SUCCESS STORY
The Women of Theatre Technology Program
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Now in its eighth year, The Women of Theatre Technology program is one of our most successful programs! In the US, women are underrepresented in all areas of theatre technology. In 2008, Pike County Cooperative Extension Service for Fine Arts Program and Artists Collaborative Theatre (ACT) recognized a need for more women to be trained in the technology field. Even today, many women do not have the support systems in place to be able to pursue their interests, especially when those interests lie outside of their families or outside of the scope of what our rural society deems appropriate. It was then that we began a joint effort: The Women of Theatre Technology program.

Since its inception, women have worked in areas of theatre technology during every production at ACT. The program targets women of all ages to learn and work in a live theatre environment performing all aspects of theatre technology. This includes lighting design and operation, sound design and operation, stage management, scenic design and construction, and costume design and construction. Each year, we reach out to students in area middle and high schools, theatregoers, community members, and parents of children in ACT’s tuition free after school theatre classes.

The impact of the Women in Theatre Technology program has exceeded our greatest expectations. The theatre now has preteens, teenagers, and adults who can run light and sound boards by computer as well as manually. Running a light board manually is something that many professionals can’t even do. Students in the program have seen improvements in all areas of their academics. Each student reports doing better in school as a result of being a part of the program.

The Women of Theatre Tech program is consistently one of the most successful programs offered through Pike County Extension Service for Fine Arts and sees growth each year. In 2016, thirty students and seven female adults participated in the program.

To learn more about Pike County Fine Arts programming, visit http://pike.ca.uky.edu/FineArts

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