



Production Arts





Production Arts
is very hands-on and you learn an
extensive range of technical, organisational, creative
and professional skills working on different projects from studio
installations to live events. City College has amazing facilities with
expert teachers from the industry, and they turned my passion
for working in Live and Technical Events into a reality.

Emilia



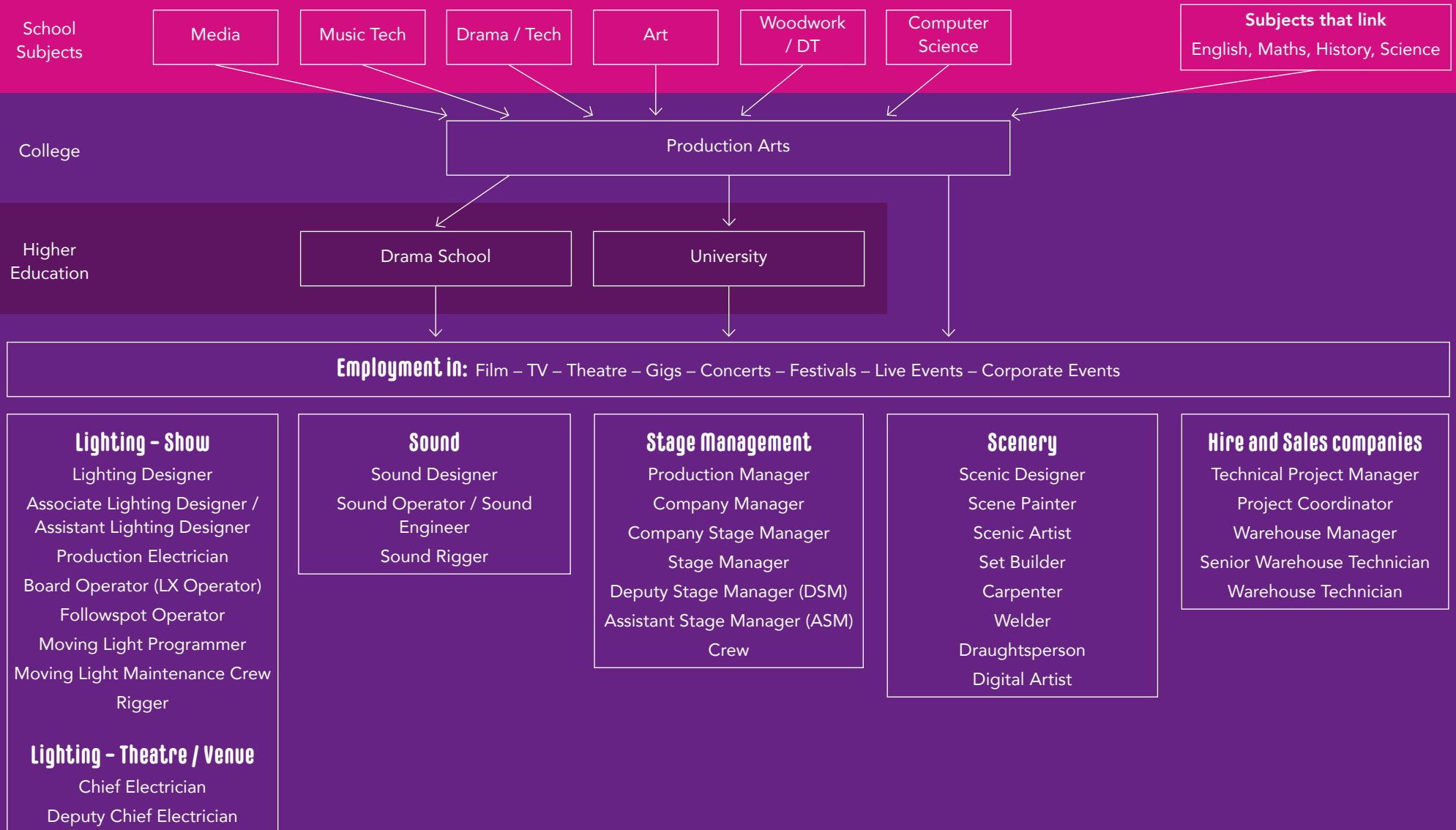
Production Arts is the ideal career pathway if you are looking for an exciting creative and technical career working behind the scenes in the entertainment industry.

Entertainment is one of the largest industries in the UK with a wide range of careers spanning across TV & film, music, festivals, theatre, cruise ships and much more.

This varied industry includes a wide range of specialities including sound work, lighting design and programming, AV design, stage management, set design and prop making.

