

BRISTOL OLD VIC

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post: Followspot Operator

Responsible to: Head of Lighting

Background and context

Bristol Old Vic continues to transform its business, enabling it to develop new commercial products and partnerships, and continue to drive to reach a global marketplace with high quality live British theatre from the Oldest Working Theatre in the English Speaking World.

We are determined to use the last few years as an opportunity for radical renewal offering a high quality, progressive, inspiring, relevant and representative programme of work across the year, with better representation across all creative practitioner roles, giving everyone the opportunity to encounter and enjoy creativity.

We recognise the importance of supporting people in their creativity. Everyone should have access to creative opportunity and our role is to develop, promote and co-produce artistic participation, and imaginative experiences for audiences across Bristol, the region and beyond. Working with people from early years to later stages of life, developing pathways into the creative industries and nurturing and supporting those who work with us at every stage

Purpose of the Role

As a Follow Spot Operator, you are responsible for controlling a spotlight (followspot) to track and illuminate performers or objects on stage during live performances. Working closely with the lighting designer, stage management and technicians, you will execute cues and maintain the desired lighting effects throughout the show. This role requires focus, precision, and a good understanding of stage and safety procedures.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- **Operating the Followspot:** The primary task is to precisely follow actors or objects on stage with the spotlight, adjusting the beam's size, intensity, and colour as needed.
- **Executing Cues:** Working with the lighting designer and stage manager to carry out pre-planned lighting cues and transitions.
- **Maintaining Equipment:** Ensuring the followspot is in good working order, performing routine checks and basic maintenance.
- **Writing Cue Sheets:** Creating detailed cue sheets to document lighting changes and ensure smooth operation during performances, especially in case of absences.

- **Communication:** Using headsets or other communication systems to coordinate with the stage manager, lighting designer, and other crew members.
- **Safety:** Adhering to all health and safety regulations, including those related to working at heights and using safety equipment.
- **Teamwork:** Collaborating effectively with other members of the lighting and stage crew.
- **Adaptability:** Responding to unexpected situations and changes in the performance in a calm and professional manner.

Organisation Wide Responsibilities

The following responsibilities are shared by all staff members of Bristol Old Vic:

- To work for the benefit of the whole organization
- To comply with all BOV policies including Equal Opportunities, Dignity at Work, RESPECT Charter Health & Safety, Safeguarding and other policies included in the Employment Manual and Staff Handbook
- To attend regular staff meetings and other departmental meetings that may be arranged.
- To keep up to date with the activities of the organization
- Undertake additional duties as may reasonably be required

PERSON SPECIFICATION –

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior Followspot Experience: Experience operating followspots, particularly on large-scale productions, is preferred but not essential. • Technical Knowledge: Understanding of stage lighting principles, equipment, and safety procedures. • Attention to Detail: The ability to maintain precise focus and execute lighting cues accurately. • Physical Stamina: The job can involve long periods of standing and maintaining a steady hand. • Communication Skills: Effective communication with the team is essential. • Problem-Solving Skills: The ability to troubleshoot technical issues and adapt to unexpected situations. • Positive Attitude: A willingness to work as part of a team and contribute to a positive backstage environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 1 years’ experience in theatre lighting is desirable.