**Staging Professionalism**

The role of the ABTT in the professionalisation of technical practice across post-war, civic, and subsidised British theatre.

I am a PhD candidate, at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (RCSSD), researching the professionalisation of technical theatre in post war Britain during the rise of civic and subsidised theatre design. In discussing the emergence of the Association of British Theatre Technicians (ABTT), my research explores the development of specialisms and expertise in labour and practice across technical theatre, and the influence of networks and people on an emerging post war industry. The following questions ask you to consider your involvement with the ABTT, the organisation’s history, and the association’s growing influence on theatre, particularly, between 1961-1985.

Please answer each question in as much detail as possible;

You

1. How did you first hear of the ABTT?
2. Where and why did you become engaged with the association?
3. What has been your role(s) in support of the organisation?
4. What have you hoped to achieve?
5. What is your area(s) of expertise?

The organisation

1. How would you describe the ABTT?
2. What is the organisation best known for?
3. How would you depict the ABTT’s area(s) of expertise?
4. What do you feel has been the greatest achievement of the ABTT?
5. What do you believe the ABTT is still to achieve?

The networks

1. Who have you worked most closely with during your time involved with the ABTT?
2. What other committees and organisations have you been involved with during your time associated with the ABTT (please remember that your testimony may be accessed through the archive or wider public domains in the future)?
3. What areas of ABTT involvement across technical theatre do you consider to be the most important, where, and why?
4. Who, in your opinion, have been the most influential/important people in the emergence and continued development of the ABTT and why?
5. Which people/organisations would you expect to see discussed in a history of the ABTT between 1961-1985 and why?

This series of questions - and accompanying interviews – sent to all members of the ABTT, provide a set of oral history documents that the association’s archive would benefit from, and the intention of this research is to present the material at thesis completion. The material will be a combination of email, telephone, virtual, and face-to-face interviews, presented as raw data (and where possible transcribed), to support the telling of an ABTT history.

If you would like to discuss further the use of your information (before completing and returning the questionnaire and consent form to the email below or to the ABTT office), or you are interested in discussing the research further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for taking the time to consider and replying to this series of questions.

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| Participant code: | Interview number: |
| Date: | Location: |