



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role / Title: Scenic Metalwork Apprentice

Reports to: Apprenticeships Manager

Line Managed by: Scenic Construction Senior Manager

Purpose of the apprenticeship

The position offers a unique opportunity to learn and develop skills in the stagecraft field of Scenic Metalwork with our busy Production teams at High House Production Park, Purfleet Essex to make the sets that create the worlds on our stages. The Scenic Metalwork Apprenticeship is an opportunity to learn and understand the trade of scenic metalworker; fabricating (making), repairing and modifying all metal aspects of stage scenery under the guidance of experienced professionals within the world of opera and ballet.

What is involved?

You will be based at the ROH's purpose-built production workshop on the High House Production Park in Purfleet, Essex. The metal workshop builds and refurbishes scenery for our productions.

- The apprenticeship will be split between the ROH's workshops and South Essex College where you will study over three years for a Welding L2 Standard/ Engineering Operative L2 Apprenticeship Standard.
- Part of the qualification will be achieved through the completion of a portfolio of evidence demonstrating how the relevant skills have been used in the workplace.
- On average, one day per week will be allocated to college work. These hours may also be taken at college on block release in order to learn the required metalwork skills.
- You will work 42.5 hours per week. The working day at the Purfleet workshops is 8am – 4:30pm.
- As part of the apprenticeship there will be the opportunity to spend time in Metalwork departments of other companies.
- You will be supported throughout the apprenticeship by a college assessor, ROH technical staff and the Apprenticeships Team.

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:

- Scenic Construction staff
- Technical and Production Managers
- Health & Safety Team

What will you do in the workplace during the apprenticeship?

- You will work closely with experienced metalworkers to create custom metal pieces for scenic design projects. You will learn various metalworking techniques, including welding, cutting, forming, and finishing. This apprenticeship provides a hands-on learning experience, allowing you to develop skills in a real-world environment.
- Assist with the fabrication of metal components for scenic elements, including set pieces, props, and structures.
- Learn and apply welding techniques, such as MIG, TIG, and stick welding.
- Operate metalworking machinery, including saws, grinders, and presses.
- Read and interpret technical drawings and blueprints to ensure accurate fabrication.
- Assist in the assembly and installation of scenic elements at various locations.
- Follow safety protocols and maintain a clean and organised workspace.
- Collaborate with team members to meet project deadlines and quality standards.
- Keep up to date with any new and improved ways of working and new theatre technology.
- Have a positive and responsible attitude to health and safety.
- Take responsibility for your own attendance, safe working, motivation, discipline and welfare.
- Submit learning logs and diaries to the Apprenticeships Team as required.
- Attend regular meetings with line managers and the Apprenticeships Team to review progress.

Minimum essential requirements:

- You must be **18 years old or over** on 2nd September 2024.
- You must **not** have completed a degree or equivalent level qualification in the UK or elsewhere.
- Achieved Grade 3 or above in Maths and English.
- You must have work authorisation for the UK.
- You must be able to commute to the Royal Opera House production workshop High House Production Park in Purfleet-on-Thames, Essex and South Essex College, Essex.

What are we looking for in a Scenic Metalwork Apprentice?

- Basic knowledge of metalworking tools and techniques is preferred but not required.
- Interest in or experience of metalwork or welding (this could be at school, youth club, home or a workplace etc.).
- An ability and enjoyment of working with your hands using various materials.
- Strong attention to detail and a commitment to producing high-quality work.

- Willingness to learn and take direction from experienced metalworkers.
- Good communication and teamwork skills.
- Safety-conscious mindset and adherence to safety protocols.
- A practical approach to problem solving.
- Good at practical, hands-on tasks.
- Punctual and good at managing your own schedule.
- Self-motivated to acquire new skills and knowledge.
- A helpful, positive and proactive approach.
- Willing to work at height.
- Physically capable of undertaking the requirements of the job including good spatial awareness; ability to work in a physically demanding environment, including lifting heavy materials and standing for extended periods, climb ladders, and work at heights in a safe and responsible manner. 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.*