

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Role/Title:** Scenic Art Apprentice

**Reports to:** Apprenticeships Manager

**Line managed by (Daily Basis):** Scenic Painters Senior Manager

---

### **What is a scenic artist?**

Within the performing arts, a scenic artist works with set designers and is responsible for translating their vision into reality. This requires not just practical craft skills but also imagination and ingenuity. Scenic artists are highly trained and possess many skills including traditional fine arts skills of drawing, sculpting and painting in both 2D and 3D. They are experienced in painting and 3D techniques such as marbling, sign writing, wood graining, carving and texturing, they understand different mediums and materials to create finishes on a multitude of surfaces and have a good understanding of art history, period and contemporary styles, motifs and architecture. For each show, they are responsible for creating new or restoring, cleaning, mending, altering backdrops and set pieces and flooring to set the scene for each part of a performance.

Scenic artists must adhere to safe working practices and to problem-solve how scenery can be constructed to comply with health and safety law whilst ensuring the set meets the Designer and production's needs. RBO scenic artists will contribute to sustainable and environmentally friendly production processes.

### **Purpose of the apprenticeship**

The Scenic Art Apprenticeship is an opportunity to acquire practical craft skills in scenic art, relevant to a career in scenic art within the performing arts industry.

This Apprenticeship is a non-degree level, vocational training route. The role is a full-time position, and you cannot enrol in another course or get another job for the duration of the apprenticeship.

The Royal Ballet and Opera Apprenticeship scheme aims to create opportunities for, and support those who may not have had access to the arts and/or as an alternative route to a career in theatre for those who would face significant barriers to, have not embarked upon, or completed a degree course at university.

Applications are encouraged from candidates who are underrepresented in the Performing Arts and at the Royal Ballet and Opera including those from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, low socio-economic backgrounds and disabled people.

This apprenticeship is NOT suitable for those who wish to pursue a career in Scenic Design. The Royal Ballet and Opera do not offer design-based apprenticeships.

### **What is involved?**

You will be based primarily at the Royal Ballet and Opera's purpose-built production workshop on the High House Production Park in Purfleet, Essex. The scenic art team at the workshop is responsible for creating, repairing and modifying scenery for the Royal Ballet and Opera productions.

You will spend the majority of your time in the workshop under the guidance of members of the scenic art team. You will also have the opportunity to undertake short courses at the workshop or at other locations to develop your skills.

- The apprenticeship will be split between the ROH and Creative Alliance, the Provider College. You will study for a Level 3 Scenic Artist Apprenticeship Standard (<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/scenic-artist-v1-0>).
- During the apprenticeship, the successful candidate will attend learning blocks at RADA and may have some additional short courses in other locations with the remainder of time spent at the Royal Ballet and Opera at the High House Production Workshop in Purfleet, Essex.
- In addition, the workshop creates work for other producer's productions developing the commercial offering of the RBO strategy and opportunities for scenic artists to develop their skills.
- During the second year of the apprenticeship, there will be the opportunity to spend some work experience time in the scenic workshop of another venue or a commercial scenic art studio.
- Work is usually carried out at the Royal Opera House workshops in Purfleet but may be required at other designated venues and at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.
- The working week is 42.5 hours.
- You will be supported throughout the apprenticeship by a mentor, the Royal Ballet and Opera scenic art team 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 artist staff and mentors
- Scenic carpenters and scenic metalworkers
- Production Managers
- Designers

### **What will you do during the Apprenticeship?**

- Assist in the creation of all scenery requirements using a wide range of techniques, materials and finishes.
- Put all skills gained in training into practice in the workshop environment.
- Keep up to date with any new and improved painting techniques, materials or ways of working.
- Receive training and advice in all health and safety requirements.
- Maintain a clean and orderly working environment.
- Participate in training as necessary and appropriate.
- Attend regular meetings with line manager, mentor and the Apprenticeships Manager to review progress.
- Create and maintain a scenic sketch book documenting your learning.
- Maintain a learning log-book and submit regular written progress reports to the Apprenticeships Manager.
- Carry out any other reasonable duties as requested by the Scenic Painters Senior Manager or Apprenticeships Manager.

### **Minimum essential requirements**

- You **must** be **18 years old or over** on the 22nd April 2025.
- You **must not** have completed a degree or equivalent level qualification in the UK or elsewhere (regardless of subject).
- You **must** have work authorisation for the UK.
- You must have an interest in developing a career as a scenic artist.

### **What are we looking for in a Scenic Art Apprentice?**

- Strong creative skills for example in painting, drawing and 3D work
- An interest in theatre
- Ability to work well within a team
- Good communication skills
- Good practical and problem-solving abilities
- Ability to work on own initiative and under supervision
- A helpful, positive and flexible approach

- Be punctual and good at managing your own workload
- Be self-motivated to acquire new skills and knowledge
- Be willing to work at height
- Be capable of undertaking the physical requirements of the job. Reasonable adjustments will be considered as part of your application

Please note the interview stage of the application requires applicants to bring an item/photographs to demonstrate their creative skills, a full portfolio is not necessary.

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