



Costume Making Apprenticeship

Job Description

What does a costume maker do?

Theatre costume makers translate designs into garments suitable for performance. This requires not just practical sewing skills but also imagination and ingenuity.

What does a theatre costume department do?

A theatre costume department is responsible for creating and sourcing all the costumes for productions. During a run of performances they are responsible for cleaning, mending and any alterations required. After the final performance, the team catalogues the costumes and packs them ready for transportation to storage.

Purpose of the apprenticeship

The Costume Making Apprenticeship is an opportunity to acquire practical craft skills in costume making, relevant to the performing arts industries.

What is involved?

You will spend time in all three of our costume making workrooms. These are: Revival Workroom, Men's Workroom and Ladies Workroom. You will also spend time at Newham College in East London where you will work towards a level 3 Garment Maker Apprenticeship Standard. During the first year, the successful candidate will spend up to two days a week at college, with the remainder of time spent at the ROH.

- The apprentice will be supported throughout the apprenticeship by a college tutor, costume staff and by the HR Team.
- The working week is 42.5 hours.
- There will be the opportunity to spend time at another theatre venue or workshop during the second year of the apprenticeship.



Role / Title:

Costume Making Apprentice

Reports to:

Apprenticeships Manager

Line managed by:

(daily basis)

Workroom Manager



Who will you be working with?

You will work alongside a variety of people and departments throughout the apprenticeship, but you will work most often with the following teams:

- Staff of ROH costume workrooms
- Costume Production Managers
- Designers
- Performers.



What will you do during the apprenticeship?

- Assist with the making of costumes for new productions and for revivals of existing shows.
- Contribute to the maintenance of show records, relevant notes and make detailed notes of alterations that are required.
- Help produce costumes working from designs, working drawings, models and instructions using a wide range of techniques and materials.
- Assist with the fitting of costumes.
- Take and record accurate measurements of artists.
- Have a positive and responsible attitude to health and safety.
- Maintain a safe and tidy work area, carrying out cleaning and basic machine maintenance.
- Gain familiarity with new and improved making/repairing techniques, materials or working practices.
- Participate in additional training as necessary.
- Carry out any other reasonable duties as requested by the relevant manager or Apprenticeships Manager.
- Submit learning logs and diaries to the Apprenticeships Manager.
- Attend regular meetings with line managers and the Apprenticeships Manager to review progress.



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Minimum Essential Requirements

- You must be **18 years old or over** on 6th September 2021.
- You **must not** have completed a degree or equivalent level qualification in the UK or elsewhere.
- You **must** have work authorisation for the UK.

What are we looking for in a Costume Making Apprenticeship?

- An interest in costume making, particularly for performance.
- An interest in period costume and in the theatre.
- Accurate hand and machine sewing skills, basic knowledge of different sewing machines and their maintenance and familiarity with sewing terminology and techniques.
- Good attention to detail.
- A helpful, positive and proactive approach.
- Good at working in a team.
- Good communication skills.
- Punctual and good at managing your own workload.
- Self motivated to acquire new skills and knowledge.
- Physically capable of undertaking the requirements of the job. Reasonable adjustments will be considered as part of your application.

Note:

This Job Description reflects the current situation. It does not preclude change or development that might be required in the future.

