

Nathan Coleman
Lighting Technician
2/4/25

Los Altos High School Student Union

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;25;04

Maile:

Tell me your name and your occupation. Or the title.

Nathan:

I am Nathan Coleman. I am a lighting designer/stagehand/technical director it depends. I do all of it. Depends on what I'm doing for a show.

Maile:

Can I have you, like, define what it is you do and what you would say that your job is.

00;00;25;07 - 00;00;55;20

Nathan:

Well, it depends where I'm working.

Maile:

Fine, most of the time, maybe like here at Los Altos what would you say you do.

Nathan:

Here at Los Altos I'm the technical director for Broken Box. So I'm kind of in charge of managing all the logistics behind the show, making sure, all the different parts of, you know, like all the different tech departments props, lights, sound, costumes, they all, know what's happening and they're all on schedule.

00;00;55;21 - 00;01;18;28

Nathan:

I'm just a manager. Pretty much yeah.

Maile:

What would you say you do, like in your business, then? How is that different than what you do here at Los Altos?

Nathan:

My business. I'm a lot more hands on. So for that, I like I go out myself and I set up sound systems, or I set up lighting. I program shows on a lightboard, you know.

00;01;19;01 - 00;01;38;00

Nathan:

I'm a lot more like doing a lot more of the work instead of just managing it.

Maile:

Okay. Did you want to tell me about, like, your creative background and how you got into your life?

Nathan:

Okay. You ready?

Maile:

Yes.

Nathan:

Theater has been a keystone of my life since I was nine years old.

00;01;38;02 - 00;01;53;21

Nathan:

In fourth grade, I had the chance to join my school's technical crew, starting as a lightboard operator, quickly progressing to assistant stage manager and eventually student technical director. In high school I deepened my interest in theater.

00;01;58;03 - 00;02;37;10

Nathan:

By doing self-teaching lighting, sound design through YouTube tutorials with these new skills. I returned to my elementary schools, as a technical Director now responsible for all of their sound and lighting needs. Witnessing the students growth and love for theater only fueled my love for technical theater. I quickly increased my involvement in other groups like Los Altos High School's Broken Box Theater Company as their student technical director, Upstate Theater as a lighting designer, and the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, as a stagehand, programmer, and technician.

00;02;37;12 - 00;02;58;27

Maile:

How did you. Oh, we already asked that question. All right, so would you say your favorite? And you said you don't have another one for the video. Okay. What's your favorite aspect of theater then?

Nathan:

What is my favorite aspect? That's a difficult question.

Maile:

Like what made you stay in theater this entire time?

Nathan:

I think it's just how fun and diverse it is.

00;02;58;28 - 00;03;28;10

Nathan:

You know, like. How do I say this. Theater never gets boring. Every show is different and has different needs. You're working with different people. The design is different. The script is different. Everything is different. And that's what keeps it always new and interesting for me. There's always a new challenge. There's always new ideas. Like other things, like it gets boring fast.

00;03;28;10 - 00;03;49;15

Nathan:

Like how many essays can you write? Not a lot, but you can design so many shows and I like they never get boring to me. Because each show brings has new needs and requirements. And I love meeting those.

Maile:

What would you say one of the what's one of like the favorite shows that you've done or like helped direct?

00;03;49;17 - 00;04;16;28

Nathan:

I'd say my fave.. Well there's a lot. The favorite show I've designed as a designer was Be More Chill, which I did the lighting for or maybe or maybe. One of my more recent shows, A nightmare or A Christmas Nightmare, which was an adaptation of Nightmare Before Christmas. That was a pretty fun show to design.

00;04;17;00 - 00;04;43;21

Nathan:

It was, I've been doing a lot of self-reflecting lately. Be more chill was almost three years ago now.

Maile:

Oh, really?

Nathan:

Or two. It was like sophomore year. So yeah, around 2 or 3 years. Be More Chill, on that design with very like, it was fun, but it didn't make a lot of sense. Like looking back I can see how I've grown as a designer.

00;04;43;24 - 00;05;13;09

Nathan:

Like the my design for Nightmare, that's what we call it. I don't want to say the whole thing.

