 and things like that until I came here,  
23:41 and now I'm like,  
23:43 I want everyone to know what I know  
23:46 about my art and how just fantastic it is.  
23:51 I never wanted to go to grad school before I came here.  
23:53 I never wanted to do any of these things,  
23:55 and I just felt like in my first year here  
23:58 my eyes were opened so much  
24:00 to all of the potential that I had.  
24:02 And I was also supported and taught how to  
24:08 not conform to other people's expectations of me  
24:11 and how to make space for myself  
24:15 where I thought I should be.  
24:19 I, yeah, I just can't thank (laughing) this program enough,  
24:24 honestly.  
24:25 I, really learning how to make space for myself  
24:27 and also something that I was taught  
24:29 that's just been so useful and really helped me shed that  
24:33 I'm not good enough thing  
24:36 is that someone is always going to  
24:39 like the work that you're doing.  
24:41 There's going to be someone out there  
24:43 that's going to like what you write  
24:44 and there's going to be someone out there  
24:46 that likes what you produce.  
24:47 Even if a hundred people hate it,  
24:50 but that one person makes it worth it.  
24:53 And that one person could be in the audience  
24:56 of one of your shows.  
24:57 So just some things that I've learned from Suffolk  
25:01 and I just can't recommend spreading your wings enough  
25:07 and really branching out and being uncomfortable  
25:11 and trying things that you would have never tried before.

25:13 Because like Adriana said,  
25:15 you never know what you're gonna be good at  
25:16 unless you try it.  
25:18 I never thought I was gonna be good at half the things  
25:20 that I'm doing here right now.  
25:22 I didn't even think I should continue being an actor  
25:24 until I came here.  
25:25 And now that's what I'm gonna  
25:27 go to grad school for hopefully.  
25:29 So this is the place to be.  
25:33 - Thank you, Maddie.  
25:34 That was awesome.  
25:36 And last but not least, Mr. Kevin Hanley,  
25:41 alumni extraordinaire.  
25:43 - (laughing) That's a little generous.  
25:47 Hello, everybody.  
25:49 It is so nice to see you all.  
25:52 Congratulations to the three panelists before me.  
25:54 You all have some pretty impressive experiences  
25:57 from Suffolk and beyond,  
25:59 and also congratulations to all of the attendees  
26:03 who are with us who have been accepted to Suffolk.  
26:04 Congratulations.  
26:05 That's super exciting.  
26:08 So, let's see.  
26:10 I had a very interesting journey at Suffolk.  
26:14 So I actually applied to Suffolk  
26:16 because I was really interested  
26:18 in becoming a business student.  
26:20 I really wanted to study finance  
26:23 when I finished high school.  
26:25 Now I had acted all through middle school  
26:29 and into high school,  
26:30 but in a very small private Catholic school  
26:34 up in New Hampshire.  
26:35 I didn't really consider theater  
26:38 anything more than a hobby, no less,  
26:42 I mean, making a career out of this.  
26:44 That's insane.  
26:45 So anyways, I was accepted to Suffolk,  
26:49 and I got to orientation and I had an orientation leader  
26:52 who happened to be a theater major.  
26:55 And I was like, "Oh, I'm very interested in acting,  
26:57 "but I can't do that for real."  
26:59 And she was like, "Oh, no,  
27:00 "absolutely you can do it for real.  
27:02 "And we have a Theater Department here,  
27:03 "and you should come give it a go."  
27:07 So,  
27:09 good on that orientation leader.  
27:11 I wish I could remember who it was.  
27:12 Anyways.  
27:14 So at Suffolk, I,  
27:17 excuse me, backtrack a little,

