

This summer I was lucky enough to intern at the Brattle Theater in Cambridge. I was a bit nervous going into the internship, as I had never worked in the film world, nor did I really have any marketing experience. My mentor, Ivy Moylan, welcomed me enthusiastically and showed me the ropes of administrative work with patience and understanding. I learned quickly and truly enjoyed the work.

We worked at both the actual theater as well as at The Brattle's office building in Central Square. Much of our work at the theater was archiving work, which was really interesting. This work gave me a chance to see how the theater and the film industry in general developed over time as well as how they were impacted by the pandemic and how they are now bouncing back. I was given a crash course on the different types of film and projection and a chance to see the "behind-the-scenes" of movie theater work.

Most of our work, however, had to do with advertising. We went through a list of all of the movies that the theater had programmed over the last five years and marked them with categories so that we could recommend similar movies to those who had attended. This was difficult for me at first, as I am a very analytical person. I like clearly-defined definitions; I like to be able to look at a definition of a genre and determine if a movie is or isn't that. I had to learn to think differently for this project, however. Some genres defied definition or were heavily arbitrary. It was hard, for example, to come up with one single definition for "must-see." Instead, these films had to be approached on a case-by-case basis. Similarly, just because a movie fits into a genre doesn't mean it should be marked as such. A "horror comedy" was much more likely to appeal to horror viewers, and someone who had gone to see *Four Weddings and a Funeral* would likely be confused as to why *The Cabin in the Woods* was recommended to them, even if they're technically both "comedies."

This project forced me to think outside of clear definitions and instead consider psychology. I really appreciate this opportunity because I have begun to learn a new skill set that will be very useful to me in the future. I say "begun to learn" because I definitely still made some mistakes, and every once in a while I would just take IMDb's categorization of a movie without truly thinking it through myself. Through all of it, I really appreciated Ivy's patience and her willingness to help talk me through any confusion that I might have. She was always willing to answer any questions that I had and maintained that there were "no stupid questions." In fact, although I spent most of my time working with Ivy, everyone that I met was always very kind, welcoming, and willing to teach me anything I might wish to know. I really felt like I was given a chance to learn and grow while also doing work that was legitimately helping the organization.

Finishing the project felt like such an accomplishment. I felt accomplished knowing that it wasn't busywork but rather work that was going to have a clear usage in the future running of the theater, even once I was gone. Knowing that your work is important, helpful, and is going to

contribute to the enjoyment of other people, even just a little bit, is extremely fulfilling. I really appreciated that Ivy trusted me enough to let me work on important projects, as well as daily administrative tasks that were important to the running of the theater, and only ever gave me constructive feedback and helpful advice.

I learned a lot through this internship, and Ivy made a point of teaching me administrative skills that would be useful to me in the future. I now know how to run an advertising report, how to navigate a ticketing platform, and, more abstractly, how to think in a way that is advantageous to running a business.

On a more personal level, I also got the chance to work toward something that I am passionate about. I have always loved the movies. I love getting to escape the world for a few hours and pretend that I am someone else, somewhere else. To be a part of bringing that joy to someone else was so important to me. I woke up every day excited to be a part of it, and Ivy and everyone else did nothing but support me and help me find ways to actually make a difference. I am so grateful to everyone at BUCH and at Brattle for giving me that opportunity. To know that I got a chance to actually work toward a passion of mine and bring joy to other people, and to know how to succeed professionally in that and similar work in the future is invaluable, and this summer is an experience that I will never forget.