TWS Scenic Builder

The Western Stage (TWS) is a theatre program in residence at Hartnell Community College in Salinas, CA. We produce 6 shows annually between April/May and November/December each year. We are not a union theatre, but we do engage professional guest artists (including AEA actors) who work beside community and student talent. We best serve the next generation of theatre artists, especially folx who are seeking CV building opportunities. We strive to mirror the rich diversity of theatre artists that enrich our profession and we encourage applicants of all ethnicities, gender identities, and ages, as well as with disabilities, to submit their interest & application.

**As TWS strives to broaden its reach into the diverse communities in Monterey County, all departments will also diversify its members so our teams reflect the audiences we are working to attract and welcome, many of whom will have a first experience of theatre/live performance at Western Stage.*

Employment is as a part-time, seasonal Hartnell College Professional Expert Employee, and is directly supervised by TWS' Scene Shop Supervisor and generally by TWS Managing Artistic Director.

Position Overview

TWS scenic builders construct/fabricate scenic elements for a specific production, ensuring they align with the scenic designer's build plans. They are able to build these scenic elements with accuracy and safety.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Provide hands-on, safe construction of individual show designs - the physical creation of sets, props, backdrops from plans to final installation.
- Work with a team of builders, scenic painters,and other builders/fabricators, or as a sole builder, dependent upon the scope and complexity of the scenic build.
- Work throughout the construction process demonstrating safe and proper building practices.
- Guarantee that the final build is safe, durable, functional and visually accurate to the design

Key Skills and Qualifications

- Skill & proficiency in set construction/carpentry and basic painting.
- Experience with various materials and fabrication techniques including wood, metal, plastic, foam, fabric, paints, adhesives, fasteners, hardware.
- Familiarity with the needs of theatrical or industrial fabrication
- Able to follow directions given for specific tasks and scenic element assignments.

Schedule:

- Seasonal schedule is 8-9 months during the production season (Mar/Apr - Nov/Dec)
- TWS scene shop schedule is currently 9:00/9:30- 4:00/4:30p, Monday - Friday.
- Can be engaged for the full season or individual productions.

Knowledge/skills:

- Resume that reflects knowledge of scenic design, construction, and safety procedures
- Demonstrated competencies necessary to perform the job of scenic builder.

- High level of organization, attention to detail, and ability to follow-through completely and meet deadlines.
- Must follow all of TWS and Hartnell College Covid-19 protocols (LINK).

Work Experience:

- Employment as college Professional Expert (BA/BFA in Theatre) **& 6+ years professional resume**
- Opportunities for Student builders/internships at a non-employment classification.

Physical Environment:

- TWS resides in a performing arts venue that was built in 1974. While the renovated Center for Performing Arts is accessible, the distance between house seats and the stage is accessed by stairs in both theaters.
- The flooring in the performing arts venue is a combination of linoleum, tile, wood and cement; the surfaces of the two stages are painted masonite and may be uneven.
- The floor of the scene shop is cement and the build yard is outdoors with asphalt surface.
- The HVAC system was updated when the building was renovated in 2023, but the temperature inside is centrally controlled and can fluctuate.
- The scene shop is a large space with a high ceiling and a rolling metal door to the build yard. The space can be very hot or cold, depending on the weather. Salinas summers are foggy and chilly.
- Because of the nature of power and hand tools, the sound level in the scene shop/build yard can be loud for several hours.
- Because of the nature of theatre production, the sound level in rehearsals and performances may become loud and there may be flashing lights and stage fog/haze.
- Lighting in the building is primarily overhead fluorescent fixtures.
- Backstage areas are dark, and at times dimly illuminated.
- Construction materials & stock, supplies & materials may weigh up to 35 or more pounds and may be stored in overhead bins/shelves that require ladders.

Compensation: Compensation is based on previous professional experience and skill: $20-27/hour

Application Process

May apply for the full season or individual productions. Please send a resume and examples of your work or a portfolio to Production@hartnell.edu . Please indicate the show(s) you are available for. No phone calls, please.

Interviews will be over Zoom. Reference Check required. Open until filled. For more information on The Western Stage, please visit our website at www.westernstage.com