

Apprentice Scenic Artist

Fixed Term Contract – 24 Months

Training: **Level 2 – Design Support Apprenticeship Pathway**

Salary: £17,076 per year

Hours: 40 per week

Apprentice Scenic Artist



What is a Scenic Artist?

A Scenic Artist in the performing arts is responsible for creating finishes for all aspects of stage scenery from backdrops to buildings using texture, paint and many other materials. The designer produces a sketch or model box of their design for the set and the highly skilled Scenic Artists bring this design to life on the stage.

What is scenery?

Stage scenery can be anything from simple walls and platforms to elaborate buildings, floors or representations of other locations.

What is the National Theatre?

At the National, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

Based on the South Bank in the heart of London, the National Theatre is dedicated to making the very best theatre and sharing it with as many people as possible. We make theatre with as wide a range of artists as possible.

On our stages in London, and through tours, partnerships, digital content and cinema broadcasts, we share this work with a large, diverse and evolving audience, all over the UK and around the world.

Apprentice Scenic Artist

We do all we can to keep ticket prices affordable and to reach a wide audience, and use our public funding to maintain artistic risk-taking, accessibility and diversity.



Purpose of the Apprenticeship

As an invaluable member of the painting team within the scenic construction department, the Apprentice Scenic Artist will learn highly transferable painting, drawing and texturing skills alongside gaining a knowledge of materials and scenic construction techniques that will open up not a just world of theatrical construction, but events, film, and TV as well. The apprenticeship will be based at the NT's flagship workshops on London's South Bank with opportunities for networking and placements in other leading organisations.

As this is a training position, we are not looking for experience in scenic carpentry, or of professional theatre, but for someone who has practical skills, which can be applied to this apprenticeship. So, you will need to show us that you enjoy working with your hands, can work well in a team and will be committed to completing this apprenticeship.

This position is not open to those who already have a Level 4 qualification, such as a degree, foundation degree or any post graduate qualification or who have previously worked professionally in technical theatre

What's Involved

What you will do during the apprenticeship

The apprenticeship will be split between the National Theatre and New City College, Poplar.



At New City College:

- You will Study for a Level 2 Design Support Apprenticeship, which will include a Technical Certificate and an NVQ
- Time at college will be Study for a Level 2 Design Support Apprenticeship, which will include a Technical Certificate and an NVQ
- Time at college will be one day a week for 12-18 months.
- You will be supported in passing functional skills in English, Maths and ICT if you need to take them.

At the NT:

- Under supervision take on tasks such as painting, texturing and carving depending on what each show needs.
- Help with the daily maintenance of the paint studio, including cleaning equipment such as brushes and paint kettles, clearing and maintaining work areas.
- Work on specific projects to develop scenic skills, techniques and finishes.
- Attend dress rehearsals of shows that you have worked on.
- Work safely always and follow Health & Safety policies and guidelines.

What's Involved



- Under supervision repair and refurbish scenery as required as part of the maintenance of shows in performance. This may involve repainting scuffs and scratches, and reapplying textures.
- Work from designs and pictorial references provided by a designer including technical drawings and scale model pieces in collaboration with the Production Manager, a Scenic Art Supervisor, fellow Scenic Artists and the Head of Scenic Art.
- Work to agreed deadlines established by the Heads of Department, consulting with the Scenic Supervisors and the Head of Scenic Art.
- Work on stage when required, working under instruction from the Scenic Art Supervisor. This may entail working on all elements of the scenery, such as the stage floor/cloth, built scenery items or canvas backdrops.
- Join in safety checks, and weekly planning meetings.
- Participate in other training as necessary and appropriate, including visiting other workplaces on placement.
- You will collect evidence of the work you do and make a portfolio showing how you have used your skills in the workplace.
- You will be supported in this process by the College and by mentors from the National Theatre.
- Work on stage when required, installing, and repairing scenery.