27:18 was gonna go for business,  
27:20 then over the summer before I started at Suffolk,  
27:25 I was like, you know what,  
27:27 I'm paying for this education for myself,  
27:29 and I'm doing this for me,  
27:31 and you know what, it's gonna be a bachelor's degree,  
27:33 and I can do anything with that.  
27:34 So, you know what?  
27:36 I'm just gonna go ahead and get a theater degree.  
27:39 I was like, let's do it, let's do this thing.  
27:41 So I jumped in feet first into the pool  
27:45 of the Theater Department,  
27:46 and I was really focused on becoming an actor.  
27:49 And so I spent the first two years,  
27:52 well, really my entire experience at Suffolk,  
27:55 as an actor primarily,  
27:59 but again at Suffolk you're encouraged to do  
28:01 so, so many things.  
28:04 So in my time at Suffolk, in the Theater Department,  
28:08 I was able to act, write, direct, design,  
28:13 and ultimately stage manage.  
28:15 And by the end of my time at Suffolk,  
28:18 I had decided that I wanted to become  
28:20 a professional stage manager,  
28:21 thanks to the wonderful Heather Stern,  
28:24 who's here with us.  
28:27 I was in her very first stage management class  
28:29 that she taught at Suffolk.  
28:30 And she saw that I had potential to become  
28:37 a great stage manager.  
28:38 And she was able to harness that  
28:41 and provide me with professional opportunities  
28:46 outside of Suffolk.  
28:48 My very first professional gig that I took  
28:51 was working at Actors' Shakespeare Project,  
28:53 because of Heather's connections to that company.  
28:56 And that's something you also should know about Suffolk  
28:59 is that all of the professors and all of the staff  
29:03 all have very impressive resumes, who have worked,  
29:05 and they've worked all over the place,  
29:07 and they're really well connected people  
29:08 that can get you where you wanna go.  
29:13 So, that was pretty much my experience at Suffolk.  
29:20 And then when I left Suffolk, I, like Adriana,  
29:25 I went to Actors' Theater of Louisville  
29:28 and did an apprenticeship  
29:30 with their professional training company  
29:32 where I was able to do over 13 productions  
29:35 over the course of a season,  
29:37 which was totally crazy, but a lot of fun,  
29:41 and everything theatrical that I had worked on since then,  
29:48 including a tour that I was on  
29:50 internationally for two years following graduation,  
29:54 has all been focused on devised and new work.

29:58 And I think that Suffolk kind of sparked that,  
30:02 sparked that flame for me to say that I'm  
30:05 really, really focused and interested in  
30:07 creating new things.  
30:11 But I've also done a lot of other consulting work  
30:15 in different artistic, down different artistic avenues.  
30:19 Like right now I'm doing a lot of work in public art,  
30:22 and events, concerts, all sorts of things like that.  
30:28 And three things that I wanna hit that I learned  
30:31 from everybody and my experience at Suffolk  
30:34 and the Theater Department is that I learned  
30:37 to be a better communicator,  
30:38 I learned to be a better collaborator,  
30:40 and I learned to be an excellent problem solver.  
30:44 And I think a theater education provides you  
30:48 with a number of challenging opportunities  
30:51 to flex those muscles.  
30:53 And so when you get out on the other side of your degree,  
30:56 if you're working professionally in theater  
30:59 or any other field, you are just picking up  
31:03 all of these skills that are so incredibly transferable  
31:06 across any field.  
31:08 And I've discovered that by working in a number of  
31:10 different things that are all related to theater  
31:13 or theater adjacent or in the arts.  
31:16 And so that is my journey.  
31:19 And that is my experience.  
31:20 And I hope all the attendees who are here with us now  
31:23 are really, truly considering coming to Suffolk,  
31:27 especially hearing from some alums and some current students  
31:32 who all had some pretty incredible journeys  
31:35 and seen some pretty exciting successes  
31:38 following our careers at Suffolk.  
31:41 - Thank you. - Thank you, Kevin.  
31:43 That was great.  
31:44 It was great.  
31:46 So, Heather, Diandra,  
31:51 we thought we would just pick another step  
31:54 in trying to get to know you a little better,  
31:57 and also wondering, Diandra,  
32:00 if you have the poll that we could throw up  
32:04 as a way to begin a conversation and some questions.  
32:10 - Yeah, absolutely- - With our guests.  
32:13 - [Diandra] Absolutely, I am gonna go ahead  
32:15 and launch that poll now.  
32:17 - Terrific, and if you've got any questions,  
32:20 feel free to (coughing) put them in the chat.  
32:24 Sorry about coughing in the microphone.  
32:27 Put them in the chat, please, please, please.  
32:36 - Let's start with a poll.  
32:38 - Yep, it was up.  
32:42 - [Diandra] Yeah, it looks like we have some actors,  
32:47 singer, playwrights, directors.  
32:54 - Fantastic.

