

Venue Technician – Lighting Bias

Job Description

About the Unicorn

We create new, inventive and enthralling performances for every stage of childhood. We believe in the imaginative power of theatre to transform young lives.

We are the largest children's theatre in the UK, specialising in developing new devised and written shows alongside adaptations of classic texts, offering an innovative and inspiring year-round programme of sector-leading theatre for children.

Our purpose-built home at London Bridge (opened 2005) is a creative and welcoming space designed with and for young people. Our theatre comprises two theatre spaces (Weston Theatre at around 290 seat capacity, and Clore Theatre at around 90 seat capacity) plus two rehearsal spaces, and backstage set, prop and costume facilities. We produce and present a thrilling and varied programme, exploring stories, ideas and themes that enrich and broaden children's view of the world. We welcome 65,000 families and schools every year, subsidising around 30% of tickets to schools and community groups.

We believe that young people of all ages, perspectives and abilities have the right to experience exciting, entertaining and inspiring work - we want all children to experience our theatre and actively seek out children who wouldn't otherwise attend. We maintain a strong commitment to representing diversity in our audiences, as well as on our stages, and we prioritise accessibility and inclusion across our organisation.

Since the closure of our building we have innovated in new forms of digital theatre, and are proud to have been able to offer high quality, creative and award-winning online theatre experiences for free. Digital theatre is now a part of our future strategy and firmly embedded in our mission.

Our Mission, Vision and Values

- Creating innovative and outstanding theatre for children up to 13 years.
- Supporting artists to make work with ambition, integrity and hope.
- Encouraging children to question and explore the world through stories; developing empathy, understanding and imagination.
- Collaborating with children in schools and communities to inform our practice, and inspiring children to fulfil their potential through creative projects with inventive theatre-makers.
- Extending our reach through online theatre experiences, national and international partnerships and subsidised tickets.
- Recognising that climate action is vital to protecting children's futures, and actively reducing our environmental impact on the planet.
- Believing in equality, diversity and inclusion; we take action to advocate for, and promote the rights of children.

Our values are curiosity, respect and courage.

Structure of the Unicorn

The Unicorn was founded in 1947 by Caryl Jenner, who took theatre around the country to children. Jenner's original aim was that: 'the best of theatre for children should be judged on the same high standards of writing, directing, acting and design as the best of adult theatre', a value which still holds very much true today. The Unicorn has become a vital institution, not only in children's theatre in the UK, but across Europe, and within the ecology of British theatre as a whole.

The Unicorn has recently undergone a period of extensive change, propelled by the current Covid-19 pandemic. Under a newly formed Executive team of Justin Audibert (Artistic Director) and Bailey Lock* (Executive Director) since March 2020, and with the appointment of a new Chair of the Board of Trustees in March 2021, the Unicorn is emerging as a company with a renewed artistic focus and a vision to transform the lives of young people through theatre.

As part of this period of change we have undergone an organisation-wide process to review and refresh our vision and mission. Key areas of focus and change are: growing our community and schools programme and its impact; introducing a co-creational model that ensures our work remains relevant and wide ranging; re-focusing on a younger age range (children aged up to 13) to increase our impact; prioritising our engagement work across Southwark and neighbouring boroughs; broadening and increasing our reach through digital projects; and renewing our commitment, training and policies around anti-racism, equality, diversity and inclusion, and furthering our achievements in sustainability.

*Helen Tovey, previously our Director of Marketing & Communications, is undertaking the role of Executive Director from May 2021 onwards whilst Bailey is on maternity leave.

Venue Technician

Role Summary:

We're looking for a proactive technician with a Lighting Bias, and the ability to work across all disciplines. You will work as part of the Technical Department, servicing the technical requirements of all work presented by the Unicorn Theatre including productions, engagement (schools and community) projects, venue hires and events.

This will include acting as Production Electrician to deliver lighting designs for our shows. You will operate productions to a consistently high standard, maintaining the integrity of the production. You will be responsible for first line maintenance of technical equipment, show-related maintenance and housekeeping anywhere within the Unicorn Theatre and on tour.

