

Head of Sound - Guys and Dolls (2024)

JOB DESCRIPTION

Salary:	£35,000 - £37,000 per annum dependent on experience
Terms:	Fixed term contract to January 2025
Hours:	Flexible working based around but not limited to a 35-hour average working week over 5 days Monday to Saturday. Will reflect rehearsal and production periods and performance schedules. TOIL system for any overtime accrued.
Probationary Period:	4 Months
Notice Period:	3 weeks during probation, 2 months thereafter
Holiday:	20 days + bank holidays per annum pro rata
Reports to:	Director of Productions
Responsible for:	Guys and Dolls Contracted Sound Staff, Freelance Production Sound Engineers, and any other freelance sound staff for events or maintenance.
Location:	Bridge Theatre, 3 Potters Fields Park, SE1 2SG

ABOUT LONDON THEATRE COMPANY

London Theatre Company is a commercial theatre producing company led by Nicholas Hytner and Nick Starr, with an emphasis on new work. Our intention is to create a culture, ethos and economic model that supports writers, directors, designers, and actors to work at scale in a space that is complementary to those of the subsidised theatre and West End. A new venue in King's Cross, Lightroom, has recently opened.

ABOUT THE BRIDGE THEATRE

The Bridge is London Theatre Company's first new theatre. It has a stunning riverside location on the south bank of the Thames, right by Tower Bridge and five minutes' walk from the transport hub of London Bridge station. It is designed by Haworth Tompkins, winner of the 2014 RIBA Stirling Prize for Liverpool's Everyman Theatre. It has 900+ seats and can be configured in end-stage, thrust and promenade formats.

The Bridge opened for the first time in October 2017, and since then has produced a variety of plays, including A German Life, a one-woman show starring Maggie Smith, and A Midsummer Night's Dream, an immersive reimagining of Shakespeare's classic. My Name is Lucy Barton, performed by Laura Linney, opened on Broadway in January 2020 and Straight Line Crazy with a cast led by Ralph Fiennes, transferred to New York in the autumn of 2022.

ABOUT GUYS AND DOLLS

The Bridge's first musical, an immersive reimagining of Guys & Dolls. The Bridge has been transformed for an immersive production of Guys & Dolls – one of the greatest musicals of all time. Seating for over 650 is wrapped around the stage, while on stage over 380 standing audience are immersed in the streets of New York and the nightlife of Havana. The production opened to sensational reviews in March 2023 and is currently booking until August 2024.

ABOUT THIS ROLE

The Head of Sound will join the core technical team at the Bridge for the duration of the run of Guys & Dolls. The role will encompass managing all aspects of the Bridge Theatre's sound and communication systems, sound staff, the building infrastructure, and taking a leading role as required in the day-to-day operational management of the technical department and theatre alongside the other HODs.

The candidate will join a small team of full-time staff, working collaboratively with all members of the team in achieving the smooth delivery of the production and rehearsals, as well as other projects and events at the Bridge Theatre.

The Head of Sound is the only full-time member of staff for the Sound Department, all other staff are contracted as required. Most of the sound and communications system used for Guys and Dolls at the Bridge is hired. This has allowed us to offer incoming designers and productions a blank slate to design what they feel best for their show. This approach has been key to the ongoing success of the department, and underpins LTC's approach to show-making. A large part of the role is managing all these stakeholders and relationships, and building a strong team for the production to realise and maintain the designer's aspirations.

The role requires a thorough knowledge of managing a top class musical theatre sound department, with a strong practical knowledge of current and emerging sound technologies, managing long term relationships with hire stores, and the hiring and retention of key production freelance staff.

PRODUCTION AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manage the day to day running of the sound department and Bridge Theatre building as required for a top class musical theatre production.
- Work with and support the sound designer and associate sound designers to maintain the consistency and quality of the production.
- Support and assist other departments and teams at the Bridge as required to ensure the smooth operational running of the venue.
- Ensure the high quality installation, maintenance and operation of all sound and communication systems for the production.
- To take on duty technical management role during performances, as required by The Bridge Theatre.
- Manage the building's communication systems. This includes the Back of House and Front of House radios, paging, and show relay systems. Be proactive in maintaining and fault finding these systems, and suggesting upgrades as the needs of the building change and systems reach their end of life.
- Take a lead in supporting and maintaining the building's assisted listening systems with Front of House.
- Assist with any on site IT issues alongside our IT consultants, offering front line support and input into any changes of the building's IT infrastructure and systems.
- Manage all budgets related to the Sound Department; including but not restricted to production budgets, staffing, events, and capital expenditure.
- Be an active and engaged member of the technical team at the Bridge Theatre.

- To be actively engaged and take a leading role in maintaining a high level of Health and Safety in accordance with CDM regulations and any policies set by the Bridge Theatre.
- As required, oversee sound requirements for incoming events while safeguarding the production's sound system, booking and managing freelance staff as required to realise an Event's requirements.

SCHEDULING AND STAFFING

- To manage and schedule all staff (freelance and contract) working for the Sound Department on *Guys and Dolls*.
- To ensure a high standard of work from staff to maintain a top class musical theatre production in relation to sound.
- To keep an active role within the theatrical sound community to allow the department to be engaged with, and known to, emerging and well established potential employees and other industry figures.
- To undertake line management responsibilities for all Sound Department staff and technical swings.
- To be available on rota to cover duties as required.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Advanced, demonstrable, and current knowledge of all aspects of modern theatrical practices in relation to musical theatre sound.
- Good knowledge of the various roles within a professional sound department, and the structure of staffing through the entire production process.
- Experience hiring and managing staff, and following recruitment policies.
- Experience of hiring sound systems through a hire store. Both in terms of the understanding of current hire costs, managing an ongoing hire agreement, and in agreeing suitable equipment lists which satisfy all the stakeholders.
- Experience using AutoCAD or similar design software to produce production documentation.
- Experience using software related to managing and designing the components of large scale sound systems.
- Prior demonstrable experience in either a similar role, as a Production Sound Engineer, Designer, or similar professional experience.
- Leadership skills and the ability to manage large teams of staff in a busy theatre environment.
- Highly organised, approachable and friendly, with a firm understanding and enthusiasm for the entire production process.
- The ability to work well under pressure in a collaborative environment.
- Computer literate, with the ability to learn and use the various types of software packages used to manage the financial and HR procedures within LTC.
- Knowledge of safe working practices. Good working knowledge of Working at Height Regulations, LOLER, PUWER, CDM and general safe working practice in a theatrical environment.
- Ability to work independently and proactively to improve venue operations and ensure

efficiency across all departments.

DESIRABLE SKILLS

- Health and Safety Qualification and experience writing risk assessments
- IPAF License
- Knowledge of/prior experience with Building Facilities.
- Advanced working knowledge of IT systems, both in relation to a building and within the context of a theatrical production.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply: please email recruitment@londontheatrecompany.co.uk with your completed CV and Cover Letter as one document.

Deadline for applications: **Monday 11 December 2023 12pm.**

If you have any queries, please contact recruitment@londontheatrecompany.co.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer and value diversity. We encourage applicants from different backgrounds and different experiences.