

ABTT STSG Seminar Chat

17:01:27 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Good Afternoon and thank you to everyone who is joining us, it is great to have you with us.

This webinar is part of the programme for the Theatre Show Online and is presented by the Association of British Theatre Technicians.

17:01:45 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Hi everyone, great to have you all with us today. Please do let us know where you are joining us from and what your job role is

17:02:42 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Do just select "all panellists and attendess" on the drop down

17:03:22 From Andrea Duncan to All panelists : Hi I am an Arts Centre Manager at Pipers Corner School in Buckinghamshire.

17:03:43 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Hi thanks Andrea, welcome!

17:03:44 From Andrew Taylor to Everyone : ABT School theatre tech and science teacher Canterbury

17:03:55 From Mig Burgess - ABTT Trustee to Everyone : Hi Everyone - lovely to have you all here

17:03:58 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : If anyone else would like to share where they are coming from and your role it would be great!

17:04:35 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Our host today is Alex Cann. Alex is an elected Trustee-Director and board member of the ABTT.

He has recently been the Senior Lighting Tutor at Mountview, training the next generations of technicians. Prior to this he has worked both nationally and internationally in venues and touring.

Amongst other jobs, he was also a Technical Project Manager - Theatre - for Stage Electrics looking after their long term theatre productions both in the West End and internationally. He has worked in educational venues both as part of the resident technical team, but also as a freelancer.

He has been involved in various projects including both new build and renovation of performance spaces. Alex was also a previous committee member of the STSG.

17:05:01 From Dennis Brandrick to All panelists : Dennis Brandrick, I look after the Theatre at Herne Bay High School

17:05:28 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Great to have you with us Dennis!

17:05:39 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Our panellists today include: Jennifer Lewington-Chislett – Performing Arts Technician at Sir William Borlase’s Grammar School in Marlow.

Jennifer is the Performing Arts Technician at Sir William Borlase’s Grammar School in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. After training in Music Technology at Rose Bruford College, Jennifer worked in the broadcast industry in equipment hire and sound departments for television, independent film and radio.

She left broadcasting for the education sector in 2009 and hasn't looked back and finds working with young people incredibly rewarding. She discovered STSG after a few years working in education and became a committee member a few years ago.

17:06:30 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Our second panellist is: Peter Humphreys – Theatre Manager at Cranleigh School in Surrey

Peter is Theatre Manager for Cranleigh Schools and owner of Addsomecolour Productions.

: After Graduating from University with a degree in Theatre Production he joined Tring Park School for the Performing Arts. He toured nationally with Encore Dance Company and lit productions through his own company before moving to Cranleigh in 2020. He is a big supporter of the STSG and has visited many schools through the organisation, organised workshops and sat on the committee.

17:08:23 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Our third panellist is: Christopher Stone – Theatre Technical Manager at Mulberry Schools Trust in London.

Chris is Theatre Technical Manager for the Mulberry Schools Trust which operates three schools in East London. After graduating with a degree in Stage Management from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2011, Chris joined Mulberry and has worked on the development, design and technical fit out of the trust's two purpose built theatres.

Shortly after starting his career in the education sector Chris became a member of STSG before joining the committee and supporting the development of the Performance Support Award.

17:10:14 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Who are the STSG?

"STSG was founded in 2005 as a support and networking organisation for professional theatre technicians working in school theatres. Our focus is mainly on technical production, venue management and education. As theatre practitioners in a teaching environment, school technicians occupy a unique and isolated situation; outside of regular theatre but with the same products, rules and issues that typical theaters face. For this reason, the founders felt that a network of school-based theatre technicians would be mutually beneficial.

The Group is open to all professionally-employed theatre support staff working in schools, colleges or other educational establishments; primarily technicians and managers, but also anyone with an active interest, such as teachers with responsibility for the technical side of productions. The majority of our members work in secondary schools, but we also have a few members from primary/prep schools, colleges and universities.

We have a strong membership base from a wide range of independent schools, state schools and other institutions around the country, with all manner of facilities from professional theatres to drama classrooms; allowing us to share ideas and problems specific to school theatres, as well as keeping in contact with those working in a similar environment. We are also an information resource for those teaching drama or working with young people in other areas of theatre."