Maile:

Yeah.

Nathan:

My design for nightmare was, not simpler, but it was less flashy.

Maile:

Oh, okay. If that makes sense. Like, it's a lot more intentional. It's a lot more, not realistic, but believable. Like, it's a lot more intentional. That's what that's what I'd say it is.

00;05;13;12 - 00;05;34;12

Maile:

Yeah. So you like both, but you like how you can see the growth between the two shows that you've done. Okay. I don't know anything about your business. Did you want to talk about your business?

Nathan:

Yes. My business is called Black Cat Lighting. And despite the name, it's not only lighting. We do, most of the work I do is actually sound.

00;05;35;03 - 00;06;00;11

Nathan:

Because as it turns out, people tend to need sound systems more than they need lighting.
Lighting.

Maile:

So for sound systems what do you do?

Nathan:

I get contracted. So basically they're like oh we have an event and it's this many people. it's at this location and we need like this.

00;06;00;28 - 00;06;17;05

Nathan:

We need a few microphones. We just need to play music blah blah blah blah blah. I'm like, okay, that'll be this much. Okay, and they pay me and then I show up and I've set up everything, I run it all, and then I leave. I tear it all down myself.

Maile:

Is it just you in your business?

00;06;17;07 - 00;06;39;21

Nathan:

It's normally just me.

Maile:

Is there other people sometimes?

Nathan:

There's other people sometimes. But it's mainly just me.

I had a question. I just forgot it. Where like I don't remember what it was. Shoot I like the question I was thinking of. All right, let's see. So how long have you had your business then?

Nathan:

I've had it for about two year and a half, two years now.

00;06;39;23 - 00;06;59;02

Maile:

So wait what made you want to start your business instead of just doing what you were doing before?

Nathan:

It's so like you get paid so you can get paid. So before some places, because I'm a minor. Yeah, because of the crazy hours that theater is, they can't legally pay me. So.

Maile:

So by making your business.

00;06;59;02 - 00;07;18;12

Nathan:

Making a business, I set my own hours. And then you can make and basically contract your work. So instead of paying me hourly, I just charge them a fee. And I'm like you know this could be a few thousand dollars and then I'll come in whenever I need to.

Maile:

Would you say there's like a deficit like in your line of work?

00;07;18;12 - 00;07;50;06

Nathan

Like. Oh definitely. There's a huge shortage in the industry right now. Yeah. So finding work is pretty easy.

Maile:

So, like, I know how you got into. Well, you got into it through school.

Nathan:

Yeah. So are there, like, was it just you who kind of got into it that way, or do you think there was like other people who also there definitely other people who got into it through school, like I want to say at least like 5 or 10 people in broken box.

00;07;50;21 - 00;08;15;13

Nathan:

Went to my school and they're only in theater because of our program. Oh I see. Yeah. Like a really good chunk of broken box all came from my school. And proportionally it's actually really large amount because it's a really small school as well. Like 100 like I think each class is around 70 people.

Maile:

Why would you say continuing theater is important then?

00;08;15;14 - 00;08;47;03

Nathan:

Oh because it's art is fun. Like we need that right now. Also, it's just fun to share with the world, you know. Like why? The reason I want to continue doing it as I, you know, move on to college, whatnot, is. It's so much different than anything else in the world. Yeah. Like, I don't want to be a fuck, at a desk job.

00;08;47;05 - 00;09;13;11

Nathan:

Yeah. Like. And everyone in the community is so fun and cool.

Maile:

Because I think, I think cause I was talking to Sofia when we were like on the train and then we were saying like because we were talking about musicals and she was like, oh, you know, not a lot of musicals like make it big. Like, how do you think it's meant to be like, become mainstream, popular like that?

00;09;13;11 - 00;09;33;20

Maile:

Yeah. I mean, do you think it's all it's always going to be like that or do you think...

Nathan:

It's been shifting a lot lately, like after Covid theater crashed during Covid. Well, in person, you can't do theater on like it's impossible. That's what theaters.

