

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role/Title: *NEW* Scenic Construction Technician Apprentice (Draughting for scenic construction)

Reports to: Apprenticeships Manager

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

What do Scenic Construction Technician Apprentices do?

A Scenic Construction Technician collaborates on the design and construction of bespoke scenic elements for stages and other performance spaces using a variety of techniques; primarily through draughting skills and also through an understanding of carpentry and metal-fabrication skills.

What does a Scenic Construction Theatre department do?

Scenic Construction Technicians bring the Designer's vision of a set to life – from interpreting their designs, turning them into technical and construction drawings to building and then fitting up the scenic elements. There are a number of departments involved in this process across two of our venues: the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and our Production Workshop in Purfleet, Essex.

The **Scenic Construction Technician Apprentice** will work in many different areas of the Royal Ballet and Opera Production Department (across both locations) including the Design and Draughting Studio, Scenic Construction draughting office, the Carpentry and Metalwork Workshops in Purfleet, Essex and the Royal Opera House Build area; giving the Apprentice a broad education in all areas of traditional scenic construction as well as the latest tools and technology. **With a bias towards scenic construction draughting**, the apprentice will:

- Learn how to read, interpret and produce technical and construction drawings, using CAD for example, to ensure accurate fabrication of the Designer's vision by the metalwork or carpentry teams.
- Work closely with experienced metalworkers to create custom metal pieces for scenic design projects. You will learn various metalworking techniques that underpin a draughter's understanding of construction; including welding, cutting, forming, and finishing to assist with the fabrication of metal components for scenic elements, including set pieces, props, and structures.
- Learn to work in wood; to measure, cut, drill and fix wood and other construction components, using a range of fixing methods to safely create scenic structures and frameworks.
- Assist in the assembly and installation of scenic elements at various locations.
- Undertake repairs and maintenance of sets, sympathetic to the designer's brief, for revival productions to return them to the original design ensuring visual and structural integrity.
- 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.

Purpose of the Apprenticeship

The Scenic Construction Apprenticeship is an opportunity to train for a scenic construction technician/draughter 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 would be suitable for someone interested in architectural drawing and planning and is distinct from the Scenic/Props Carpentry vacancies which focus on practical carpentry and building elements.

This apprenticeship is NOT suitable for those who wish to pursue a career in 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 Covent Garden, RBO Workshops High House Production Park, Purfleet (main work site) and Creative Alliance College (remote learning). You will study for a Level 3 [Scenic Construction 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 42.5 hours per week.
- The apprentice will be supported throughout the apprenticeship by a college tutor, RBO technical and production staff and by the Apprenticeships Team.
- The apprentice will spend time working on both opera and ballet productions and will be required to work at both the Covent Garden and Purfleet, Essex sites, primarily the production workshop in Essex.
- 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?

- Draughts people
- Scenic Construction Staff
- Technical and Production Managers
- Designers
- Build Team

- Stage Teams
- Health & Safety Team

Minimum essential requirements

- You must be **18 years old or over** on the 1 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.
- An interest in a career as a scenic construction technician/draughter in the performing arts.
- Some understanding or experience of technical drawing in a Computer Aided Design programme

What are we looking for in a Scenic Construction Apprentices?

- Interest in technical drawing and computer aided design. Previous experience in Graphics or 3D Design is desirable.
- Previous involvement in creating scenic or backstage elements would be desirable. This could be at school, college, youth club, local theatre or venue, or amateur dramatics group.
- Previous woodworking or metalwork experience (this could be at school, youth club, in a home project or a workplace etc.)
- Good at working in a team.
- An ability and enjoyment of working with your hands using various materials.
- 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.