You can find out more about the STSG here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/committees/school-theatre-support-group-committee/>

17:11:43 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : *“The STSG have over 100 members from a wide range of independent schools, state schools and other institutions around the country, with all manner of facilities from professional theatres to drama classrooms.*

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The majority of our members work in secondary schools, but we also have a few members from primary/prep schools, colleges and universities.”

As a member of the ABTT, you are eligible to join the STSG for free – you simply need to let us know that you wish to join. Email us at office@abtt.org.uk

17:14:20 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Launched in 2015, the Performance Support Award has been created in order to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people who want to be involved backstage outside of the classroom.

It has been developed by STSG members in response to demands for a non-academic course which can be tailored to suit the needs of technicians/tutors responsible for pupils undertaking extra-curricular activities in the school theatre.

The Award provides a reference framework for busy technicians/tutors to use as the basis for a regular activity programme, in a similar way to a teacher using a scheme of work or lesson plan.

This is not an academic course, although it can be incorporated into a curriculum if required. It is intended to be delivered outside of classroom hours in whatever format works best for your learners. There are no time limits or exam dates.

The scheme is divided into Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. The modular nature of each level will allow tutors to adapt the content to suit the time available, the facilities and equipment available, and the specific interests and skills of the participants.

The final portfolio can be used by the pupil as evidence of skills and experience during an university interview process.

More information can be found below.

<http://www.stsg.org.uk/ps-award.php>

17:17:25 From Alex Cann to Everyone : Don't forget you can ask questions at any time, please click the 'Q&A' button at the bottom of your screen and send them over to the panelists.

17:22:55 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : If anyone has any questions for our speakers, please do let us know!

Once a student has completed a Gold Award, you will be able to sign up your students as an ABTT young Associate Member.

Young Associate Membership will provide you with a wide variety of benefits which can be found listed here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/join-abtt/memberships-for-individuals/>

17:27:26 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : *“Since March last year as School Theatre Technicians and Managers, have had to adapt to a huge amount of changes in a very short period of time. Some of you were on furlough, but others would have been working from home*

As schools returned we have found ourselves in a very different environment, and are having to balance two sets of rules, one for theatres and one for school.

Some of us have been able to produce live performances for streaming and some have not. There have been additional challenges in student participation with performance support as well.

During COVID, STSG launched a weekly lunch meeting for its members to provide a sounding board for upcoming challenges and provide a space to connect with others.”

17:29:09 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : The STSG provide some online training courses, one of which was the" COVID-19 Compliance Officer course from RB."

“The effects of this pandemic can be seen very clearly on our industry, venues forced to close and their staff out of work. With no clear path to reopening venues and allowing audiences to watch events live, online streaming played a big part in getting live theatre back onto stage.

Schools were in the fortunate position of being able to put shows together due to bubbling but without having their peers, parent’s or general public to watch. The only way to have an audience was via a screen of some variety, whether it be a live stream or a recording.

All schools are going to have a couple of video cameras and a computer lying around, add to that a vision mixer and a HDMI capture card and you have the basics of a streaming setup. To increase the quality you can add a USB audio mixer to introduce radio and room mics to improve the quality.

Of course you may decide that streaming isn’t the way to go; either your internet connection isn’t rock solid or the show can only be produced in sections to be covid compliant.

Then recording and youtube premieres may be a better idea, this gives you time to edit your production and add titles but still has the excitement of seeing a live production at a set time of an evening.”

17:30:40 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : How have school had to deal with two sets of rules - one for the school, one for theatre?

“What works for general school life doesn't always work for a school theatre; Safeguarding, Privacy and Health & Safety all play a big part in everything we do, whether on stage or not. Items as simple as a quick change can have major implications and need to be thought through in detail.

I always find the simplest and best solution when unsure on this matter is to consult the management within your school, using the ABTT yellow book for guidance.”

Technical standards a publication provides a set of standards for the buildings, equipment and management of premises which are primarily used for entertainment.