Responsible to: Technical Manager

Working closely with: Production & Technical Director, Company Stage Manager, Facilities Manager, Technicians (permanent, casual and freelance). Sharing occasional responsibility for casual and freelance Technicians, work experience placements and other volunteers.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supported by the Technical Manager, to act as Production Electrician, working with the Production Manager, and Lighting Designer to deliver the lighting design within the agreed financial and physical constraints.

- Operate lighting, sound, AV and stage equipment, including flying, as and when required.
- Assist in the maintenance of the Technical Department's equipment.
- Participate in fit-ups and get-outs, working across lighting, sound, AV and stage as required.
- Rig, focus, programme and de-rig sound, AV, stage and lighting equipment.
- Under the management of the Technical Manager and working with the Production and Technical Director, act as stage carpenter, building and maintaining small scenery and props at the Unicorn and occasionally at off-site workshops.
- Assist in the preparation and set up of rehearsal and performance spaces.
- Assist with the supervision, as and when required, of casual technicians.
- Ensure all technical areas and working environments are kept tidy and orderly, ensuring they comply with Unicorn Theatre health and safety requirements.
- Participate, as required, in the weekly building lamp round.
- Attend Departmental and Production Meetings as required.
- Act as Duty Technician as and when required.
- Cover Stage Door breaks as agreed.
- Adhere to all Health & Safety procedures in order to minimise the risk of injury and accidents.
- Attend staff meetings as and when required.
- Undertake any other duties as may reasonably be required.

Person Specification:

Essential

- A minimum of 2 years' experience as a theatre technician
- Experience of Programming ETC Ion family lighting desks
- Experience of professional Lighting, Audio and Video Systems.
- Knowledge and practical experience of relevant Health & Safety regulations, and the implementation and monitoring of safe working practices
- Good understanding of all areas of stage craft including lighting, sound and AV systems and basic stage carpentry skills
- Knowledge of and experience of ETC lighting desks
- A flexible, proactive and solution-based approach to work, with good time management skills
- A commitment to diversity and equality of opportunity
- A commitment to environmental sustainability
- Excellent verbal communication skills

Desirable

- Experience of working in a producing theatre
- Experience of counterweight and hemp flying systems
- First Aid and Fire Warden training
- Knowledge of and experience of programming in QLab
- Experience of working with or creating work for young people

To apply for this post, please fill in the Application Form, which includes an Equal Opportunities monitoring form, and email it to jobs@unicorntheatre.com. Alternatively, you can send us a copy of your CV, including a copy of our Equal Opportunities form, which is available to download from our website.

Salary: £23,000 FTE for a Fixed Term contract finishing 10 July 2022. Any overtime worked will be paid at the hourly rate of £11.06.

Contract: Full-time (40 hours across a 6 day week), Fixed Term contract. We're looking for someone to start as soon as possible, and the finish date will be 10 July 2022. If the preferred candidate is only available to start later, the overall contract will be shortened, and will still finish on 10 July 2022. Overtime payable on hours above 40 during production periods.

3 month probationary period. Annual leave allowance is 30 days, plus 8 statutory Bank Holidays. Unicorn staff are auto-enrolled into the NEST pension scheme. Standard work week is 40 hours worked across a 6 day week. Overtime payable on hours above 40 during production periods.

Closing date for applications: Midday, Monday 4 October 2021

Interviews: Wednesday 6 October 2021

Because of the nature of this role, we would hope to meet in-person at the Unicorn building for interviews. If this is not possible, a Zoom interview can be arranged.

If you need this information in an alternative format, please contact jobs@unicorntheatre.com in the first instance.

We are committed to being an equal opportunities employer and actively encourage people from a wide variety of backgrounds, experience and skills to join us and influence and develop our working practice. We particularly encourage applications from Black candidates, and candidates from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and those who self-identify as disabled.

All candidates who identify as disabled and demonstrate that they meet the essential criteria will be invited for an interview, in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

The Unicorn Theatre is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.



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