

(Questions and Answers)

UK Theatre and Live Event Apprenticeship Network Meeting 4th August 2020

- 1. I started an apprenticeship with White Light in September, I was sadly made redundant in May due to Covid. I loved the apprenticeship and still really want to finish it with White Light if I can in the future, but if that's not possible are my skills easily transferable to another company? Thank you**

Reply from Sebastian Barnes: I believe your training provider should be able to help find an alternative employer or talk to White Light to help you complete your apprenticeship learning. The training provider should arrange your End Point Assessment as soon as they/ you believe you are ready.

- 2. Hello, I'm a 3rd year student at Aberystwyth university and I was wondering where do I go to find opportunities to apprenticeships in the UK. I'm seeing a lot of acronyms for organisations but I'm struggling to find the right resources.**

Reply from Sebastian Barnes: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> to search for particular apprenticeships. It's individual training providers who usually advertise the places. the Gov.uk link should help find the few training providers for specific apprenticeship standards.

Reply from Kathryn Willens: Apprenticeship opportunities in Scotland can be found here: <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/> although not currently advertising any in technical theatre.

- 3. I've been working as a CVT apprentice as the sound/lighting technician at a secondary school. I'd love to hear from anyone who transitioned from a similar position into a more theatre-centred role.**

Reply from an attendee: You could consider options such as the themed entertainment sector as well as hire houses such as: Hawthorn.

- 4. Are Apprentices that have been affected by COVID-19 likely to have their apprenticeships be extended?**

Reply from Sally Garner-Gibbons : Extensions depends on the employer

- 5. I'm currently an apprentice lighting technician and just wanted to ask for some potential advice on work channels to look into once my apprenticeship is over? Are there certain sites or forums that have job listings for freelancers or possibly avenues that are generally quite open to workers that don't have a ton of experience?**

Reply from an attendee: You could join the Stage Management Assoc they have a free list which is excellent! But as Sebastian says, listen out for job opportunities on FB.

Reply from an Attendee: I'd be remised if I didn't shoutout the TEA (themed entertainment association) as well as their NextGen program which can help meet people and have the opportunity to pair with a mentor in that industry.

6. How could we make up for the practical time off that we have had? Does anyone have any suggestions for Courses that we could look at online and in the future when things are up in the future?

Reply from Sebastian Barnes: Naturally I'd recommend the ABTT courses. The Bronze Award in particular is often used as part of the CVT Apprenticeships to cover the training element of the Apprenticeship: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/training/courses/>

7. What jobs are there available in the themed entertainment sector?

Reply from an attendee: I can't speak to what jobs there are specifically. But as a multirole technician I have found my skills are transferable into that sector specifically in design, technical install etc.

8. How hard is it to transfer skills from theatre and live events into other industries such as tv and movies?

Reply from an attendee: Having worked in TV LX there is certainly a change in the way you work but I'd love to talk with you about it, if you'd like? (Please contact the ABTT if you wish to be put in contact)

9. I wanted to ask if the apprenticeship for the National Theatre still available to apply this year (2020).

Reply: Currently due to the Covid-19 pandemic the NT are not currently offering apprenticeship at this time.

10. Hello I'm a freelance Theatre lighting technician/designer/programmer from Glasgow my college training finished in 1997 and been back in the industry for 4 years, am I too old for apprenticeship, I've sent my cv to venues but is there anything else I can do , any help would be gratefully received

Reply Kathryn Willens: Apprenticeship opportunities in Scotland can be found here: <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/> although not currently advertising any in technical theatre.

You are never too old to do an apprenticeship – though you may be too old to access funding.

11. I've always had difficulty finding work through websites such as the stage/ the stage Mandy. What else should I be doing?

Reply: It is always a good idea to hand out your CV in person to the local theatres. Going in person is often a much better idea as they put a face to the name and can let you know about any potential opportunities for one off work. Taking anything they offer (event a none time job) will often gain you access to more permanent roles in the future. Networking is everything!