

Casual Theatre Technician

WYCOMBE SWAN THEATRE

Job Description
Person Specification

October 2019

Wycombe Swan is one of 12 venues within HQ Theatres & Hospitality's (HQT&H) current portfolio of regional theatres and concert halls. HQT&H currently manages 18 auditoria on behalf of local authorities, with capacities ranging from a 200 seat arts centre to a 2,400 seated/standing theatre. Last year HQT&H programmed a total of 2,354 shows which attracted attendances of over 1.5 million.

HQ Theatres & Hospitality (HQT&H), the UK's second-largest venue operator, is a division of Qdos Entertainment Ltd, one of the largest entertainment Groups in Europe.

Wycombe Swan is entering an exciting new stage in its development. The Swan has over a thousand seats and an aspirational plan to present the very best in touring musical theatre, drama and comedy. The Old Town Hall has recently undergone refurbishment, and offers a flexible space for events and promotions in a variety of settings for up to 600 people. The Oak Room is a smaller, prestigious function room for up to 100 people.

Each year we run a Summer Project which involves over 200 young people who are professionally led to produce a piece of musical theatre.

As well as ambitious commercial targets, it is also a vital part of our business plan that we engage with our local community, and offer opportunities for people of all ages to be become involved with our work. This post is fundamental in developing this aspiration.

- Employment type:** Casual
- Salary:** In line with National Minimum Wage plus TMA (Get out rates ONLY) when applicable.
- Hours:** When required by the business, no guarantee on hours offered per week.
- Work location:** You will be based at Wycombe Swan and may be required to travel to and work at other HQT&H venues. Approved travel expenses will be reimbursed.
- Purpose of the role:** To facilitate technical requirements for all shows and events, and to assist with general maintenance duties as required.
- Our ideal candidate:** We are looking to appoint a multi-skilled Casual Technician to ensure a smooth running, efficient and safe working environment for all staff and visiting companies, to assist with building maintenance and to strive to offer the best possible service to all users of Wycombe Swan.
- How to apply:** To apply send an email of application, CV and completed application form to -
- Tom Kingdon – Building and Technical Manager –
tkingdon@wycombeswan.co.uk

REPORTING

- You will report directly to Buildings & Technical Manager / Deputy Building & Technical Manager.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Strategic

- With other members of the Technical Team, contribution as required to the achievement of the Swans Business Plan and its relevant targets and objectives.

Operations

- As part of the Technical Team to be responsible for assisting with the setting up of shows and events and to assist with various operational duties as instructed, including the operation of counterweight flying facilities.
- To assist with moving scenery and equipment during a production, working with lighting, sound and special effects as directed by the Buildings & Technical Manager or Senior Technician.
- To assist visiting production companies and performers with the get-in and get-out of all staging and electrical equipment as directed.
- To assist in the rigging and focusing of lights and any additional sound installations as required and directed.
- The post holder will assist in the breakdown and get-out of all staging and equipment at the conclusion of performances and events.
- With the technical team, to work closely and promote good customer relations with all visiting producers and artists and in particular with amateur companies.
- Carry out routine maintenance on the Swan's equipment and systems as directed by the Buildings & Technical Manager.

Health & Safety

- Ensure the safety and comfort of customers and clients at all times whilst on the premises.
- To assist in protecting and safeguarding the buildings and their contents from possible theft, damage and abuse by carrying out assigned duties as directed and abiding by policies and procedures issued.
- To abide by relevant Health and Safety and Licensing requirements and to ensure all visiting performers, contractors and the general public also conform to these requirements.

Recruitment, Training and Development

The post holder agrees to undertake training and development as appropriate and to also keep apprised of developments in his/her field of expertise.

Other Responsibilities

Any other duties as required from time to time, taking into consideration the grade of the post and capabilities of the employee.

Dress in accordance with company uniform policy and wear protective clothing as issued, if applicable

This Job Description is not an exhaustive description of your duties. You will be required to adopt a flexible approach to your role and responsibilities. In particular, from time to time, you may be required to undertake such alternative or additional duties as may be commensurate with your skills, experience and capabilities.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

In order to be considered for this post you will need to evidence and demonstrate:

Experience

- Experience of working as part of a team
- Previous backstage or technical experience in either a professional, educational or performance environment

Skills

- Able to take and act upon instructions within a given time frame and in a busy working environment
- Able to use own initiative
- Ability to work safely at height, using ladders and tallescope, and from lighting bridges

Knowledge

- Knowledge and use of theatre lighting and sound systems, including rigging, focussing and plotting
- Knowledge and use of counterweight flying systems
- A working knowledge of technical theatre practices, including terminology and knots

Attitude

- Enthusiasm for the performing arts and entertainment
- Reliable, with a flexible and pro-active attitude
- A 'can-do' attitude and a positive, flexible approach to the job role, work colleagues and peers.
- A presentable, professional and approachable manner which sets an example for others to follow.
- Willing to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays.

Desirable

- An understanding of theatre and entertainment protocols, such as DMX etc.
- An understanding of security requirements in a technical environment
- Practical experience in equipment maintenance
- Experience of leading a team
- Literacy, computer literacy and numeracy as appropriate to the requirements of the post
- A good sense of humour
- Experience of working with young people
- A bias towards stage craft and counterweight flying would be an advantage