



10-5-2018

Hannah Sage

Hannah Sage 2018
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Recommended Citation

Sage 2018, Hannah, "Hannah Sage" (2018). *All oral histories*. 151.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/oral_hist/151

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Oral History Interview with Hannah Sage

Hannah Sage: Okay, so my name is Hannah Sage. I was a BFA Theatre Design, Tech major with an emphasis on costume design during my time here. I graduated in May 2018 so just a little while ago but I was also involved with Sigma Alpha Iota as a collegiate member... and I believe that's all of those things, so let me read through a couple of these questions and get to answering them.

So in terms of what brought me to Wesleyan, I always did tell all of my tours that I took out when I was a tour guide on campus, if I was asked, that this was actually not a school that I had ever intended to go to when I was looking at schools I should say. But I am a third generation legacy student, meaning that my grandparents, my mom, my aunts uncles, cousins – 2nd cousins, great aunts and uncles – everyone in my family went here, so I came out of the womb as a future Titan my parents like to say. I had onesies and tiny baby sweatshirts that had the school crest on them and I was very proud of that as a young child. I very much wanted to take on the legacy that my family had set up but then when I reached about my mid-teens and started actually looking at colleges, I was adamant that I was not going to be going to the school that my mom went to. At that time, my mom and I had quite a different relationship than we do too – than we do now, and so I decided that I wanted to look anywhere else. Particularly I wanted to be further north. I wanted to as far away from home as possible. And then I put in some of my information of schools I was interested in looking at, different programs and I found this one online for specifically theatre-design, and I figured on the way to other schools, we might as well stop and take a look at it because I had been here so many times in my life. We had always stopped on the way up to our cabin up in northern Wisconsin on campus also to visit my grandparents who still live in town – my dad's parents. And so it made sense that we would stop here on the way north again, like we always had. But this time, we stopped in February. We came to visit my friend, Kristin Solodar, who graduated in 2017. We came and visited her on-campus because I had known her since I was a very young child and she and I have always been friends to the best of my knowledge. Kristin's mother and my mother actually went to school here together. They were both AOP's and my mom was what they called Kristin's mother's, big, or I guess, Mother, in their sorority. So when we came to visit Kristin, it just made sense that I would stay overnight with her and get to see the campus. And there just so happened to be a show going on at the time. It was called 12 Ophelias, and it was the first show that I got to see at Wesleyan. And there were a couple people in it that I still very much admire and I was absolutely awestruck by their performance.

I got to meet so many people that night. I remember, in particular, meeting Nick Carlson. I met, oh goodness, Sarah Menki and I also very specifically remember meeting Steven Schur who is now my boyfriend and we are planning on moving together in – we are planning on moving in together in Florida in a couple of days, or weeks. And so getting back to the story, I met so many people that I just absolutely adored. I loved the campus. I loved how much it had changed throughout my life and I have gotten to see it change just coming to visit every summer. And so I

decided after having my interview with the department heads that this seemed like a very good place for me because of how much it felt like home to me because I had been here so often throughout my life. And when I got here, I was very surprised and happy to find that it was very much a different school than when my mom, and my grandfather and grandmother went here. So I was very excited that I got to make it my own. And I was the first one in my family to go into theatre. My other family members had been in nursing, pre-med and religion. So it was entirely my own school and the school of theatre arts and my own friends. And I got to really make it my own experience and I absolutely would have changed nothing different if I were to go back now.

So another story I could tell is not listed on this question sheet but I feel like it really is a good way to encompass some of my favorite times here. During the beginning of my freshman year, my 'big' in the theatre department, Selena, she recommended that I take on a job as a tour guide with the University's office of admissions. And I was there from that time my freshman year up until I graduated in May, and I just absolutely love that job. I was a great way to both get my homework done when we didn't have any tours going on, and also just to meet so many kids that were going to be coming into this school and make them excited about coming here the way I had been when I got to take my tours here – multiple – multiple tours when I was looking at going to schools. So I got to meet kids from literally all of the world and some even from places that I had and had not been. Some places that I had and had not lived, and so it was very interesting to be able to talk to them about their experiences and then translate that into how they might best fit on our campus, especially when I got to meet people that were interested in the arts, music and theatre. I got to really talk to them about my experiences and how I thought they could fit in and get involved and how all of my friends would love them if they were able to come to school here. So I really, really enjoyed that job and I'm very grateful that I got to do it for so many years.