



ABTT Careers and Professional Development Hub

Speak with one of our many professionals!

Gill Allen: Senior Academic in Production Arts and GSMD

Gill's background is in stage management and Higher Education. She trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and worked in a number of regional rep theatres, including the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester before moving into television. Gill then moved into education and is now a Senior Academic where until April 2023 she was Programme Leader of the BA (Hons) Production Arts at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Gill then moved into education and is now a Senior Academic where until April 2023 she was Programme Leader of the BA (Hons) Production Arts at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Sebastian Barnes: ABTT Tutor and former Theatre Technician in a variety of disciplines

Sebastian has over 45 years working in a wide variety of job roles in technical provision for theatres and live entertainment. Sebastian has extensive experience in backstage skills including lighting, sound, scenery, management, training and staff development. In recent years Sebastian has been working with Theatre Apprenticeships, coaching and assessing, and helping to develop new standards, also delivering ABTT Training courses.

Louise Birchall: ABTT Training Co-ordinator, Freelance Production/ Technical Manager, H&S Advisor and ABTT Tutor

Louise is the training coordinator of the Association of British Theatre Technicians and currently works as a freelance Production Manager, Technical Manager, Health and Safety Auditor and a Tutor on The ABTT's Bronze Award. Louise is a member of the ABTT Training and Education Committee. Louise has worked as a Technical Manager in small Art Centres, and no1 touring houses as well as touring the UK and beyond with dance companies and childrens work. Louise also works as a Production Manager and Producer in Events around the UK.

Oliver Brown: ABTT Vice-Chair and Executive Director and Joint CEO at Riding Lights Theatre Company

Oliver is Executive Director and Co-CEO for Riding Lights Theatre Company. Previously holding Technical Director and Operation roles at theatre's including Hull Truck, Cast and The Victoria Theatre.

Oliver previously sat on the committee for the Production Management Form and supported the mentoring scheme. Oliver previously worked as a lecturer in Technical Theatre.

Caitlin Crosby: Head of Technical at the Albany

Caitlin graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Over the last 20 years Caitlin has worked as a freelance multi-disciplined technician, working in fringe theatre, corporate events and on West End shows.

Caitlin is a strong advocate for neurodiversity and inclusivity within the industry. Caitlin is the current Head of Technical at The Albany, Deptford. Leading on the production for all programming and engagement events within the theatre and community spaces whose work includes multiple disciplines and art forms, spanning music, theatre, comedy, circus and more.

Mark Dakin: ABTT Trustee and TAIT UK Principle

Has over 45 years of professional theatre experience, working as a Technical Director, Production Director and Project Manager for some of the UK's most prolific, producing, performing arts organisations including The Royal Opera House – Covent Garden, The National Theatre, English National Opera, Theatre Royal – Stratford East, The Young Vic, Cameron Macintosh Ltd and Really Useful Group, his TAIT role works to maintain existing and build new partnerships with Artists, Producers and Organisations, to create culture defining experience through continuous innovation, especially (but not exclusively) in the Performing Arts sector.

He is also a proud Fellow and Council Member of the ABTT, a Stage Sight Co-Director, a Tangle Associate, a member of the Theatre Artists Fund Advisory Committee, a member of the ABTT Outreach & Visibility Group, an active advocate for the Mulberry Production Art Academy and is currently a Trustee of The Genesis Theatre Design Program and The Bush Theatre.

Sam Jeffs: Technical Manager at Blue I Theatre Technology

Sam has served as the Technical Manager at Blue I Theatre Technology for over three years, specializing in video technology. With more than a decade of experience as a freelance video engineer and programmer prior to joining Blue I, Sam brings a wealth of expertise to the role. His diverse background includes significant work in London's West End, as well as an extensive range of touring, regional productions, live music events, and unique projects around the globe.

Geoff Joyce: ABTT Tutor

Geoffrey was previously the facilitator and training programme leader for the ABTT up until the beginning of 2024.

His exemplary introductory training courses distill a suite of vocational skills, to provide the essential grounding that ensures a new entrant to technical theatre will be safe backstage. He has established the content and delivery of the ABTT training programmes throughout the UK. These are based upon vocational practice and are deliverable in the workplace. Much of Geoffrey's work has been undertaken on a voluntary basis and much of ABTT's training would not exist without his dedication.

Peter Maccoy: Lecturer at RCSSD and OISTAT Representative

Peter represents the UK on the OISTAT Education Commission. Peter lectures in Stage Management and Technical Theatre at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. His book 'The Essentials of Stage Management' was published in 2004.

Rikki Newman: ABTT Tutor and former Master Carpenter

Rikki Newman has been working stages since 1970's in Australia, New Zealand and UK. He has been a Master Carpenter (HOD Stage) in the West End, for over 30 years. Having always worked the shows every day, hopes to be able to offer a view of the GOOD and the BAD of theatre. He has been involved in Standards with the BSI and with Theatre Training in UK since the 1990's and is an Honorary Member of ABTT, sitting on the Training & Education Committee.

Anette Ollerearnshaw: ABTT WHAM Committee Chair and current Head of Projects, Facilities and Operations at RCM

Anette Ollerearnshaw has gained her expertise in planning, production, and delivery through working at the forefront of world-leading arts organisations, venues and higher education providers. Anette is author and custodian of the Wigs, Hair and Makeup sustainability principles and toolbox guidance for the Theatre Green Book and is the founder of the Association of British Theatre Technicians' WHAM community.

Nick Page: Head of Automation and Chair of ABTT Automation Committee

Nick has been deeply involved in the entertainment industry since 1997, with a focused specialisation in theatrical automation from 2004.

His experience includes serving as Head of Automation for notable productions, including Moulin Rouge!, ABBA Voyage, and Motown the Musical. Nick's expertise also encompasses automation programming and consultancy for diverse shows and events, such as MSC Cruise Line, TAIT, and the innovative theatrical adaptation of Life of Pi.

Driven by a passion for advancing his field, Nick founded automation.london, a key online resource for automation job postings in the UK. Additionally, he is the Chairman of the ABTT Automation Committee (ABTTAC), where his leadership was pivotal in the committee's inception in 2020. For further insights into his work and industry contributions, please visit automation.london and abttac.org

Ben Stephen: ABTT Trustee and Head of Projects and Engagement at Lamp and Pencil

Ben has been a professional theatre technician for over 25 years and an active member of the ABTT Safety Committee for 10 years. Starting out at the National Student Drama Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe, Ben worked for various South West based hire companies before a slightly terrifying stint in outdoor arts with The World Famous – making large format fire, fireworks and experiential theatre. In 2013 he joined the Albany in South East London where he was Head of Production and then Technical & Operations Director, including a stint as co-producer for Lewisham, London Borough of Culture in 2022. In 2024 he joined Lamp & Pencil as Head of Projects & Engagement working on a wide variety of West End, National and International Theatre projects.