



Costume Apprentice

Case Study

**Name: Sophie
Scott**

Where did you see the apprenticeship advertised?

I first saw about the apprenticeship scheme whilst at the Orset show when I was 13 on a promotions stand.

What made you apply for the apprenticeship?

I have danced since I was very small and always loved the costumes part of doing a show, I was also very interested in sewing and so costume seemed like a perfect route for me to take, then seeing about this apprenticeship I knew I wanted it, so I started doing work in theatres doing dressing and working in the wardrobe which just confirmed that it was the career I wanted.

Describe a 'typical day' as an apprentice at the ROH?

To be honest, there is no typical day, there can be a typical day for a few weeks at a time due to working on chorus costumes being repetitive however when there is a show change over and shows go on stage you are then onto something new again.

How do you find the workplace/college balance?

I have two days at college which I really enjoy, which was quite the surprise to me as I was never a fan of college, the days at college mean I get a break from the work environment and get a chance to talk to other people who are interested in theatre and fashion. I get the chance to improve my skills and ask the questions that I may not be able to ask whilst working due to high stress and it being busy for other employees.

What do you enjoy most about your apprenticeship?

I most enjoy going to see the general rehearsals that's when I get to see the work I have done up on stage for the first time, it makes all the hours and corrections and difficulties worth it and really makes you appreciate what you do.

Is the apprenticeship what you expected?

I wasn't sure what to expect when I came into this, you have to be prepared to be thrown into the deep end quickly as it can be quite overwhelming, the first week especially. I definitely didn't expect to be making a full tutu just a few weeks into the apprenticeship.

What would you like to do after your apprenticeship is completed?

Although I love working in theatre and have done for a few years I also really want to go into film, according to other costume workers its best to do that whilst your young, I'd also like to work on TV shows as that seems like a whole new pace.

What advice would you give to someone considering applying for an apprenticeship at the ROH?

Just go for it! I've lost count of the amount of times I have heard someone say that they would love to go for an apprenticeship at the ROH but have held back because of how competitive it all seems and how hard it looks to get. However, someone has to get it but it won't be you if you don't apply for it. All you really need is the passion for your area and a little experience to show your passion in practice.