

CHRISTOPHER HOWCROFT

Technical & Production Administration, Lighting Design & Philosopher for Hire

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Professional Summary:

An experienced technical manager and production administrator with a track record of enabling production teams to deliver high quality productions within challenging budgets and timescales. Key strengths include scheduling and booking teams to deliver projects; arranging cost-effective hires and purchases to maximise the potential of budgets; compiling health and safety documentation and risk assessments to ensure that staff are well briefed and working safely; and ensuring effective communication amongst staff, creative teams, production partners and clients to resolve and prevent problems. I also have the technical theatre skills you would expect of someone who has spent over ten years working in a production department, including CAD skills and lighting design and programming.

Key Skills:

Scheduling teams	Negotiating with partners and clients to ensure delivery of high quality productions
Booking crew	Dealing with public enquiries
Ensuring provision of appropriate equipment for projects	Working with tight deadlines under pressure
Risk Assessments to IOSH standards	Computer skills (MS office including Excel, Word, Outlook)
Creating and distributing project documentation	CAD skills (mainly Vectorworks, but also some Autocad)
Supervising teams and leading projects	

Recent career:

November 2015 to January 2018: Technical Co-ordinator, THE QUEENS THEATRE, HORNCURCH

Line manager for a team of six technicians plus casual staff with responsibility for the lighting, sound and stage requirements of the theatre's productions as well as dealing with a very busy programme of visiting professional productions and local community groups.

I led the technical team through a difficult period of change in the theatre's senior management which coincided with pressures on our staffing and resources and was able to ensure we continued to deliver high quality productions on time and within budget.

To resolve long-standing issues with a lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities amongst the team I suggested a development of senior technician roles in the department. As well as making it easier for our creative partners to know who to discuss things with, this improved morale amongst the team by creating a possibility of recognition for experienced staff.

Maintenance and housekeeping also improved as the new senior roles felt a sense of ownership of their designated areas.

When I began the role, the department had been using a small number of providers for many services without knowing if they were competitively priced or providing the best service in the market. I pursued a policy of diversifying our relations with hire companies and other providers to ensure we were getting the best service and value for money.

I held the budget for technical repairs and renewals as well as the budgets for technical services for specific productions. I ensured the technical department worked safely and in accordance with regulations.

Employment History:

July 2014 to November 2015: Production Assistant, THE QUEEN'S THEATRE, HORNBURCH.

With responsibility for liaising with visiting companies and groups, dealing with their riders, risk assessments and other paperwork. I also created the technical department's schedules, called casual crew and drew up estimates and bills for clients.

November 2005 to July 2014: Technician, THE QUEEN'S THEATRE, HORNBURCH.

As one of six multi-skilled technicians, my responsibilities included lighting, sound and stage support for the Queen's Theatre. I was production electrician and programmer for over twenty main-house productions; other production credits included Sound No. 1 and No. 2 roles (including musicals and pantomimes with the actor-musician company as well as pure playback shows).

2004 to present: Freelance technician for clients including— THE BLOOMSBURY THEATRE, LONDON BUBBLE, THE BECK THEATRE HAYES, THE YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE.

Training and certification:

Full clean UK driving licence

DBS checked

IOSH Managing Safely for Theatre and Production (2017, RB Health and Safety)

First Aid at Work, July 2013, via Frinton Training

Technical and Production Skills:

Proficient EOS Programmer

PAT testing and other electrical maintenance.

Vectorworks Spotlight drafting

Counterweight flying, set construction, fit-

Live sound mixing with analogue and digital desks (Yamaha and Digico).

ups and get-outs.

Qlab programming for sound and video.

Props: Specialising in electrical practicals and

LED effects.

Education:

B.A. (hons) Linguistics and Philosophy, first class, University of East Anglia.

Lighting Design Credits:

Associate member of the A.L.D., membership number 1914

For the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch:

'Aladdin' (Christmas 2015); 'Steel Magnolias' (September 2015); 'Hot Stuff' (May 2015); 'Deadly Murder' (February 2015); 'Sleeping Beauty' (Christmas 2014); 'The Great Gatsby' (April 2014); 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' (October 2013); 'Lust' (September 2013); 'A Passionate Woman' (February 2013); 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' (October 2012); 'Peter Pan' (June 2012); 'Satin and Steel' (January 2012); 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' (October 2011); 'Pick Yourself Up' (March 2011); 'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum' (October 2010); 'Travels with my Aunt' (January 2010); 'A Murder Has Been Arranged' (October 2009).

Recent fringe designs:

Britten's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' for 'Opera in the City', St Katharine Cree church, June 2015

'Clown Slut' for 'Local Girl Productions', BAC, March 2015

'Boxer Beetle' for 'Local Girl Productions', Rich Mix, March 2014

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