Maile:

I saw people try to do it online.

00;09;33;20 - 00;09;55;05

Maile:

It was really strange.

Nathan:

No, I didn't do it. That's why I started producing music, was because I was like, I can't do theater. And I tried and I couldn't. So I was like, I'm gonna just do my own thing, but back on topic, right now there's been a huge shift towards live entertainment.

00;09;55;11 - 00;10;14;13

Nathan:

Like there's some box office movies. They've been kind of flopping because everyone is sick of digital entertainment. Right? They don't want to go see a movie in the theater. They don't want to just see movies for they spent, you know, a few years doing that, and they can do it, you know? Broadway has been taking off like sales.

00;10;14;16 - 00;10;37;16

Nathan:

Sorry I sound, like, really analytical.

Maile:

No, no, but I didn't know that.

Nathan:

Yeah. But, yeah, like, there's a lot more live shows. People are going to see shows. It's a lot of and it's in my opinion, I love the shows. A lot more fun than films. Even films have their place. Theater, that's a lot more personal.

00;10;37;21 - 00;10;56;01

Nathan:

It's like you can get really lost in the story because it's happening right in front of you. And there's also the spectacle of it, like it's impressive, right?

Maile:

Yeah. Like the talent that it takes to do all. Yeah. Because sometimes when I watch a movie, sometimes the CGI is so like what. Like I don't like the visual effects and it just takes me out of it.

00;10;56;02 - 00;11;21;07

Nathan:

And like, they're something of, like a movie theater now they're just like, we'll fix it with VFX. Yeah, theater. You can't do that. Yeah. So that's what I love is, is, you know, these challenges,

like, how do we make a car fly. Yeah like in Back to the Future they made a car fly onstage. For me it was like we had to fill an entire, cover the stage with fog.

00;11;21;07 - 00;11;46;16

Nathan:

I don't know, like, oh for nightmare. That was a big challenge. It was we had about five minutes, five minutes to change the entire set. We had to convert. We had this big set for Halloween Town, right? We had to convert the whole thing into Christmas town. So we all of our, like, backdrops had to be swapped out.

00;11;47;00 - 00;12;05;06

Nathan:

Like, the entire set was moved and a new one was brought on. If you look at the picture with this huge basically, but like doing stuff like that, like how can we make room. Like we moved a scene over here in front of the curtain so that we could have time, like doing stuff like that is what makes it fun.

00;12;05;11 - 00;12;24;06

Nathan:

Like it's a challenge and that's why I love it.

Maile:

Do you think people take you seriously because you're a teen and a lighting director, or do you think you have like, difficulties with that?

Nathan:

The thing is I used to struggle a bit with people not taking me seriously.

00;12;24;08 - 00;12;47;16

Nathan:

But that was because I was like young, young. But also I didn't really know what I was doing. But now at I MVCPA I'm the only employee there under 18. And like they, they take me seriously as everyone else. Like. Because everyone there, you get hired based on skill. That's what the hiring there is.

00;12;47;19 - 00;13;15;03

Nathan:

So. Like I'm not any less I'm actually overqualified you know. Like a lot of the work I do is pretty basic there, but it's fun, I enjoy it. Yeah, they're cool, but I don't like, sometimes people will be like, oh, you're just, like, pretty young. But most of the time after they've seen you do some of the work, they're like, they're just impressed.

00;13;15;10 - 00;13;41;17

Nathan:

Honestly, like, I don't know a single person. Actually I lied. I know like one person, who, at my age had a similar level. Not to brag..

Maile:

Yeah. No, because I feel like I've never seen like any young people doing lighting technician, like stuff like you do, because when I did theater, it was always like an old person doing it.

00;13;41;17 - 00;14;07;17

Maile:

And I was like, yeah, it was always the same person. But it's never like anything you.

Nathan:

Yeah, that's what's like fun about it, because people are always surprised to see you, you know. So young.

Maile:

Yeah, that's a good point. It's like an ego boost.

Nathan:

It really is like. Tomorrow, actually, I'm going in to MVCPA to do a show for them.

