



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Role/Title:** Backstage Technician Apprentices – **Creative Venue Technician x3, and \*NEW\* Flies and Automation Technician**

**Reports to:** Apprenticeships Manager

**Line managed by (Daily Basis):** Senior Managers (Relevant Department)

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### **What do Backstage Technician Apprentices do?**

A Production technician helps install, operate and remove technical equipment and systems on stages and in other performance spaces.

The Apprentice Technicians will gain training and experience into various technical specialty areas - this year we are offering two pathways into backstage production; one is the Creative Venue Technician pathway (three vacancies) and the other is our new Flies and Automation Technician pathway. Candidates recruited into this programme will be screened into the roles based on their experience and aptitude demonstrated in application and during interviews.

### **What does a Backstage Technical Theatre department do?**

You will be based in the Backstage Technical Departments of the Royal Ballet and Opera, in the ROH, Covent Garden. The Technical Departments are responsible for the management and running of the two stages and all other technical areas.

**Creative Venue Technician Apprentices** will work in many different areas of the Royal Ballet and Opera Technical Departments including the set build area, lighting, sound, props, flies and in our Linbury Theatre giving Apprentices a broad education in all areas of traditional theatrecraft and will:

- Learn about lighting, sound, building and breaking down of scenery, moving scenery, setting props on stage, and all aspects of technical work in the theatre.
- Take part in all technical work for a show from workshops to rehearsal room, to on-stage rehearsals and live performances, then into storage.
- Keep up to date with any new and improved ways of working and new theatre technology.
- Undertake additional training as required, including: Manual Handling, Working at Height and Safe Use of Mobile Elevated Platforms, (MEWPS).

**\*NEW\* The Flies and Automation Technician Apprentice** will be mentored by the Flies and Automation department to:

- Gain familiarity with automation systems responsible for moving set pieces, props, and other elements on stage with precision and accuracy.
- Learn to operate and maintain fly systems used for lifting and lowering scenery, backdrops, and other stage elements during performances.

- Assist in the maintenance, repair, and inspection of fly systems, automation equipment, and related rigging components to ensure safe and reliable operation.
- Assist in the setup and execution of set changes between scenes, including the safe handling and movement of set pieces according to production requirements.

### **Purpose of the Apprenticeship**

The Technical Theatre Apprenticeship is an opportunity to train for a technician role 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 enroll 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 Lighting/Sound/Theatre Design of any kind. The Royal Ballet and Opera do not offer design-based apprenticeships.

### **What is involved?**

- The apprenticeship will be split between the ROH and Creative Alliance College. You will study for a Level 3 [Creative Venue Technician Apprenticeship Standard](#) / [Scenic Automation Technician 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 will be scheduled flexibly to fit with college and department requirements.
- You will work an average of 42.5 hours per week. Some weeks you will work more than 42.5 hours, but this will be balanced by working less than 42.5 hours in other weeks. This is a typical theatre working pattern which allows for you to get fully involved with shows and projects.
- The apprentice will be supported throughout the apprenticeship by a college tutor, RBO technical staff and by the Apprenticeships Team.
- The apprentice will spend time working on both opera and ballet productions and will be required to work during evenings and weekends.
- There will be the opportunity to spend some work experience time at another theatre venue/ performing arts setting during the second year of the apprenticeship.

### **Who will you be working with?**

- Technicians
- Technical and Production Managers
- Stage Managers
- Performers
- Health & Safety Team

**In addition to the above, during their Apprenticeship all Apprentices will:**

- 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.
- Participate in additional training as necessary.
- Carry out any other reasonable duties as requested by the relevant HOD or Apprenticeships Manager.

### **Minimum essential requirements**

- You must be **18 years old or over** on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 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 be able to demonstrate evidence of an interest/skills in working backstage in the performing arts.

### **What are we looking for in Production Technician Apprentices?**

- An interest in working backstage in the performing arts.
- Previous involvement in a backstage environment or other live performance event would be desirable. This could be at school, college, youth club, local theatre or venue, or amateur dramatics group.
- Strong mechanical aptitude and interest in learning about stage rigging, fly systems, and automation technology is desirable.
- Good at working in a team.
- A practical approach to problem solving.
- Good at practical, hands-on tasks.
- Punctual and good at managing your own schedule.
- Respectful and receptive approach to all health and safety requirements.
- 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. 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.*

