

Work Experience Information for applicants

These notes are designed to inform you of the departments offering placements at WNO and to give an impression of what might be involved in such placements. Welsh National Opera can only offer placements at certain times in the year as listed below. These dates have been arranged to coincide with rehearsals in Cardiff. Placements in individual departments are restricted to 1 week only.

Students must be over 16

If under 18 please send a photocopy of a document verifying your age

For 2009 the dates are:

Spring 09 5 January – 8 March

Summer 09 2 May – 15 June

Autumn 09 17 August – 4 October

Information about the departments

The **Props** department is responsible for supplying all the props used in WNO productions. Most of these props are made in workshops at Ellen Street. The department consists of 3 members of staff each of whom has skills in a variety of areas such as carpentry, metalwork, textiles as well as other specialist materials. Work experience students might be asked to help in any of these disciplines.

Many operations within the department require the use of potentially dangerous power tools and substances – therefore, without the appropriate training certificates; certain procedures can be experienced only through observation.

Applicants are expected to be studying a relevant course or to have a strong interest and ability in the fields; **applicants wishing to work with soft props must be fully proficient in the use of an industrial sewing machine and provide a letter from their course tutor verifying this.**

Although overalls will be provided students are advised to bring/wear old clothes and footwear.

Stage Management will seek to give students a variety of areas in which to work – typically a studio based rehearsal, with main cast or understudies, where they may expect to follow a score and perhaps do some basic 'cueing' and learn to liaise with other departments, especially "Making Props", and one or more theatre based rehearsals where they will either 'shadow' someone in the wings, or on the book, or assist in props setting and preparation for the show in general. They may also be asked to walk for a lighting session. They will not be expected to work more than two sessions in a day, though this will include some evenings. They learn our method of work, the routine and variety of WNO Stage Management.

This is not a route for budding actors/singers.

Applicants are expected to have had some experience of working back stage, in an amateur or professional capacity. A candidate seeking work experience with WNO Stage Management should expect to wear sensible casual clothes and bring a set of black clothes and soft black shoes [eg trainers] for theatre work and if possible steel toe-capped footwear.

The **Costume** Department includes a Cutter, an Assistant Cutter, a Costume Supervisor and Milliner, four Wardrobe Assistants and a Jeweller and Dyer – who also make soft props. **This a very busy making department, and as such, placements are suitable only for people on a relevant college course, who are proficient in the use of industrial machines and can produce a letter signed by their course tutor verifying this. Students are asked to bring with them scissors and a thimble, particularly if working in the millinery department. Unfortunately due to the pressures put on this dept by large productions they cannot always offer work experience placements.**

Wigs and Makeup is suitable for those with a basic hairdressing qualification or those currently on Hairdressing or Theatrical Make-up courses. Applicants should be aware that this is a very busy department, working in the theatre during onstage rehearsals and performances, therefore some evening work may well be required

Electrics/Technical theatre

Occasionally it might be possible to offer opportunities to those students wishing to pursue a career in lighting/technical theatre

Please return the application form to:

Clare Thorne

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Wales Millennium Centre, Bute Place, Cardiff Bay CF10 5AL**

email address: clare.thorne@wno.org.uk