

Role Outline: Stage Department Placement

Responsible to:	Stage Supervisors/ Head of Stage
Liases with:	Stage Supervisors, Senior Technicians and Technicians (all disciplines)
Guidance from:	Head of Stage, Stage Supervisors, Senior Technicians, Technicians, HR Projects Coordinator

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 up to 25 new shows a year and productions also play in the West End and on tour. It broadcasts to cinemas worldwide through National Theatre Live, streams plays free to UK schools and produces a wealth of digital content about theatre.

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

The Stage Department

The Stage Department is made up of three teams of theatre technicians or Stage Crew, one situated in each theatre of the NT. Each team has a detailed working knowledge of the performance space they are based in, and facilitates the building of sets, fits up in the theatres, techs the show and manages the operational running of each production. The crews also enable the NT's repertoire to change over approximately once a week – dismantling one set and re-building another in one day. The teams are made up of experienced staff, each specialists in putting on productions in their respective theatres.

The Placement

Work placements in the Stage Department are designed to provide an exciting opportunity for those interested in a career as a Theatre Technician to experience a stimulating, dynamic and challenging theatrical environment.

Placements last between two to four weeks and are generally based around a fit up and tech period in one of the theatres. Working hours can vary, with shorter hours in the early stages of the placement and longer hours around production periods to allow placements to fully experience the ebb and flow of working as a theatre technician.

Likely Tasks

- Observing and shadowing staff working on the installation, operation and maintenance of scenic elements on current NT productions.

- Observing and shadowing the practice of safe and efficient fitting / setting up and running of productions and events in all venues maintaining consistently high production values.
- To observing and where appropriate, participating in fit-up/get outs of productions, movement of sets and properties both pre-production and during performances in conjunction with other departments.
- Learning about good housekeeping by working alongside staff properly maintaining sets and props, assisting with keeping working areas are clean and tidy.
- Assisting with the purchase of consumable props for performances as required and preparation for use by artists.
- Observing and experiencing a demonstration of good health and safety practice in a busy production space, and observing safe practice when loading, setting and unloading scenic and other items.
- Learning about inventory requirements by checking against lists and plans to identify loss or damage of scenic items, and notify as appropriate.
- Observing and where appropriate, participating in preparing simple prop items, and undertaking emergency repairs to scenery, props or associated items, using basic hand tools.

Person Specification

1. Excellent communicator with aspiration for a career in technical theatre.
2. Good organiser with ability to manage and prioritise a demanding task list and be comfortable answering to several project leaders at the same time.
3. The ability to demonstrate a high level of initiative, attention to detail and thoroughness.
4. Resilient and with the ability to demonstrate and communicate enthusiasm.
5. Exceptional track record in reliability and punctuality.
6. Demonstrably enthusiastic, energetic and proactive in carrying out all tasks

Ideal Preparatory Qualifications & Experience

- Some experience of spending time/working backstage in a professional theatre

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