

# ANDREW ABBEY

*One of eighteenthentwentsix's newest recruits takes five from his first tour - none other than Harry Styles - to regale TPI with stories about his inaugural adventure on the road...*



## How did you first get involved with eighteenthentwentsix?

I saw an ad posted online for a receptionist role and I was eager to get into the business any way I could - so I applied immediately. I interviewed for the position, but when I came back for a second interview, they had a receptionist ready to greet me at the door. Seeing as this was the position I was supposed to be interviewing for, I was very confused. I shortly discovered, after speaking with our CEO Joe Sanchez, that they were interested in bringing me on as an assistant to our Head Agent where I could also moonlight as a Production Assistant for local events. A few months later, I switched full time to a production role and I've been with them ever since.

## You're in the midst of your very first tour with Harry Styles. What are your day-to-day duties within his production?

This tour has been unique for me, as I have been able to help out in multiple departments. While I have mostly been helping our Stage Manager, I've also been able to continue learning from our amazing production team. Normally, the average day consists of a typical load-in and setting up the stage, where I've been in charge of all of our soft goods and stage risers. Once these things are taken care of, I try to help out wherever I can to learn as much as possible, seeing first hand how all of the pieces fit together. From there, I'll usually stop by our production office to see if there's anything I can help out with. By show time, I'm side stage and waiting for my cues to help ensure we have a very successful show.

## What have been some of the biggest challenges?

It's definitely an adjustment period, as I get into the flow of things. That being said, I love the crew out here. I have been with them since the spring and we're now like one big family at this point. Being able to tour with an act like Harry when the fans are as intense as they are is certainly an experience. It's great to bring them a good show, and the atmosphere they create certainly makes it fun; I'm not sure if I've ever heard anything louder than their screams!

## What are the main skills you've learnt already from this tour?

This tour has been an immense learning experience. I've been fortunate enough to travel with a crew who are always willing to answer my questions and help me out where they can. They've shown me how to think outside the box and find creative solutions to problems that would otherwise be massive obstacles. The skills that I've acquired are absolutely stage-based. I've admittedly never spent much time on stage, so my learning curve during this tour has been exponential. I hope to eventually grow into the role of a Production or Tour Manager, so my time on and around the stage has become invaluable in building my knowledge base to eventually reach that goal.

## What advice would you give to others hoping to get into the live events industry?

The main thing I would say is that you need to approach every job you can. There should be nothing too small to take on, and you can find the silver lining in anything. No matter the project, there is always something new to learn...

TPI

<http://eighteenthentwentsix.com>

<http://hstyles.co.uk>

[www.productionfutures.co.uk](http://www.productionfutures.co.uk)