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Parkway Central grad performs behind lights

By [Mary Shapiro](#)

When Disney on Ice's Princess Wishes performances take to the ice at the Scottrade Center March 14 through 18, a Parkway Central High alumnus will be making sure the lights are bright.

Ben Bain, 29, who grew up in Chesterfield and is a 1996 graduate of Parkway Central, is now on the road with Princess Wishes 50 weeks a year, traveling all over the world.

His parents, Lenny and Shelley, still live in Chesterfield, and his older sister, Wendy, a 1992 Parkway Central graduate, lives in Kirkwood and works in public relations.

"My title is assistant electrician for Feld Entertainment, a production company that works with Disney on Ice and Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus touring shows," Bain said. "I still call my parents' house in Chesterfield home. I really don't have my own residence because I'm constantly travelling with shows."

The Princess Wishes show follows seven Disney princesses as they re-create the journeys that led them to the moments when their wishes were fulfilled and their dreams came true.

Bain calls himself "a lighting guy," working all day to set up shows and then handling the lights during each show.

"I run a cues for the show," said Bain, who has been with Feld about five years. "A cue is something that has to happen at certain times, and somebody has to be there to do it. But a majority of my time during the show is repairing broken lighting so everything looks the best it can.

"My days on the road vary. This year, I'll be on the road about the entire year, though some other shows have gone only eight months."

He enjoys travel the most.



Submitted photo/ Ben Bain, a 1996 graduate of Parkway Central High School, works as an electrician with the Disney On Ice/Princess Wishes production coming March 14-18 to the Scottrade Center.

"I've been to South America, which I enjoyed quite a bit, as well as to Korea and Canada and to just about every U.S. state," Bain said. "But it's a lot of work. People think life on the road is glamorous, but it can be hard."

Bain said he started doing theatrical productions at Parkway Central with Betty Pfaff, "who was the theater professor when I was there; I learned a lot from her."

Later, he attended Bradley University to study for a degree in theater.

"I still see some friends from Central," Bain said. "And I really enjoy every aspect of the arts. I'd be very interested in working with film and hope that develops in the future. But it's always great to play in a show when it comes home. And whenever I'm on break, that's where I go: back to Chesterfield."

Tickets to the upcoming shows are available at the Web site [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling (314) 421-4400.

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