32:55 - [Diandra] All right.  
32:57 - Wow, that's just great.  
32:59 That's just great.  
33:01 - So we've got a question in the chat.  
33:03 Are there ways to be involved in theater  
33:05 even if you aren't primarily a theater major?  
33:13 - That's another distinctive feature of the department.  
33:17 We have a policy of open casting.  
33:21 So let's say you're a psychology major  
33:24 but you wanna do a show, you can audition.  
33:28 There are places that do restrict auditions to majors,  
33:34 but we don't do that because we think  
33:36 there's so much to learn from each other in our diversity.  
33:41 And I think the more students from the more disciplines,  
33:45 the more we learn from each other.  
33:48 So that's a great question.  
33:49 Thanks for asking.  
33:51 - Other question.  
33:52 I think we've got another question.  
33:53 How many people are in the theater major?  
33:58 - Currently there are, there's about 80.  
34:02 It fluctuates between 70 and 90,  
34:06 but I think we're in the world of 70.  
34:10 And I think what we like about that number,  
34:12 we never aspired to be a great big department.  
34:16 We, oh, thank you.  
34:19 Thank you, oh this is interesting.  
34:20 Oh good.  
34:21 - Oh it's great.  
34:22 We've got a stage manager in here.  
34:24 - Yeah, that's a great spread.  
34:26 That's a great spread.  
34:27 Thanks for participating in the poll, everybody.  
34:31 Again, what, as I was saying earlier  
34:36 in our session is that we like our size  
34:39 because it means we get to know our students.  
34:42 We know your name, we follow you.  
34:46 Students feel free to connect with us  
34:49 and talk to us about whatever is going on.  
34:52 And we can really pay attention to  
34:59 moments in a student's four years where  
35:02 they may need an extra challenge  
35:04 or moments when they may need some extra support.  
35:08 And because we're small,  
35:12 I think we do a pretty good job at providing that.  
35:15 - We've got another question.  
35:17 Are there dance training opportunities?  
35:23 - Yeah, do you wanna answer that, Vinny?  
35:26 - Well, I was just gonna say that,  
35:29 and I'm not speaking for the department,  
35:31 but there's a lot of, there's a thing called the PAO,  
35:35 the Performing Arts Office, has a lot of clubs in them,  
35:37 and within those clubs are a bunch of dance clubs.  
35:40 I was part of when my freshman year.

35:41 I was in the Show Choir Club.  
35:43 So if you'd done choir in school it's like that  
35:45 and we're dancing a lot.  
35:46 And there's the Passion Latina Dance Club  
35:50 where they do all this cool hip hop stuff  
35:52 and there's a K-Pop Dance Club.  
35:54 So, not speaking for the department, at least,  
35:56 but for the PAO there's plenty of opportunities  
35:58 to dance and show it.  
36:00 - Yeah, yeah, and it's complementary.  
36:03 What we can't offer in the way of coursework,  
36:06 there's usually an opportunity to participate with PAO.  
36:11 Thanks, Vinny.  
36:12 Yeah, Maddie.  
36:13 - Just to add onto that,  
36:15 there are so many outside training opportunities  
36:18 here in the city as well,  
36:20 not just for dance, for acting and singing.  
36:22 So many voice teachers, so many,  
36:25 but I take advantage of the dance complex over in Cambridge  
36:29 when you can do drop-in classes on the weekends,  
36:31 kickboxing classes, actually, too, which are fun.  
36:35 But the dance complex is awesome.  
36:37 And there are so many places like that  
36:38 around the city as well.  
36:40 - Thank you, Maddie.  
36:41 - It's part of the joys of being in Boston.  
36:44 - Exactly.  
36:44 We've got another question.  
36:45 How many productions are put on each year?  
36:50 - Well, we typically have two faculty directed shows,  
36:56 and one of those is usually by a guest professional.  
37:00 And then we typically do 12 to 14 student shows a year.  
37:05 So it's quite a lot.  
37:10 - Yeah go, please Adriana.  
37:11 - I also, the theater professionals that come  
37:15 to direct or if it's like a writer or something  
37:20 or professional actors, you,  
37:22 the Boston theater community is so small  
37:25 that you will see them again.  
37:27 And I think that's what's so great about  
37:29 the Suffolk Theater Department  
37:30 is that it's a full-on circle,  
37:33 because yeah, it's just a full-on circle.  
37:39 - That's a great.  
37:40 There's an incoming question for the panelist,  
37:45 I believe that the students and alumni,  
37:48 what is one thing that you believe  
37:51 that incoming students should know or remember  
37:54 when entering theater at Suffolk?  
38:00 - Get involved.  
38:02 Get involved.  
38:03 So one of the things that I experienced at Suffolk  
38:07 was first just like balking at the opportunity

