

Doing work experience with Opera Australia was probably one of the highlights of this year. I don't think I've said the words "it was so cool" as many times as I did during those two nights.

Despite being part of the school's musical backstage crew for the past 5 years (technically 4 because of covid), I only just recently began to feel like it could become a profession, so getting to see the behind-the-scenes of an actual production was really great.

The people were incredible, such cool humans. It was amazing to hear how each person got into the industry, whether it was through the family business or just by accident.

On the first night, I got to work with the props team for Lohengrin and see them work their magic. If you ever wonder where large broken chess pawns disappear to, it's probably props scrambling onstage behind the curtain, ready to put all the pieces back together. I even got to climb onto the set with them during an act, silently waiting for their cue to set up.

On the second night, I had the opportunity to see the mechanist team do their thing for La Traviata. Just the sets alone were stunning, the level of detail put into them blew my mind. I also got to go up onto the fly-floor and watch one of the set changes from above which was very cool. A for-sure highlight was realising how they made leaves drop from seemingly nowhere for one of the acts and receiving an explanation from the man, the myth, the legend himself who created the contraption. Especially since I had already seen La Traviata from the audience's perspective, seeing how they did the set changes and learning about the number of people and all the little things it took to transform the stage in just 2 minutes and 31 seconds (a second more than the record) was awesome. Overall, it was, as I've been saying, so cool. 11/10 would do again.

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