

## ORANGE PEEL

was going to happen, McAdams said. When the band arrived, set up went smoothly and the audience enjoyed a great show.

McAdams bounces between all areas of the venue. One minute he is delivering pizza to other crew members, the next he can be found in the box office sorting out ticket sales.

"What my job entails is getting here before the band does, unlocking the doors, making sure everything is ready to go. Basically making sure the venue is ready for the band to arrive," McAdams said, his voice difficult to hear over the static emitting from the speakers.

Employees walk around the venue wearing matching black T-shirts with the venue logo on front and "Krewe" printed across the back. Most have on black or khaki pants with black shoes. Some employees sport different facial piercings or hair styles.

Crew members interact with each other in a way that appears seamless. Sunset Appleton, an A1 engineer at The Orange Peel, said this effortless atmosphere is important.

"Anyone who doesn't vibe with it doesn't last very long," Appleton said. "I've been working here 3 years and change and I've seen a

couple people come and go. For the most part I think it is pretty agreeable."

The main area of the venue, dimly lit with the main lights directed toward the stage, echoes with laughter from employees. Crew members gather at the well-lit bar as they eat pizza before getting back to work. Some crew members choose to bring their food back to their work stations.

Each wall, painted differently, reflects the venue's main colors, orange and black. The wall next to the merchandise stand is matte black with the venue's name painted in bright orange hues, giving a 3-D effect. Next to the bar area, the wall displays signs promoting upcoming shows at the venue.

Music blasts from the large speakers hanging on either side of the stage for crew members to enjoy while performing whatever task may be at hand.

A man works behind the brightly lit merchandise stand ensuring it gets hung up for guests to see. Price tags are attached to each display item while items for sale are placed behind the stand.

The sound of shoes hitting the light-brown hardwood floors create a sense of urgency as crew members run around adjusting last minute details.

a sophomore accounting student, reaches out to pet him.

"I come here every time. I used to have a dog at home. I love animals, especially dogs," White said. "They really just make me happy. I like being around them."

Claire and Jim Waller, owners of Brodie, are stationed a few feet away to greet the constant ebb and flow of visitors seeking contact.

"We hear them say things like, 'I just had a calculus exam. I need to pet something,'" Waller said.

Brodie, a four-year-old beagle mix who was rescued from Brother Wolf at eight weeks old, sits calmly waiting for the next hand to reach out to him.

"Within a year, we knew Brodie would make a good therapy dog," Claire Waller said. "He doesn't

A crew member scales a tall ladder and begins adjusting individual lights so they shine perfectly onto the stage.

Set changes appear simple to the naked eye. Crew members moving large instruments or pieces of set decorations seem to know exactly where everything goes. What the audience cannot see are little pieces of tape on the stage.

Before a show, crew members outline the matte black stage with neon tape, identifying where each step begins or ends, as well as to mark the stage to aid with set changes.

In front of the sound booth, found on the opposite side of the venue, bar stools line a half wall, providing seating for concert-goers. On the other side of the half wall are hundreds of buttons and dials which emit rainbow colored light from underneath.

What a guest hears in the audience may not be what the band actually sounds like. Tech engineers work all through the show mixing what the audience hears during the performance, adjusting the volume of each individual instrument. Drums may be amped up during a particular portion of a song while the guitar may dominate another.

A sense of urgency begins to fill

bark. He stays right with you."

Therapy dogs need good manners around both people and other dogs, said Thurner.

"They can't be reactive with other dogs," Thurner said. "They have to be able to tolerate a lot of noises, distractions and have a real solid foundation and temperament."

All therapy dogs must first pass obedience class and then take training with a certified organization, such as PAWS for People or the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

Since his graduation, Brodie went on to achieve a sort of superstar status in his job, visiting hospices about 16 times per month in addition to the child development center at Mission Hospital.

"He has different empathy levels. With the children at the development center, he's really active.

the empty venue as show time approaches. Last minute adjusting needs to happen and the stage lights are not quite right. Each and every employee works to help prepare the venue for the upcoming show.

Making a show happen requires a large team of individuals who can quickly adapt to whatever the particular tour requires. When everything is ready, security lines up at the doors preparing for the crowd to rush in.

When guests enter the venue, they must provide a form of identification and go through security.

"Security at the door are always very friendly and welcoming," said Elizabeth Berkley, a management student at UNC Asheville.

Guests pile in the venue racing to get against the barricade. Most of the venue has standing room only. Right until the show starts, music plays through the speakers, reflecting the genre of music the band will be playing.

"The crowd always feels very happy, even when waiting for the concerts to begin. The music played while waiting creates great vibes," Berkley said. "The atmosphere is fun with bright lights on the stage and smoke machines."

He can sense the kids aren't sick and can play," Claire Waller said. "But at the hospice, he can sense when he is with someone close to death and he'll snuggle up real close."

At under 50 pounds, Brodie is allowed up on hospital beds and shows an awareness of what a patient needs, Jim Waller said.

Nurses reported that patients tested their blood pressure at home with results as high as 180, but after petting Brodie, it can come down to 140.

"There really is a therapeutic element to it. We come through the door and everyone rushes to see Brodie. It's like a wheel chair derby," Claire Waller said.

The Wallers said they also see children with autism really come alive with Brodie.

## THERAPY DOGS

Every month the Health and Counseling Center of UNC Asheville sponsors therapy sessions, but they are not with your ordinary therapists. The positive atmosphere and friendship dog therapy offers can reduce anxiety, reports the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

"Oh, I need this. Oh, I'm in the middle of exams and I miss the dogs. Oh, give me a kiss," Noel Thurner said, repeating the comments she hears as owner and handler of therapy dogs Sapphire and Parker. "A lot of people come in feeling stressed and they need that distraction."

Sapphire, a three-year-old dog, has been doing pet therapy for two years and is completely at home in the library lobby. Bryanna White,