

BOOKS BY JUNE ABERNATHY, IATSE LOCAL #321

June Abernathy is a member of IATSE Local #321 in Tampa, Florida and has been touring the country with a variety of Broadway Musicals as FOH Electrician and Spotlight Supervisor since 1998. She is currently working in that capacity as well as serving as the IATSE Union Steward on The Lion King National Tour. A graduate of Florida State University, she has worked for 30 years in theater in many capacities: Local and Touring Stagehand, AEA Stage Manager, Box Office Manager, and Author. She has worked on a variety of shows from rock concerts to theater, opera, and dance, Broadway shows, cruise ship work, and everything in between. She is originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, where she still resides when she can take a break from touring.



Running a spotlight is harder than it looks. To do it well, you need to understand how the light and its controls work, you need some training, and you need some practice. Unfortunately, for many people, your first exposure to operating a spotlight is getting handed a pile of color and directions to the spot booth or catwalk one day when people are short, and maybe, if you're lucky, getting a quick rundown on the controls from someone in a hurry to get to their own place before the show starts. This book is an attempt to give you the information that, in at least my opinion, every good spotlight operator should know. It isn't really a substitute for hands-on training and experience, but it's a start.

-June Abernathy

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When you are a Touring Spotlight Supervisor, calling cues for Local Spotlight Operators, you hear a lot of excuses along the way when they miss a cue or execute it badly. This book was started by a couple of visits to Philadelphia, which houses some of the most imaginative spotlight operators in the country, and where excuse-making is elevated to a hilarious art form. They inspired me to start writing down the excuses, and between those guys and like-minded operators across America, the goal of collecting a book of 101 Excuses was quickly reached. All the excuses in this book are real – there is no need to make stuff up when such rich material is handed to you daily. I give my thanks to the spotlight operators of Philadelphia and their imaginative cohorts across the country, who make me laugh and keep me from going crazy even when we're running a show that I've seen a thousand times.

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