

Sam Landess

## Q & A Story

Most people don't really know what goes on behind the scenes of Waco Hall. There are around 25 Waco Hall Crew members that work hard every day to make sure Waco Hall is up and running. They work tirelessly backstage doing audio and light during large events like Sing and Chapel. One of those members is Chambers Swiggart and I got a chance to sit down with him and discuss with him what it's really like backstage.

**Q) Sam Landess: What is the atmosphere like at Waco Hall?**

**A) Chambers Swiggart:** Everyone is humble. We realize that no one really knows what goes on backstage at Waco Hall. No one knows what we do to put on an event, but we are OK with that. We get no credit but we continue to do our job. What's cool is we do everything for each other. That's what gets us through the day or an event, is working hard for each other.

**Q) So what exactly do you do as a Waco Hall Crew member?**

**A)** I work special events backstage doing audio and light. Our main event is Sing and we also work Chapel doing various things. Besides light and sound we build sets for events that may need it.

**Q) What does a day look like when you are not working an event or Chapel?**

**A)** Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 we have an optional time we call crew hours. We sign up for as long as we want, and when we want to work various tasks that need to be done. One thing that stays consistent is we are always getting trained. We are trained mostly with the light and sound aspects of Waco Hall. We clean a lot, organize future events and build sets if we need to as well as other little things.

**Q) What is your favorite part about working at Waco Hall?**

**A)** Like I said before, we build sets occasionally and I love doing that. I like that I get to use my hands and power tools to create something. I would rather build something than do anything else we are asked to do. I also enjoy working the light and sound boards.

**Q) And the worst?**

**A)** I would have to say just the tedious things we do everyday like mopping the stage and cleaning up around the seats. We have this thing called "seat checks" where we literally go to every seat to see if we can find any gum, trash or anything like that.

**Q) What do you like about your co-workers?**

A) I like that everyone is very different. We all come from different backgrounds and it brings a very unique quality to work. There are people that are in sororities, fraternities, business fellows and anything else you can think of. The variety of everyone makes work a lot more fun. Since everyone is so different and unique it makes getting to know him or her a lot more fun.

**Q) What about your bosses?**

A) We have four bosses that are in charge of about 25 Crew members. Three of the four of them went to Baylor, which helps run things more smoothly. Having that Baylor background helps how they work and lead. They understand what Baylor has to offer and what is best for the university. They are all geniuses in their fields. They are all professionals in audio and light. One reason I respect them is they work extremely hard for what they do and get paid not nearly enough.

**Q) What attracted you to this job?**

A) I had no idea what I was getting into when I applied. I thought it was going to be an easy job where I just showed up to help around a little bit. Basically I thought it would be a job where I could get my homework done, but I was wrong. This job ended up being very hands on and time consuming. When I first started, it was very frustrating and annoying, but in the long run the job was awesome and I learned a ton from it.

**Q) What exactly have you learned?**

A) The main thing I have learned is how to work with different people. I was exposed to a variety of people and learning to work with them has been a lot of fun. With different kinds of people there comes hard people to work with. I learned to push through the hard times and work with those hardheaded people.

**Q) How have you grown?**

A) I've grown in my knowledge of sound and light. I knew next to nothing about each and have grown to know and love these aspects of work. Having to work sound and light boards has been so interesting. I had to know how to use these boards very quickly and grew tremendously from it.

**Q) Do you see yourself doing something like this in the future?**

A) No, not necessarily, but I love music and live sound, so having a better understanding of how everything works has made me appreciate music more.