

# Where Are They Now?

St Elizabeth Catholic High School Regional Arts Program

Dramatic Arts



## Alex Mancini

**Art discipline?** Rap Drama

**Year of Graduation?** 2007

**Education** York University - Bachelor of Fine Arts

**What is your current job and what does that entail?**

I am currently working as Head of Wardrobe with Cirque Soleil on a touring show named, Bazaar. My job has many different aspects to it as I manage the entire department including costumes, hairs, shoes, make-up. It is a lot about people skills as I work very intimately with the artists and am a trance between artistic and technical teams. We build and take down our workshop and backstage area in every city we visit, both create and maintain the costumes on the show, teach the artists how to do their make-up, dress the show, and have backstage track, wash and maintain the costumes, communicate with our team in Montreal.

**Please comment on any skills you feel you have developed in the RAP?** I learned how to work with others which helps to put aside your ego and work situations and keep the work environment pleasant. I learned to have a tough skin, you need to be able to handle rejection and still want to fight to achieve your dreams, to move on past unpleasant encounters with coworkers and continue to work toward a common goals. I learned how to fix outside the box when you encounter problems in a creative field,

**What is your most fond memory of RAP**

The closeness of our group, the challenges we overcame, the many performances we did, I would have to say what stands out most is the recreational shows - meaning the projects we worked on outside of class. Guys and Dolls and even Tony and Tina's wedding. What I've noticed in life is that - it is always the extra work that brings the most joy in the end. The things that you don't have to do but you do because you are working towards something bigger. The volunteer work, or projects that pay you next to nothing.

**What piece of advice would you have for current students?**

This industry you need to fight for what you want, and make yourself stand out. I only got my first chance with Cirque Du Soleil by showing up and volunteering my time for a day on a show when they needed it. It was only after they saw my work during that first day that they asked me to come back the next day on contract. There are no handouts and no one will take a chance on the unknown- so put yourself out there, make yourself known, and keep fighting for your dream. Don't be discouraged. Also know that most jobs in the arts are team based even if it doesn't seem that way- so be kind to your peers- help when you can and don't be afraid to ask for help either. Together you can achieve amazing things.

**Why did you choose to attend St. Elizabeth?**

At the time- Westmount had a drama class you could take in Grade 9 and St. Elizabeth's only began in Grade 10, until the school introduced the RAP program. It made it clear for me. A focused program on what I knew I loved gave me such a drive to go to school.