POSITION DESCRIPTION

Followspot Operator

Position Title: Followspot Operator  
Department: Major Projects  
Location: Based at The Opera Centre, Sydney, but may be required to work and/or be based at project locations or other company work locations, as required.  
Classification: Production Staff  
Employment Type: Casual or Fixed Term

The Company

Opera Australia is Australia's national opera company, dedicated to enriching Australia's cultural life with exceptional opera and sustaining and developing the art form.

Opera Australia is the largest and busiest performing arts organisation in Australia, with over 600 opera performances a year, including two opera seasons in Sydney and Melbourne, Opera on Sydney Harbour, musical theatre, opera concerts and a range of other activities. Through its touring arm, the Company reaches out to communities in regional Australia, and delivers an exciting program to school students. Opera performances are broadcast and distributed nationally and internationally.

Opera Australia casts its productions from an ensemble of Australian artists - opera singers, dancers, conductors and repetiteurs, with regular appearances by international guest artists. The Company manages the Opera Australia Orchestra and also works in partnership with Orchestra Victoria. The Company works with leading directors and designers, and employs a large number of highly skilled people in the areas of scenic construction and painting, wardrobe and wig-making, stage production, and management and administration. Overall, the Company plays a vital role in developing and sustaining a specialist skills base in this unique area of the performing arts.

For further information please refer to our website at opera.org.au.

The Major Projects Department

The department is responsible for the development and implementation of large scale projects, such as Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, Opera on the Beach and Sydney Opera House – The Opera to high artistic, technical and operational standards.

Position Summary

To support the Lighting Department with setup and installation of the production and site lighting. This position will lead the Followspot team and take direction from the Lighting Designer and Head of Lighting. This position will also be responsible for maintaining the standard of lighting throughout the season. To support the Lighting Department and assist the Deputy Head of Lighting with the installation of the site infrastructure egress lighting and with the venue lighting design.
Reporting Line
Reports to: Lead Followspot Operator
Direct reports: Nil

Key Accountabilities
Key accountabilities include, but are not limited to the following:

Production
- Operate a Robert Juliet Cerano follow spot or similar;
- Work productively with the Lighting team, including staff from the contracting lighting equipment supply company;
- Maintain the artistic integrity of the Lighting Design as part of the Followspot Team;
- Ensure that safe work practices are being followed by the Followspot Team, and
- Comfortable working at heights.

Other
- Attend production and staff meetings and implement requests from these meetings as directed;
- Follow all Work Health and Safety policies and guidelines, including but not limited to:
  - Use equipment in the recommended manner and using safety and personal protective equipment as provided;
  - Promote the health and safety of the venue and patrons including reporting hazards, near misses, unsafe work practices and incidents to the Head of Department in the first instance, and if not sufficiently addressed then to the Senior Site and Technical Manager.
  - Adhere to safety solutions provided;
  - Participate and contribute to discussions on safety implementations as they arise;
- Undertake any other duties as required, which are within the limits of the employee’s skill, competence and training.

Common Accountabilities
Opera Australia is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff. The company and its staff must comply with a range of statutory requirements, including equal opportunity, work health and safety, privacy and trade practice. The Company also expects staff to comply with its policy and procedures, which relate to statutory requirements and our ways of working. Appointees are accountable for completing training on these matters and ensuring their knowledge, and the knowledge of their staff, is up to date.

All staff must:
- Treat other staff and members of the public with respect;
- Act with integrity and meet the company’s high standards of personal and professional conduct;
- Take reasonable care of, and cooperate with actions taken to protect, the health and safety of both themselves and others; and
- Report incidents and hazards to their immediate manager as soon as practicable.

All Managers of staff and facilities must do whatever is reasonably practical to ensure that both the workplace and the work are safe, in consultation with staff affected.

**Selection Criteria**

The key selection criteria for the role are:

- Experience working as a Followspot Operator on professional large-scale indoor and/or outdoor events, festivals or theatre;
- Practical knowledge on the operation and capabilities of various lighting desks, followspots and technologies;
- Experience working at heights and able to carry out manual handling tasks;
- Understand the lighting requirements and daily maintenance of theatres or festival sites;
- Excellent organisation and communication skills, written and verbal;
- Experience working with creative and technical personnel, and performers;
- Ability to work under pressure, using tact, diplomacy and flexibility;
- Knowledge and understanding of safe work practices; and
- A flexible attitude to duties/Responsibilities and working hours including weekends and nights.

**Other Considerations**

Appointment to this position is subject to the position holder having residency status and/or possessing a visa with work rights. Appointment may also be subject to passing a mandatory Working with Children check, where required by law. For some positions, an independent health and fitness check or criminal records check may also be required.

The role involves relocation to rehearsal and project venues as well as regular evening and weekend work.

This position description will be reviewed on a regular basis and changes made to reflect changes in the requirements of the role. Staff will be consulted in the process of review.