

Role Outline: Sound & Video Department Placement

Responsible to: Sound & Video Supervisors

The National Theatre

The National Theatre is central to the creative life of the country. In its three theatres on the South Bank in London it presents an eclectic mix of new plays and classics from the world repertoire, with seven or eight productions in repertory at any one time.

Through an extensive programme of amplifying activities – platform performances, backstage tours, foyer music, publications, exhibitions and outdoor events – it recognises that theatre doesn't begin and end with the rise and fall of the curtain.

The Sound and Video Department

The Sound and Video Department consists of a team of sound and video supervisors, technicians and resources staff. The department oversees and facilitates the sound and video requirement of all of the shows, events and exhibitions at the National Theatre. The sound and video department is not directly responsible for NT Live or broadcast activities at the National Theatre.

The Placement

Sound and video placements generally last between 6-8 weeks to allow candidates to experience the production process and to experience the wide range of tasks associated within production sound and video.

Placements typically involve antisocial working and Saturday hours. Some flexibility here can be accommodated but the nature of the work dictates this.

Placements are welcome to use quieter periods to work on own projects/coursework, upon agreement of supervisor.

Likely Tasks

1. Assist the sound and video supervisors and their team members during pre-production work:
 - Carry out research as required.
 - Assist the team in the design and build of sound and video practical's.
 - Assist the team with the rigging, setup of sound and video equipment.
 - Assisting in the preparation of radio microphones and associated equipment.
2. Act as a technician (under supervision) during fit-ups and onstage Production periods:
 - Assist in the rigging, focusing and system tuning of sound equipment.
 - Assist in the rigging and focusing of projectors and video equipment.
 - Participate in the "running" of radio microphones in the backstage environment.
 - Observe and discuss the system and workflow with the production engineer.
 - Shadow the Sound/Video Designer where appropriate.
3. Work alongside the projects and resources department.

- Assist with and participate in activities within the recording studios.
- Work with supervision on the facilitation of events
- Work within the resources area in the maintenance and preparation of sound and video equipment for deployment throughout the National Theatre complex.

Person Specification

1. Excellent communicator with aspiration for a career in Sound or Video in a Design or Technical capacity.
2. Previous experience in technical theatre, preferably sound or video.
3. Good organiser with ability to manage and prioritise a demanding task list and be comfortable answering to several project leaders at the same time.
4. The ability to demonstrate a high level of initiative, attention to detail and thoroughness.
5. Resilient and with the ability to demonstrate and communicate enthusiasm.
6. Exceptional track record in reliability and punctuality.
7. Demonstrably enthusiastic, energetic and proactive in carrying out all tasks
8. The ability to manage a variety of competing tasks and confident in time management skills.

Ideal Preparatory Qualifications & Experience

1. Some experience of spending time/working backstage in a theatrical environment.
2. Intermediate computer literacy.
3. Basic CAD reading and editing.
4. Comfortable with working at height.

Applications should be made via the question sheet available on <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/about-the-national-theatre/careers/work-placements>
All question sheets should be submitted to workplacements@nationaltheatre.org.uk