00;14;07;17 - 00;14;28;08

Nathan:

Lighting.

Maile:

Oh yeah.

Nathan:

So it's fun. It's chill. Lighting is, I think it's just the barrier to entry is pretty high. Like you have to be pretty dedicated to get into it. Yeah. Because like, you know, you've seen you've seen lightboards, right? They're complicated.

Maile:

How did you practice that?

Nathan:

Oh, how did I, Oh, I can go on about this.

00;14;28;08 - 00;14;50;16

Nathan:

Okay. Lightboards. They're the, if you don't know, they control the lights right. So there's these little things. The first light board I ever used was an ETC smartfade. I still have it.

Maile:

You still have... Oh so you bought it.

Nathan:

No, it's at BCS. We replaced the board and I still keep it in the back, but I used that.

00;14;50;16 - 00;15;14;05

Nathan:

I was like, that's fun. And on that one it was a really old board. Like, basically you can just only turn lights on or off and then you program it. Then I got a Chauvet Obey 40. Which is pretty similar. But it was a newer version but it wasn't as powerful. But like, I started at the very basic stuff.

00;15;14;12 - 00;15;43;26

Nathan:

Just like how to like turn the light on and off and how to connect a light to a board and make sure they communicate. And then over time I started learning a program called Onyx. Which is not on this computer but on the other one. But it's like some mid high end software. It's what we use at BCS. It's what my personal board runs.

00;15;45;17 - 00;16;19;07

Nathan:

They use it for mid level concerts, so small tours or small concerts and tours. Small venues use it. It's basically like just programming, right? Like, once you understand the command, it's a command line. So you're like, do, this, this, this, like, make this light do this. That's what you're telling it. I think people just get overwhelmed because there's so much stuff, especially on the screen.

00;16;19;07 - 00;16;45;20

Nathan:

There's like all these different buttons. But at the end of the day like 90% of the work you do comes from a number pad. You're just typing in numbers at. like number, command number. That's what I'm mostly doing. And so after I like I learned it off YouTube, pretty much like I watched this three hour tutorial. I watched the whole thing.

00;16;45;20 - 00;17;11;16

Nathan:

It was right as we're getting out of Covid, I was like, I want to really like, dive into this lighting stuff. So I was like, I'm going to step up my game. I'm going to get a proper board, you know. Okay.

00;17;11;19 - 00;17;39;16

Maile:

Is this, like at your house?

Nathan:

It's at my house. Yeah. Oh, wait. It's more expensive now, but this is what I used. It basically plugs into your computer with USB. So all of it is. It's just an interface. It's like a glorified keyboard.

Maile:

Oh but just for like lighting.

Nathan:

Yeah. It's a lighting specific keyboard. And so I got that and I started learning on that, and I just sat down and watched a three hour tutorial and followed along.

00;17;40;07 - 00;18;02;03

Nathan:

And that really laid the groundwork for everything else. After I learned that and I started understanding command line, the command line structure. I got into the more advanced stuff. So I watched another three hour tutorial on the more advanced stuff. And so I learned how to like, you know, do effects and just slowly building on it.

00;18;02;06 - 00;18;23;00

Nathan:

And the way I would like to do it is I'd watch like ten minutes of it or like a section. And then I pause it, and I had my board set up with just a few lights and I would just, like, play around with it. That's pretty much it. I just spent hours playing around with it and seeing what I could do. I would program lights to things I like.

00;18;23;10 - 00;18;49;05

NathanL

Just because I could. Just, just or even though I wasn't working on shows, I was still. Do it. Just do it to practice. Like it's like, you know learning any new skill or playing an instrument, whatever you have to practice. And so it's the same for lighting. Like you can't just, you know, do it and be like, wow, it's magic isn't it?

00;18;49;07 - 00;19;16;04

Nathan:

It's perfect. The first time, like my first designs were ugly. Like I looked back and I was like, oh my God, what was I thinking? But you know, 21 shows in.

Maile:

Is that what you're at now?

Nathan:

21 in high school. Oh, around 18 in middle school. So but yeah, you know, I don't know where we're going with this.

