Chicken Soup for the Stage Manager’s Soul
(or, 1 thing I learned from each SM I’ve worked with)

- Rosie Moon – *The Servant of Two Masters* – Spring 03
  - The SM is always on the side of the actors.
    - *Sometimes you have to stand up to the director to protect them.*

- John Henningsen – *Funny Money* – Summer 03
  - The SM is the actors’ Dad. Sometimes, he needs to be an asshole.
    - *Just like good parenting: be firm when needed and don’t back down.*

- Matt Dean – *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* – Summer 03
  - The SM always knows the answer to every question. Even when he doesn’t.
    - *If you really don’t know, your answer is “I will find out.”*

- Mary Gaetz – *The Music Man* – Fall 03
  - The mood of the company is the mood of the SM times 10.
    - *If you’re calm, they’ll be calm. If you’re nervous…*

- Michael Swickard – *A Fool and His Fortune* – Fall 03
  - The actors need to believe the SM has their best interests at heart.
    - …and you should.

- Tiffany Garrison-Schweigert – *The Shape of Things* – Spring 04
  - Front of house is the one place the SM isn’t directly in charge of.
    - *Trust your House Manger. Leave her alone. But co-ordinate.*

- Paul Arnold – *The Heiress* – Spring 04
  - The SM has to be more organized than anyone else.
    - *Be a pack rat. Keep everything in your binder, write everything down.*
Nate Brauner – *Our Town* – Summer 04
- The SM must manage the actors’ time, because they can’t.
  - *They’re waiting for direction. Just tell them where to go and when.*

Robin Murphy – *The Odd Couple* – Summer 04
- The SM has no power if the company doesn’t respect him.
  - *Don’t let the power go to your head. You are still just part of a whole.*

Nate Brauner – *To Gillian on her 37th Birthday* – Summer 04
- No matter how much you prepare, things will still be out of your control.
  - *But preparation makes things infinitely better than winging it.*

Amy Wilson – *The Fantasticks* – Summer 04
- Be flexible. Change your method to fit each show and circumstance.
  - *Be aware of your surroundings. (are you calling cues effectively? e.g.)*

Nate Brauner – *Footloose* – Fall 04
- If the SM has done his job right, no one will know he’s done anything at all.
  - *But don’t get lazy after multiple shows. You still have a lot to do.*

Kelley Davis – *Anton in Show Business* – Fall 04
- Every SM does things differently.
  - *Take all the things you liked from SM’s and don’t do the bad stuff they did.*

Nate Brauner – *The Importance of Being Earnest* – Spring 05
- A well-trained ASM is an invaluable asset to the SM.
  - *It’s like having 4 hands and 4 eyes. Plus they can catch your mistakes.*