

**Blog: Company15 Work Experience,
By Jayden, Sabian, Edie, Jess and Rose**



As far as work experience goes, our week at TRP has exceeded all our expectations. The activities we have participated in have ranged from learning how to become a Deputy Stage Manager, to standing 25m in the air above the Lyric Stage. The wide variety of workshops have given us a great insight on how a theatre works and the different roles available.

On Monday, we all got to know each other with the help of some icebreakers. We then had an in-depth tour of the outstanding facilities at TR2, the theatre's Production and Learning Centre. During our tour, we met a variety of people who work in different departments at the theatre, all the way from Costume Design to Financing. The afternoon was spent with Delia, who is the head of the wardrobe department. She gave us an insight into how a range of effects are created on costumes for the stage. For example, fake blood is made with cortex glue, mentholated spirits, and red paint to give the appearance of a blood clot. As a practical task, we got the chance to make fake embroidery using paper cones to pipe acrylic paint onto fabric which produced a 3D effect which from a distance appeared as embroidery.

On Tuesday, we met Janette, who is part of the stage management team at TRP. She spent the morning with us going through all the numerous stage management roles, we learnt that although they are behind the scenes stage management are the vital part to run the show. We experimented with various practical activities.

This included using the scale ruler to create a markup in the rehearsal room to demonstrate to actors where the props and scenery will be placed onstage. We also looked at the role of a Deputy Stage Manager and how they cue a show from behind the scenes to make sure everything runs smoothly and on time. In the afternoon, we worked with the Engagement and Learning team to learn about how theatres engage with local communities. Our task was to develop our own E & L projects, based around overcoming the barriers preventing people from engaging in theatre.

On Wednesday, we spent the morning with Engagement & Learning Associate Ryan who talked us through how he directed the Young Company play *Busting Heads*. We then split into groups and attempted to make our own directorial choices for a scene from this play. After this, we learnt about the contracts department with Laura and Kate. We looked into what would be in a contract sent to producers of touring shows. In the afternoon, we were given tours by the members of the technical team who revealed to us how they run the stage, sound and lighting systems. This also involved going up to the top of the fly tower, 25 metres above the Lyric Stage. We all found this terrifying and somewhat exhilarating. After this we also went to the lowest point of the theatre, the orchestra pit.

We spent Thursday learning about the Media and Communications department with Chris and Megan looking at the ways they help to promote the shows at the Theatre Royal Plymouth, from a press perspective. We also looked at writing our own blogs and social media posts to describe our experience at the theatre this week.

We ended the week on a high as we watched the play *Offside* in The Drum.

Theatre Royal Plymouth has provided us with newfound perception of life in the theatre industry and the roles that are available to us in the future should we wish to further explore a career path in theatre. To quote stage manager, Janette “it is not a job, it is a lifestyle”, and this is something that we believe to be true here at Theatre Royal Plymouth.

ENDS

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West’s principal centre for performing arts.



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Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.



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