I’m Eva Lopez and, for the third time, I’m taking part in an intensive summer theater program. The stage is my favorite place in the whole world. The program at the camp offers young people like me a chance to be part of a full-scale theatrical production, as you will soon see.

You’re probably thinking I’m an actor, right? Although I enjoy acting, I’m really a techie at heart. That means I work behind the scenes on the technical part of a show.

This summer we are producing the play *Romeo and Juliet*, written by William Shakespeare over four hundred years ago. *Romeo and Juliet* takes place in several places around the town of Verona, in northern Italy. They include the town center, a ballroom, and a courtyard with a balcony. Can you guess what that means to the techies? We have to build a stage set that can be changed into all of these different places!

The set is basically all the scenery, buildings, furniture, and everything else that makes a stage look like a real place. The ground plan is a drawing of the stage that shows where everything will go. It includes measurements for every piece of scenery. This is critical to making sure that everything fits on the stage.

Mr. Baker is our lighting designer. He’s the one who figures out what the lighting will look like in every scene of the play. That’s very important, because lighting can change the whole mood of a scene. It can make the scene cloudy or sunny, cheerful or gloomy.

The shop is where techies like me do most of our work. It’s the room where we build all the stuff that goes on the stage. I like to think of it as my own heaven!