



1. Cotton poses at her desk in the Marc Jacobs in the offices in New York, New York. 2. Weaver gives a stand-by cue to Matt Barrie on an edition of Sportscenter. 3. Weaver helps UFC fighter Ronda Rousey put on her microphone on before a taping with Scott Van Pelt. 4. Cotton captures the moment when the theater hosting the Marc Jacobs September show lights up their marquee.

Small Town to *Big Time*

After finding their passion at PG, alumni find success in careers

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[editor-in-chief]

As the Golden
Globes pre-show
begins, Caroline

Cotten sits down to watch. Like the other 20 million people watching at home, she places bets with her friends on who will win.

But as actress Maggie Gyllenhal walks down the red carpet, Caroline realizes that she has done something that the other 20 million viewers have not.

“That’s us! Those are my flowers,” Cotten said as she watched Gyllenhal talk to reporters.

As the Atelier Coordinator at the offices of the designer Marc Jacobs in New York, Cotten worked specifically on the flowers decorating the shoulder of the gown. She pieced them together from the leftover fabric and recreated the flower shapes in organza.

But even after creating the flowers, Cotten wasn’t sure if they would even make it on the dress. It was up to the designers to decide if and how they wanted to use the flowers.

“I saw the completed dress for the first time during the Red Carpet show of the Golden Globes,” Cotten said. “I’m still always so starstruck when I see a celebrity wearing what we’ve made.”

Cotten manages 25 people in her role at Marc Jacobs. She works closely with several different teams and personalities, and must meet different deadlines, skills she says she learned as a student at Pleasant Grove.

“I’m in a creative field so learning about sketching, color palettes, researching, inspiration, and refinement from Mrs. Brisco in her art classes has been invaluable,” Cotten said. “I was also

exposed to a lot of that in yearbook with Mrs. Harris. She never told me that I couldn’t do something. Instead, she would challenge me to prove her wrong. I think that has been instrumental in my success so far.”

But Cotten isn’t the only alumni whose experience in journalism has helped them reach a career goal.

For as long as Jonathon Weaver can remember, he has had a passion for sports and live television production, which in high school led him to join PGTV.

And now he’s using those skills as Stage Manager in the Studio Directing department for ESPN.

“I signed up for PGTV as soon as I could. From sophomore year until graduation, I spent as much time as possible in that classroom and studio,” he said. “Journalism gave me the playground to create and feed my passion for television production.”

After spending a year as an intern with the network, Weaver was offered the same job on a permanent basis. Each night he directs the “talent” to the correct spot, gives camera cues and yells out time back from commercials and sounds on tape. This is his dream job.

“It was an amazing feeling when I was offered and accepted the job at ESPN,” Weaver said. “It had been a dream career goal to work at ESPN, and I was lucky enough to have that dream with my first job out of college.”

For both of these alumni, Pleasant Grove was the first step into their exciting careers. Current students can look to them for hope that somewhere in their future, a dream job that they have yet to discover awaits.