

# Laura Scott

## Stage Management

Florida School of the Arts

Written by Emily Schafer

There's a saying within our school, "Once a Floie, always a Floie". Our student network stretches far and wide throughout performance and artistic communities across the nation. This month we're featuring one of our 2014 Stage Management graduates, Laura Scott. This is her third year as Company Manager at Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach, FL.

We asked her 10 Questions that reflect back on her time as a student and now as a working professional.

01.

**What made you decide to come to Florida School of the Arts? How did you hear about the school?**

FloArts was not far from where I grew up, which was Middleburg a suburb near Jacksonville and I took a tour while still in high school to see if it was something to pursue. I was offered a Stage Management scholarship, plus a program where you started working on shows your first semester and had smaller classes was fantastic. Even, Professor Crotty was able to convince my parents, who were skeptical, that I could have a career in the industry.



02.

**What advice would you give to an incoming freshmen student?**

You will have good days and bad days, but it's a learning process. Never stop learning because these years are the foundation of your career and always stay in the present. Be a sponge and absorb the knowledge!

03.

**What advice would you give to a graduating student?**

The timeline of applying for jobs or looking for auditions is always moving. Over time you will know when that time is, but you always have to be searching the job isn't coming to find you; they need to know you're out there so Apply Apply Apply.

Some will accept and others will decline, but always push forward and plan for the future – *Your future.*

04.

**What's your most valued memory of your time here? What do you feel like made the biggest impact? Did you know it at the time or was it something you realized once you left?**

I fell in love with FloArts during my first production I worked on, *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Brevoort. It was such a special play with the most beautiful scenic design. I was so proud to work with my classmates on that show.

My eyes were opened to the magic of live theatre. I will always cherish the opportunity to direct the short play *Chinamen* by Michael Frayn my second year at FloArts. It was the perfect challenge in the youth of my career and helped me appreciate all the moving parts and planning that goes into a production.

I love all the lessons FloArts taught me and I didn't embrace them fully until I left. They are just like family and once you leave the nest and spread your wings you fully understand the love and devotion this school gives to its students.

05.

**How do you feel Florida School of the Arts prepared you for continuing on in school?**

I wanted to do the Stage Management program because I wanted to go into Directing and Prof. Crotty thought it would be a great way to learn the Production side of Theatre.

When I went to Marshall I focused on the performing side of theatre to deepen my SM skills. Another class I took while at FloArts was a Sociology course which was very interesting and helps me every day now with my job and working with others.

06.

**Where did you go after graduating from Florida School of the Arts? School? Jobs?**

I received a scholarship and completed my bachelor's degree at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Marshall didn't have a separate degree for Stage Management so I completed my degree in Performance in order to learn the acting side of theatre.

I finished my degree in two years there and then started as a Stage Management Apprentice at Riverside in October of 2016. Their season ended in May 2017 and I worked at my first summer stock at Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick Maine.

I loved both of these theatres and up until 2020 I would work between the two theatres and move up in my positions within the companies. I returned to Riverside in June 2021 as their Full Time Company Manager.

07.

**How do you think your time at Florida School of the Arts prepared you for the role you're in now?**

FloArts helped me to develop my problem solving and critical thinking skills; both of which I use in my personal and professional life.

They taught me that no job is too small and that everyone on a Production is a part of a team with the same creative goals for a show and always respect your fellow peers.

The FloArts Staff taught me to believe in myself and the creative work I put out into the world every day; because whether you're behind the curtain or in front of it we are all creatives in this world.



**08. What are some of your job responsibilities at Riverside?**

There are a wide variety of responsibilities I do which are, but not limited to:

- Coordinating and supplying the travel and housing for all guest artists including, Actors, Designers, Directors, Musicians, and seasonal Production staff.
- Drafting and distributing contracts for upcoming artists or employees.
- Provide a positive experience to incoming guests and seasonal staff and boosting morale during the busy season.
- Cleaning and taking care of company vehicles, storage, and housing.
- Providing Lunch for Tech week and keeping the green room clean.
- For some Special Events at Riverside, I assist in coordinating and running the events.
- In case of emergencies, I am always on campus supervising during rehearsals and performances.

**09. What do you wish you knew or did while you were a student that you realize now would be valuable?**

Having the ability to time manage & discipline oneself in order to balance life, work and one's health, sounds hard, but with a little work it is possible.

**10. What are your plans for the future? Five years? 10 years?**

I plan to be with Riverside a few more seasons as I would like us to get back to full running abilities for future performing seasons. I've thought about going into Production Management or even Producing, but that's down the way still.

In 10 years I know I would love to move back to Maine and live closer to my family.