00;19;16;05 - 00;19;55;19

Nathan:

Oh, I'll keep talking about how I learned to program. Yeah. I'm like, so after learning all of that I started learning eos, which is a higher. And it's like the different tiers. There's this, then there's eos, which is the industry standard for Broadway shows. Run it. MVCPA runs it. We don't run it because it's too expensive, but, we use like I started learning on an ETC Ion.

00;19;55;20 - 00;20;25;19

Nathan

Which is like, you know, this is what I started learning on was a board like this. But what's really great about eos is they offer a completely free, computer version. So I literally just downloaded the app, right? And I just started learning to program on the computer, just like using my mouse to click different commands and just learning it.

00;20;25;22 - 00;20;54;07

Nathan:

I was like, modest at it, like I was very beginner into it. I was much more comfortable on Onyx, but I wanted to learn this. What really helped with learning eos was actually over the summer. That's when I finally when I was at UCLA, I just spent two weeks programming. And you know, if you spend two weeks doing the same thing, you get pretty good at it.

00;20;54;08 - 00;21;23;28

Nathan:

So I got to use it a lot more. I learned all the intricacies of programming like all the different commands, whatever. And then. Yeah. And now because of that I regularly program at MVCPA like they'll hire me to come in and just program for them because I know how to do it. And others don't.

Maile:

So what is MVCPA?

Nathan:

It's Mountain View Center for Performing Arts?

00;21;23;29 - 00;21;54;13

Nathan:

Oh, okay. So yeah, we have two main theaters there. We have Mainstage and Second Stage, which is and they both have these boards on them. So yeah. I don't know.

Maile:

Would you say that like lighting is your passion then like what you get for the rest of your life?

Nathan:

Lighting is my passion. It's like it's been what I've been interviewing for, for colleges.

00;21;54;13 - 00;22;24;09

Nathan:

It's what, like, I've gone through tons of hobbies in my life. I'll find, like, a new hobby every three months, but lighting is consistently the one thing that I've always been doing. Like, I started doing lighting in fifth grade, and I haven't stopped, except for Covid, which doesn't count. Fifth grade till now.

00;22;24;12 - 00;22;42;07

Nathan:

I've consistently been doing, like, at least honestly, 5 or 6 shows a year. So..

Maile:

Do you feel like most people end up finding their passion? Because I feel like you're like, one of the only people that I know that found something that you're like, yeah, I'm set on doing that forever.

00;22;42;09 - 00;23;00;12

Nathan:

I don't think most people find their passion, at least not at this age. Like from what I've learned, I'm one of the very few who knows exactly what they want to be doing, like a lot of other people are very uncertain. And I think it's just because. It's hard to like.

00;23;00;15 - 00;23;23;19

Nathan:

This is so specific. I know I can do it for the rest of my life, but like other jobs, you can't. It's hard to, like, know the full experience until you get into it. This one, I've already experienced it. And I know, like I want to do it. I don't know, like it's fun. I like it. That's it.

00;23;23;21 - 00;23;39;23

Maile:

Yeah. That's my biggest issue with like when people ask you what major do you want to do? Because I'm literally like, how am I supposed to know the experience of what it's supposed to be if I haven't even done it yet? Because high school is so different from college, and it's so different from the rest of the world, you know, that you just really don't know until later on.

00;23;39;25 - 00;24;06;02

Nathan:

You know, that's like, I'm really thankful for a lot of the opportunities I've had because it's really allowed me to explore everything that I can. And that's why I'm so confident that I want to do this. It's because I've tried everything else, and this is the only one that I actually like.

Maile:

Yeah. So you wait, so, like, how would you define passion for yourself then?

00;24;06;05 - 00;24;11;05

Nathan:

Passion.

00;24;11;08 - 00;24;24;14

Nathan:

Just something that I'll never get bored of in a way. Like.

00;24;24;17 - 00;24;49;16

Nathan:

I can program for hours on end. I can run shows and that's like the, like I was saying earlier, like, theater never gets boring. It's always something different. And that's why I don't like why I'm so passionate about it. It's because every show is so different. And I'm always learning something on shows. It's always something new.

