



Head of Scenic Art - Job Description

Location: Nottingham | Permanent, full-time | £38,000 - 45,000 depending on experience

Would you like to lead the creation of stunning scenic art for some of the biggest shows in theatre?

About Rocket Scenery

Rocket Scenery began life sharing a small workshop with Nottingham Playhouse. Since then, we've grown in both scale and reputation, building sets for major productions across the UK, the West End, Broadway, and internationally. From Operation Mincemeat to Oliver!, Moulin Rouge to Sister Act, our work combines creativity, precision, and passion.

We're proud of our collaborative spirit, mixing the ideas of some of the best designers in the business with the craftsmanship of our talented team. With specialist workshops in Draughting, Fabrication, Woodwork, Paint, and Set Electrics, plus dedicated paint frame and floor painting facilities, we bring multiple shows to life simultaneously, always maintaining the highest artistic standards.

Our leadership team is supported by a permanent staff of 23, alongside invaluable freelancers. We take pride in fostering a friendly, inclusive workplace, a community that shares meals, ideas, and a genuine love of making theatre magic.

This is an exciting time to join Rocket Scenery as we continue to invest in our people and facilities, building a refreshed, forward-looking team with creative ambition.





Purpose of the Role

- To lead and inspire the Scenic Art department, ensuring all scenic finishes are delivered to exceptional artistic and technical standards on time, within budget, and in line with each designer's vision.
- The Head of Scenic Art will combine hands-on painting expertise with leadership and planning, overseeing a team of permanent and freelance scenic artists and collaborating closely with designers, production managers, and workshop heads.

Duties & Responsibilities

Paintshop Management & Communication

- Build an effective and positive team providing support, supervision and encouraging staff to develop their skills.
- Ensure work is budgeted, planned, scheduled and distributed to meet required deadlines, attending regular meetings to develop work plans for productions.
- Supervise and monitor staff to ensure the highest appropriate standards of work are maintained at all times whilst still keeping to budget and schedule; reporting changes and overruns as soon as possible.
- Carrying out training and reviews as required.
- Working with the administrative team to book additional staff when required, arrange paint calls and order appropriate materials in time and within budget.
- Ensure good housekeeping, health and safety and correct working methods in the workplace (meeting COSHH standards) are adhered to.

Scenic Art

- Work with the scenic art team, preparing samples showing processes and materials that will create the desired effect within the time and budget available.
- Interpret designers' small-scale ideas, and developing them into full-scale reproductions.
- Use a broad range of scenic techniques, textures and materials in established processes, alongside expanding and developing their use in new ways.
- You will be excellent at colour-matching and be able to produce finishes to the highest standards.
- To stretch, hang and paint scenic cloths and gauzes using projection and measure out and create cut cloths effects.
- Encourage and teach members of the team to develop new skills and processes, occasionally working with students on placement too.
- Work off site when required at meetings or paint calls.





Person Specification

Essential

- The successful applicant will need to have at least 2 years' proven experience of managing both people and projects.
- Have 5+ years of working in a similar environment.
- Have the traditional fine arts skills of sketching, rendering and painting.
- Be able to read and interpret scale drawings and models
- Ability to create textures using various materials and to use colour to exacting standards.
- Be resourceful and offer creative solutions to realise a design.
- Work efficiently with self-motivation and flexibility.
- Be able to maintain a professional yet friendly rapport with designers and production managers.
- To be able to work under pressure and have an understanding of the demands of the industry e.g. Overtime when required, Sunday Paintcalls and very occasional working overnight.
- Be able to work independently, but also as part of a team, ensuring positive working relationships with colleagues throughout the company.
- Excellent attention to detail and quality control.
- Be happy working at height on ladders, access platforms and paint bridge.
- The role of Head of Department requires the candidate to be physically fit as their job involves manual handling, bending, stretching and reaching for long periods of time.

Desirable

- Have completed a degree or similar in Scenic Arts.
- Be computer literate especially with image editing programs.
- Resourceful in sourcing materials and visual references.
- Clean driving licence.
- IPAF certificate

We work 38 hour week, with occasional paid overtime when required.
Our working hours are 8am-4.45pm Mon-Thurs and 8am-1pm Fri.

