

Role Outline: Costume & Running Wardrobe Department Placement

Responsible to:	Deputy Head of Costume
Liases with:	Running Wardrobe, Costume Workroom, Costume Buyers, Costume Administrator, Dye Shop
Guidance from:	HR Project Coordinator, Deputy Head of Costume, Head of Running Wardrobe, Safety Risk Management Team

The National Theatre

The National Theatre is central to the creative life of the country. In its three theatres on the South Bank in London it presents up to 30 new shows a year and productions also play in the West End and on tour. It broadcasts to cinemas worldwide through National Theatre Live, streams plays free to UK schools and produces a wealth of digital content about theatre.

Through an extensive programme of amplifying activities – platform performances, backstage tours, publications, exhibitions and outdoor events – it recognises that theatre doesn't begin and end with the rise and fall of the curtain.

The Department

The Costume Department is made up of a number of teams who create the Costumes for Productions at the National Theatre and who manage the backstage processes during the show's run. Departments that offer placements include Costume Making, Running Wardrobe and Buying Department, and the wider department also consists of Dye Shop, Costume Hire Department, Costume-Props and Wigs, Hair and Make Up. The nature of the work is fast paced and constantly varied and staff are specialised and experienced.

The Placement

A placement within the Costume Department lasts up to two weeks (sometimes longer in the running wardrobe or buying area) and will provide the opportunity to develop skills to enhance your existing training. As the nature of Costume work is constantly varied, no guarantees can be given as to specific techniques or skills you will encounter at the time of the placement however in order to gain the most from your experience we do ask you to select from the area you want to work in and that it be relevant to your skill base. While here you will be able to gain an accurate view of our work here and experience a busy working Costume Department. Applicants are expected to express a preference for one of the following areas: Costume Workroom; Men's tailoring or Ladies Making, Running Wardrobe and Buying Department.

Likely Requirements (as relevant to the area applied for)

- Have a basic knowledge of modern and period costume construction and terminology
- Be competent in the use of sewing machines and over-lockers
- Have a basic knowledge of different stitches and their application
- Have some experience of domestic and industrial pressing and steaming equipment
- Have an interest and knowledge in the properties and uses of different fabrics.
- For buying role: have some knowledge of London shopping areas and be confident to navigate oneself around the city. To be aware the role may require considerable shopping and carrying of heavy items.
- Good working knowledge of computers; using Word and Excel.
- Running Wardrobe may require evening and weekend work.

Person Specification

1. The ability to demonstrate a high level of initiative, attention to detail and thoroughness.
2. Resilient and with the ability to listen and communicate well.
3. Exceptional track record in reliability and punctuality.
4. Demonstrably energetic and proactive in carrying out all tasks in relation to theatre costume.
5. Be willing and able to work as a part of a team.
6. Able to work with all types of people and respond to instruction.
7. You should be on the 2nd, 3rd year or recent graduate of a relevant course.

Ideal Preparatory Qualifications & Experience

1. To have recently completed or currently be on a relevant HE course for the area chosen
2. Previous experience in the chosen area of specialism.
3. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of how a placement at NT will support their career aspirations.