00;24;49;18 - 00;25;16;02

Nathan:

I feel like I'm rambling at this point. But passion to me is just like, I love it and like, it's something I just want to keep doing. Like, I know I'd probably die if I couldn't keep doing it. It's just something I love, you know?

Maile:

Yeah. Wait, so you think, like you wouldn't see yourself anywhere else in life?

00;25;16;02 - 00;25;39;21

Maile:

Like this is the only thing you could have possibly been doing?

Nathan:

I can definitely see myself in other places. But this is the path I want to go. Like, lighting design is actually a very broad field. Like people think it's super specific, like. Oh like this can be really show.hard to get a job. It isn't not. Like some things I want to do is, of course, designing a Broadway

00;25;39;24 - 00;25;58;09

Nathan:

Yeah. Program, a Broadway show. There's separate jobs. There's lighting designer, assistant, lighting designer, associate lighting designer, lighting programmer. Moving like programmer, light electrician. They're all jobs that come from lighting design, right? But.

00;25;58;11 - 00;26;23;12

Nathan:

They're also different. Like, of course, a programmer is only using the board. The designer doesn't touch a board. They just say what they want the light to look like. It's like all these different aspects and other than Broadway there, like, you know, touring concerts, I want to design a big tour. For me, I also want to do,

00;26;23;15 - 00;26;55;22

Nathan:

Disneyland. Like entertainment. Themed entertainment is a really big one. Disneyland pays really well. So I do want to, like, design something for Disneyland. Like, all of their big, you know, like firework shows or whatever. All of those.

Maile:

Oh, that's all under, lighting? Oh, yeah.

Nathan:

Oh, like, even like their rides. That's lighting design. Architectural corporate like buildings.

00;26;55;25 - 00;27;09;10

Nathan:

Oh, yeah. Like, when they're designing, you know, the big fancy buildings and they want the lights to look cool. You hire a lighting designer.

00;27;09;12 - 00;27;36;22

Nathan:

But I also all of that I would also like to eventually either open my own theater or become a teacher. Like, I feel like this is something I'm good at and I enjoy. And I would like to teach to other people because like I was inspired by it, you know, I had like to inspire others or I'd open my own theater.

00;27;36;24 - 00;28;11;24

Nathan:

I think that'd be pretty sick.

Maile:

Yeah. So just wait. So which of your teachers, then? Or would you say that, like, inspired you for this?

Nathan:

Jocelyn Picket.

Maile:

So back at Bullis?

Nathan:

Yeah. She's in Texas now, but, But she inspired me. But mainly she just encouraged me. Like, I'd have all these ideas and normally like when you're a kid, adults are like.

00;28;11;24 - 00;28;40;07

Nathan:

Oh, yeah. They like, brush it off kind of. But she like, whenever I had an idea for a show, she'd be like, do it. Like, just go for it. And so that's how I really fell in love with it was just having the freedom to do whatever I wanted to do. She just encouraged that and like even now, like when we started working together because like, you know the student first and then she hired me.

00;28;41;10 - 00;29;11;14

Nathan:

But like, she just gave me pretty much full creative control over shows and that's what was really fun. And not a lot of people, get the chance to do.

Maile:

Yeah. Let me see any other questions I need to ask you. Let me think. So how do you think passion and work are related then?

Nathan:

I think for me, I can't work if I'm not passionate about it.

00;29;11;17 - 00;29;37;26

Nathan:

Yeah. Like school. I slack so much here. Like you know. I don't care. Like, at least for me, if I don't like it or enjoy it, or I see some purpose from it, I'm not going to do it. And I don't care about it because, like, to me, it doesn't have a purpose. But like, I love lighting design.

00;29;37;29 - 00;30;10;21

Nathan:

And so even though it's my job, I still love it. And that's what I think. That's why I want to pursue it so badly. I think it's because even though it will be my job, I'll still love it. Compared to, you know, I don't want to become some, like, middle aged bum who hates their job. Like I see myself, you know, 20, 30 years still doing this because I love it like, like even though it doesn't pay as well.

