

THE FINAL ACT: A THEATRE CONTROL BOOTH

The control booth is the heart and bloodline for the technical elements of a theatre production. The Mercer Theatre faculty loves to work and train students, faculty, staff, and community members during our production process. An enclosed control booth will enable our technical team to communicate effectively with actors without distractions, allowing our patrons to enjoy a heightened level of theatre that Mercer Theatre would be proud to produce.

Technical equipment used for shows, including the sound and lighting consoles and computers for running sound and projection, live in and are operated from the control booth. This space also is home to the show's stage manager, the person who is responsible for calling and cuing every technical signal during the run of a show. At Mercer, our booth space also doubles as storage for our technical equipment.

A well-designed enclosed control booth is essential for producing professional-level theatre. It allows the stage manager and the technical crew, who run lights, sound, and projection, to see the performance away from public view, removing the need to use live video feeds and monitors. The enclosure also allows our technical and management team to communicate effectively. It ensures that the sounds of script pages turning, console buttons being pressed, and cues being audibly called by stage managers do not distract patrons enjoying the show. In an open booth setup, you can hear a stage manager try to whisper a cue such as, "Light Cue 7, Sound Cue 10, and Run Crew Cue 3, Go" during a somber still moment in the middle of a soul-crushing scene. This pulls an audience member right out of the theatre and back to reality--something professional theatres would never allow.

A quality control booth that adheres to industry standards is vital to the education of Mercer Theatre students, many of whom are training to enter the growing and highly competitive field of technical theatre. With the addition of a control booth, the already impressive Tattnall Square Center for the Arts will become a more complete, competitive arts education facility. Such a facility will not only be able to compete with other programs in the region when it comes to high standards of training, but will become one of the most unique collegiate performance training venues of its kind in the nation. Our program needs this booth to help recruit, train, and produce theatre at a level that can grow both the program and interest in theatre.

Mercer Theatre has been very fortunate in equipment procurement, being home to a brand new \$8,000 lighting console, a brand new \$1,000 intelligent fixture, and a \$4,000



digital sound console. We also store over \$20,000 worth of lighting, sound, and projection equipment in the booth area. Although we do have a lock on the door, the open nature of the balcony space leaves this equipment essentially unlocked at all times. We have been fortunate that our equipment has not 'walked away,' and this booth would ensure the security of this equipment.

Mercer Theatre is excited about the opportunity to teach and to create in a new enclosed booth space. Our students, our patrons, and our program will enter a new heightened level of production that will help grow interest and involvement with our shows, the Theatre Program, and Mercer.



Scan the code on your mobile device or visit givecampus.com/schools/MercerUniversity/the-final-act-a-theater-control-booth to make a gift to the Mercer Theatre Control Booth Campaign January 24 - February 4.

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:

\$33,000

PROJECT COMPONENTS INCLUDE:

**Design
Construction
Electrical
HVAC
Data**



For more information on supporting Mercer Theatre and the Tattnell Square Center for the Arts, contact Todd Smith, Director of Development, at 478-301-2718 or smith_bt@mercer.edu.