What's Involved

- Join in safety checks, and weekly planning meetings.
- Assist with deliveries and storage.
- Maintain high standards of operations and good housekeeping in the workshop.
- Work safely and follow Health & Safety policies and guidelines.
- Participate in other training as necessary and appropriate, including visiting other workplaces on placement.
- Carry out any other reasonable duties as requested by the Head of Carpentry and Metal, or the Workforce Development Manager.

You will be expected to:

- Take responsibility for being on time and always working safely and considerately.
- Take responsibility for completing your college work and making sure your manager knows when a college assessor is visiting.
- Behave professionally, including keeping work spaces neat and tidy.
- To work at height and sometimes in small spaces, training will be given to you before you do this.
- You will sometimes be asked to work evenings and weekend, and will be given time off in the week to make up for it (this is called Time Off in Lieu)

By the end of the apprenticeship you will have a working knowledge of:

- Theatre design
- Tools, hardware and equipment
- Materials
- Health & Safety
- Basic AutoCAD skills
- Reading theatre ground plans and bench drawings
- Basic stage craft and installation of scenery on stage

disability confident COMMITTED

What You Must Have To Apply Recruitment



- Be 18 years old or older by 9th September 2019.
- Be punctual and good at managing your own workload
- Be able to work well within a team
- Have a helpful, positive and flexible approach and attitude, whether the work is routine or exciting
- Desire to become a Scenic Artist of the highest level
- Understand the importance of Health and Safety
- Be curious about the world, and keen to learn new things

Applicants must NOT hold Level 4 qualification, a degree or post graduate qualification, or be about to receive one

The recruitment process will involve:

- **A complimentary Interview Preparation Session on Thursday 11th July 2019.**
- **Group Interviews at the NT on the 15th, 16th or 17th July 2019.**
- **A Skills Test at the NT in on the 29th or 30th July 2019.**
- Apprenticeship suggested start date 9th September 2019 (but this can be changed if necessary).

Terms and Conditions

Outline of Terms and Conditions

Contract Type: FIXED TERM – 24 MONTHS

Hours: You may be required to work up to 40 hours per week, this will include college and study time. You may be asked to work evenings or weekend, in which case you will be given Time Off in Lieu.

Salary: £17,076 per year (based on National Living Wage) paid monthly on the 15th of each month.

Holidays: You will get 28 days holiday in the first year, pro rata, including bank holidays, increasing to 30 (pro-rata) in year two.

Managed By: Head of Scenic Art/Head of Construction/ Workforce Development Manager

Benefits

- Pension schemes with Legal & General and NEST
- Complimentary tickets for performances, subject to availability and the National's staff ticket policy
- Complimentary tickets for NT Talks & Events, subject to policy
- Discounts in all of the National's bars, restaurants and bookshop and in local businesses
- Interest-free season ticket loan and cycle-scheme loan

Appointment Procedure

To apply for this vacancy please follow the link:
https://candidate.nationaltheatre.org.uk/91916RNT

The closing date to return completed application forms is: **12 noon on Monday 1st July 2019.**

BEFORE YOU START! Please note as part of your application we ask you to copy and paste in a reference from someone else to tell us a little bit about you, this can be a teacher, or tutor, a support worker or someone you have worked for, but it cannot be a member of your family. It might be a good idea to get this reference ready before you start your online application.

If you are unable to access the internet, we can accept paper copies of the form. You can do this by emailing recruitment@nationaltheatre.org.uk for a copy, then returning it to; HR Department, National Theatre, London, SE1 9PX

We want our workforce to be representative of all sections of society and welcome applications from everyone.

As users of the disability confident scheme, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for our vacancies.

The Scenic Art Apprenticeship is designed to be the first step in working in theatre or going on

to further study, and the NT will provide guidance and support for apprentices at the end of their term with us. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a position at the NT upon the completion of the apprenticeship.

For any queries, please contact the HR Department by emailing:
recruitment@nationaltheatre.org.uk