00;30;10;23 - 00;30;35;19

Nathan:

As you know software engineering, doctor, it's so much more fun. And that's why. I want to do it, you know, because also I don't have to have a passion when I'm doing it as my job.

Maile:

Like, right, right right, right. Because it's not really a job if it's what you want to be doing.

00;30;35;20 - 00;31;05;17

Nathan:

Yeah. It doesn't seem like work. It's just, you know, another day. I'm doing what I love.

Maile:

Yeah. Wait, so both your parents. Do you think that they do something that they're passionate about for their job?

Nathan:

Yes. Yeah. Actually, no. No. My mom. I think both my parents are software engineers. Oh, yeah. My mom started at Google, and she loved it.

00;31;06;05 - 00;31;35;01

Nathan:

Like, you know what, 20, 25 years ago. Ancient time. But she quickly started to become a manager. And she didn't like that. And my dad saw that happen. Yeah. And so he is still a software engineer even though like he's been offered to become a manager, he just likes coding.

00;31;35;02 - 00;31;58;07

Nathan:

Like, he doesn't want to manage even though it's his job. He just wants to code all day and that's what keeps him working. And so yeah he's still a software engineer. He doesn't want to become a manager like my mom. That's why she retired. So yeah. But I think both my parents are passionate about their field.

00;31;58;09 - 00;32;22;03

Maile:

Yeah. I know I don't like coding. I don't either. No. Because, like, I was thinking about it the other day and I was like, man, my mom really hates her job and I'd hate for that to be me.

Nathan:

Yeah, I that's what I was. It's just a job I can love. And that's because also the field so diverse like I can switch it up if I get sick of designing Broadway.

00;32;22;05 - 00;32;49;25

Nathan:

Well I guess I could be maybe, I don't know. The hours are crazy. Yeah. But it's only for like a amount of time and then it's like for a few months. You know every day. But I can just go do something else. And designing is what keeps it fun.

00;33;02;24 - 00;33;21;27

Maile:

Because like I asked you earlier like because what was I talking earlier. Oh right. Like how you found your passion, your job and how you're, like, lucky to have found your passion or you able to have it as your job. How would you say like you need to be for other people to also find their passions and find it in to what they work?

00;33;21;29 - 00;33;49;23

Nathan:

I think for people, for other people to find their passions, it's just being open. Like I think a lot of people around this area especially, are like, I'm gonna become a software engineer, doctor or whatever because my parents want me to. And I fucking hate that mindset. Like. It's so stupid. Be who you want to be and be open to it.

00;33;49;24 - 00;34;10;11

Nathan:

And I think it's also the parents. For me, my parents are very encouraging. I mean they're like do whatever you want. No, just know you're not going to get paid but yeah, if you love it, you know you can do it. And they realize they can't really stop me. Like my mom has tried multiple times to try to convince me to not go into lighting design.

00;34;12;03 - 00;34;37;15

Nathan:

She's always failed obviously, but. Yeah I think people here just need to be more open to ideas and like I know some people love what they're doing. Like they love it big field but they're not sure which area. And they just want to try different areas. But there are also some people who just have no idea what they want to do.

00;34;37;17 - 00;35;02;28

Nathan:

And so I think they just need to kind of open up a bit, you know, like don't try new things like it's something interest you go do it. Don't be like, oh, I have to study. I can't, I don't have time to learn from it. I don't have time to just do it. Like yeah school is important but.

00;35;03;00 - 00;35;33;15

Nathan:

At least for me like kind of happiness and like my, my I, my happiness is more important than getting some fucking college degree. Yeah. Like, I'd rather do what I want.

Maile:

Did you have any closing thoughts?

Nathan:

I don't know.

00;35;33;18 - 00;36;07;00

Nathan:

I'm kind of zoning out to the end to, like, lock in.

Maile:

No, it's probably fine.

Nathan:

Closing thoughts? Just be who you are. Love is love. Oh, yeah. I'm. I don't know, just. Lighting design is really fun. And you should try it. I feel like there's probably some, Let me think of like something, something.