Such buildings can present unique hazards to performers, staff and the general public due to the number of people present in unfamiliar surroundings which may be noisy or poorly lit.

The standards are intended to apply to indoor venues although much of the guidance will also apply to outdoor events. The intention here is to help licensees, technical managers and enforcers to understand the requirements and needs of places of entertainment. The aim is to provide simple guidance in an easy format.

More information can be found here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/product/technical-standards-for-places-of-entertainment/>

17:32:20 From Alex Cann to Everyone : it is worth saying that for those of you who are already ABTT members, we have produced a series of 'Covid 19 Guidance' which can be found here:

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/resources-guidance/covid19/>

17:32:31 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : How has the STSG been good for raising the awareness in the industry of the professionalism of school theatres?

One of the biggest issues we hear about from our members is the disconnection they feel between themselves and the school. Usually it is because they are the only person within their department, but there is also confusion about their role within the school. They can be classed as support staff but also work closely with students so can equally be teaching staff, they may work the longest hours in the school but are not taking home the biggest paycheck.

The STSG is here to remind members that they are not alone, there are many others out there in the same position and together we form a strong community. We also promote the great work our members are doing whilst providing students with professional work environments.

If you are interested in becoming a Full Member of the ABTT you can do so here:

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/join-abtt/become-a-full-member/>

Anyone who has an interest in technical theatre, whether in a professional or amateur capacity, can join the Association of British Theatre Technicians. The type of membership depends on the applicant's knowledge and experience.

The STSG's annual conference takes place every February at a member school. The Saturday event consists of a busy day of workshops, seminars and networking, followed by a semi-formal dinner.

Several industry suppliers attend with a small exhibition of products and services. Networking with other delegates and sponsors is always an important part of the day.

Workshops are a mix of technical and non-technical subjects, covering practical topics and the latest trends. Delegate places are subsidised by our generous sponsors, with accommodation included in the price.

More information can be found here: <http://www.stsg.org.uk/conference.php>

The next conference will be held on Saturday 12th February 2022 in Canterbury. More details will be announced in September/October.

17:35:34 From Andrew Taylor to Everyone : Look forward to seeing you there

17:36:12 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : As restrictions lift, the STSG are hoping to be able to offer in-person training courses again.

They are hoping to offer an in-person Working at Height Training course in the next 12 months. The advantage of STSG offering training courses means that because they can offer it to more people at once the training costs are slightly lower.

If you are not yet a member of STSG, and are interested in joining us, please go to our website - stsg.org.uk.

Membership is free until January and if you are an ABTT member there is no additional cost thereafter.

17:42:32 From Andrew Taylor to Everyone : Working in a school is more of a way of life rather than a 9-5 job. - a bit like the military

17:45:02 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : If anyone has any questions about what we have been discussing so far please pop them in to the Q&A tab

If anyone is interested in attending the upcoming ABTT and PLAA Show in September you can register your interest here: <https://www.plasashow.com/register-your-interest>

do have a wide variety of seminars running for FREE over the 9th-11th June so please do take a look to see if any others may be of interest to you: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/events/abtt-online-seminars-june-2021/>

You can also find all our previous seminars available for FREE to view here: https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/

17:57:05 From Andrew Taylor to Everyone : We are fortunate. when we are not using equipment / props we are happy to loan out certain items, particularly props.

17:57:37 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : As mentioned, all our sessions are recorded and will be available alongside relevant links after the session here: https://www.abtt.org.uk/events-and-courses/abtt_seminars/seminars_june-2021/

If you are interested in finding out more about joining the ABTT or STSG please do take a look on the websites here:

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/join-abtt/memberships-for-individuals/>

<http://www.stsg.org.uk/>

Alternatively, please do just email us on office@abtt.org.uk

17:58:49 From Andrew Taylor to All panelists : Thank you for a very interesting webinar.

17:59:18 From Elysia Moore to Everyone : Please remember, the ABTT is a membership organisation and we are only as strong as our membership: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/join-abtt>

If you would like to make a small donation to the ABTT for organising the seminar today and to continue with their charitable works you can do so here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

Thank you to everyone for joining us today and to all our panel

Hopefully see you at some of the other events