

Senior Theatre Technician

WYCOMBE SWAN THEATRE

Job Description
Person Specification

November 2018

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, live music and comedy. The Old Town Hall 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 become involved with our work. This post is fundamental in developing this aspiration.

- Employment type:** Full Time
- Salary:** £23,000
- Hours:** 40 per week over 5 days out of 7, subject to variation to meet business requirements. Working hours will include evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays.
- 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 theatrical and building maintenance duties as required.
- Our ideal candidate:** We are looking to appoint a multi-skilled Senior 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 a letter of application and CV by Friday 4 January 2019 to:
Amy Allum, Administration Manager, Wycombe Swan, St. Mary Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2XE or email admin@wycombeswan.co.uk

REPORTING

You will report directly to Buildings & Technical Manager / Deputy Buildings & Technical Manager

The posts you will line manage in this role include Full-time Technicians, Casual and Voluntary Crew

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Strategic

- Take the lead and be the key contact for all activity that takes place in the Old Town Hall and Oakroom spaces.
- With other members of the Technical Team, contribution as required to the achievement of the Swan's Business Plan and its relevant targets and objectives.
- Deputise for the Buildings and Technical Manager & Deputy Buildings and Technical Manager in their absence in respect of all responsibilities associated with the running of the Technical department and its team.

Operations

- To assist the Buildings and Technical Manager in ensuring the maintenance and safe operation of all stage, electrical and sound installations, plant and equipment, so as to achieve the Swan service targets.
- With the Deputy Buildings and Technical Manager rota Wycombe Swan's technical department, ensuring correct staffing across all spaces and utilising the full time technical team and the casual staff lists to both operational and financial benefit.
- 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.
- To assist in the management of contractors and the general maintenance of the buildings and facilities as required – including routine and general maintenance tasks such as lamp checks, Portable Appliance Testing, painting etc.

- To liaise with other departments as to their technical requirements for events.
- In liaison with the Buildings and Technical Manager, ensure that consumables stock is correctly maintained and any venue purchases are specified and actioned in accordance with department procedures.

Health & Safety

- Ensure the safety and comfort of customers and clients at all times whilst on the premises.
- To develop a good working knowledge of the building's facilities and services in order to carry out assigned maintenance duties to a high standard, as directed.
- 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.
- Ensure the safety and comfort of staff, customers and clients at all times whilst on the premises.

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

- Previous backstage or technical experience in either a professional, educational or performance environment
- Previous experience working with lighting, sound, special effects and stage craft.
- Experience of working as part of a team
- Proven ability to effectively work in a multi-tasking environment
- An understanding of electrics including the rigging of stage lighting systems.
- Practical experience in equipment maintenance

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

Proven ability to effectively work in a multi-tasking environment, including building maintenance and PAT testing

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
- An understanding of security requirements in a technical environment

Qualifications

- A minimum of 2 years' experience working in a technical role for a venue or theatre
- Previous experience of managing and training staff in a team leader or supervisor capacity. Minimum one year's experience
- A recognised qualification in technical theatre / theatre craft

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
- Health and Safety training certificate.
- First Aid Trained.