38:12 to just jump in.  
38:14 And I didn't audition for the first show  
38:17 because I was just a little bit shy  
38:19 and a little bit nervous.  
38:21 So that was one show that I wasn't in,  
38:22 that I could have been in,  
38:25 but really just reach out to all of the professors,  
38:30 reach out to the other students,  
38:32 reach out to some upperclassmen,  
38:34 and any of the staff that work in the theater department.  
38:38 Reach out for those opportunities and they will come to you.  
38:42 You know?  
38:44 - Vinny.  
38:45 - This is complementary to Kevin,  
38:47 but once you're in it,  
38:50 put your whole self in it.  
38:52 Don't hold back.  
38:53 'Cause everybody else is also  
38:54 putting their whole self in it.  
38:56 And you will not look foolish.  
38:57 You will look cool.  
38:58 It is cool to be involved, I promise.  
39:01 And everyone from students to faculty to staff is so nice.  
39:07 If you, any questions ever,  
39:09 or just wanna go get lunch after a show.  
39:11 There's so many times there was a break  
39:13 and someone I've never talked to was like  
39:15 "You wanna go get food?"  
39:16 And I'm like, "Yeah."  
39:17 And then we went food, and I have a friend for life.  
39:19 And it's just, once you're in it, get in it,  
39:22 and really be involved because it pays off.  
39:27 - Maddie.  
39:29 - I think that something you should know coming here,  
39:32 and also just remember forever is that  
39:34 you should go where your work is valued and appreciated.  
39:39 Not everyone's going to value you and appreciate you,  
39:43 but someone will, and you will always be appreciated here.  
39:47 So.  
39:49 - Fantastic.  
39:50 There's one, let's close with this question.  
39:53 Are there often musical theater performance opportunities?  
39:59 We do a musical every other year.  
40:03 And we have a regularly run  
40:06 Singing For the Stage class that happens.  
40:11 And we have a staging musical, staging the,  
40:15 what's it called Marilyn?  
40:18 - Stage Reading of a Classic Musical.  
40:20 - That one.  
40:23 Where Marilyn spends the entire semester  
40:26 really digging into a musical,  
40:28 and at the end there's a performance.  
40:30 So the great thing I love about Suffolk is that  
40:33 the productions are all about the storytelling

40:39 and the storytelling aspect,  
40:41 'cause I think if you can figure out  
40:42 how to tell a really good story,  
40:44 you can add all the bells and whistles on top of it,  
40:47 but when the story's not there  
40:49 and you just have bells and whistles,  
40:51 it's not really exciting.  
40:52 So that's kind of what I love about the programs at Suffolk.  
40:58 - Yeah, I'm looking at the clock,  
41:00 and the time has just flown.  
41:04 We were gonna show you a contact sheet  
41:07 with a list of faculty and their email addresses.  
41:12 Diandra, Would it be possible to just email that to them?  
41:16 So we don't have to take time now?  
41:19 - Yeah, absolutely.  
41:20 We can definitely make sure we send out  
41:22 that contact information,  
41:24 but I do want to thank all of our presenters  
41:27 for being here tonight.  
41:29 You all did a great job.  
41:30 It was so awesome to hear about all of your journeys  
41:34 and how they're similar and how they're different.  
41:36 And I wanted to thank our attendees  
41:38 for also joining us for tonight's presentation.  
41:42 I'm also gonna put some information in the chat, too,  
41:45 with our admissions email that you can  
41:48 definitely reach out to as well.  
41:50 And we will be sure to send a followup email  
41:52 with all the contact information.  
41:56 - That's wonderful.  
41:57 Hey everybody, thank you so much for being here.  
42:00 Congratulations, we're really hoping  
42:02 to welcome you in the fall.  
42:06 Take care, and I hope we'll see you in September.  
42:09 Bye, everybody.  
42:10 Don't hesitate to reach out  
42:11 if you have any questions at all.  
42:13 - Thank you, thank you. - Thank you, everybody.  
42:15 Thanks everybody.  
42:16 Hey, can the panelists stay on the call  
42:18 for just a moment?  
42:19 For 60 seconds?  
42:21 Yeah, okay, bye everybody.  
42:29 - Hold on.  
42:33 Okay, it's just us now.  
42:35 - Okay, so hey, everybody. - Good job everybody.  
42:40 - I knew it was gonna be good,  
42:41 but everybody exceeded my expectations (indistinct).  
42:45 It's like we couldn't have scripted you to do better.  
42:48 It's exactly what students need to hear.  
42:52 And each of you brought your own stories in ways  
42:55 that were really inspiring for me to hear.  
42:58 I mean, again, we couldn't script it better.  
43:02 You told your authentic stories in the most,

43:06 I don't know, persuasive way, and I'm so grateful to you.  
43:11 I mean, I see, I mean, I just saw Vinny this afternoon.  
43:13 So I see them all the time,  
43:14 I know how great he is.  
43:16 I spent the fall with Maddie,  
43:18 but it's been so long since I've seen Kevin  
43:21 and a really long time since I've seen Adriana,  
43:25 and my heart just swells with pride.  
43:31 All of you. - Yeah.  
43:32 We squealed when we found out about  
43:34 Adriana's new job at Commonwealth.  
43:39 - Yes, this is a story I really-  
43:40 - I am so excited for you.  
43:41 I am so, so excited for you.  
43:43 (voices muffling)  
43:46 - Everybody a story about Adriana.  
43:49 So I was at,  
43:50 I belong to this Greater Boston Artistic Directors Group,  
43:54 and there was a session about  
43:57 how professional Boston theaters  
43:59 can better collaborate with-