Find your future in this exciting industry with Level 3 Production Arts at City College.

Career Paths



Job descriptions

These descriptions provide an overview of some of the many roles available within the Production Arts industry. Often these roles are available in a range of venues and locations or as freelance roles.

Lighting

Lighting Designer

The Lighting Designer (LD) is responsible for liaising with the director and with the set and costume designers to decide on the position, type, focus, direction and colour of every light in the rig. They then draw plans to communicate this to other members of their team.

Assistant Lighting Designer

Work alongside the lighting designer, helping with organisation, logistics, paperwork and planning.

Production Electrician

Responsible for all non-design aspects of the lighting for a production. They may also be involved in any electrical elements of a production which can include special effects and sound systems.

Board Operator

(aka LX Operator)

Responsible for operating the lighting board in response to cues given by the deputy stage manager.

Followspot Operator

Operates a followspot (a moveable profile spotlight used to highlight performers in various types of performance).

Moving Light Programmer

Programmes moveable lights.

Moving Light Maintenance Crew

In charge of maintaining moving lights.

Rigger

Responsible for inspecting and preparing loads that need to be moved. Set up, align and levelling heavy equipment machinery. Select the appropriate rigging gear. Prepare rigging equipment including beams, pulleys, clamps, and bolts. Inspect rigging before final use.

Chief Electrician

Responsible for performing duties in the maintenance and repair of electrical systems, equipment and fixtures.

Sound

Sound Designer

Responsible for creating audio content.

Sound Operator / Engineer

Responsible for making the event sound quality to be at its highest for all members of the audience.

No. 2 Sound

(Production Audio Technician)

Someone responsible for the maintenance and operation of sound equipment.

Stage Management

Production Manager

Responsible for making sure the technical elements of a production are completed safely, on time and on budget.

Stage Manager

Head of the stage management team which includes the Deputy and Assistant Stage Managers. They organise all the different teams involved in the running of a production from rehearsals right through to performances and then post-show to ensure everything runs smoothly.

- » Deputy Stage Manager (DSM)
- » Assistant Stage Manager (ASM)
- » Crew



Career Successes

Charlie

Chief LX at the Mayflower Theatre

Charlie studied Production Arts at City College from 2014 – 2016 after which he went on to working freelance as both crew and as lighting technician. He worked with AAA crew as a member of their local events crew and helped touring production companies build and strike large scale festivals and events. He also worked at the Royal Albert Hall in London as a lighting technician and as a followspot operator on various events including The Olivier Awards. As a theatre technician Charlie worked for both The Point, Eastleigh and The Berry Theatre as well as for the Mayflower Theatre. Charlie is now working full time as Chief LX at the Mayflower Theatre.





Teri

Stage and Production Manager at Royal Caribbean

Teri came to City College from the Isle of Man to study Production Arts and gain the skills for a successful career in the entertainment industry. She worked for Royal Caribbean Cruise Liners, starting as Stage Crew before progressing to Head of Stage Staff and then was promoted to their Stage and Production Manager for the ship 'Anthem of the Sea'. Teri has also worked at the Gaiety Theatre as both Stage Manager and Deputy Stage Manager.



Rebecca

Freelance Stage Manager

Rebecca studied Production Arts at City College and achieved the highest grade of triple Distinction*. She was also the Association of College's Young Student of the Year; this national award was awarded to her for all her hard work and dedication to the industry.

She progressed to the Guildford School of Acting to study BA (Hons) Theatre Production and graduating with first class honours. Since graduating in 2021 she has worked as a freelance stage manager in a range of locations including Chessington World of Adventures.



Marc Fairclough

Programme Leader and
Teacher in Production Arts

Marc has a wealth of experience having worked in the industry for many years. He has worked in a wide range of roles including Production Manager, Set Builder, Sound and Lighting Designer, Event Manager and Freelance Theatre Consultant.

Marc is also an award-winning director for shows across the South, directing plays and musical theatre.



Specialist Training Facilities

City College
is the best in the area, the facilities
are very high-end and it has an incredible theatre.
Working with other departments putting on shows
really helped us put our knowledge into practice.

Martin

While studying Level 3 Production Arts at City College you will benefit from a dedicated project space that is equipped with a wide range of industry standard facilities. With these facilities and equipment, you will be able to explore all the creative and technical elements of the course.

The facilities include:

- » Berringer X32 digital sound desk
- » ChamSys MQ40N light desk
- » Qlab4 software for audio/AV/lighting
- » Operations Macs
- » Access to our full-size medium scale theatre
- » Dedicated stage management desk with a full Front of House and internal communications unit
- » Full height double purchase counter weight fly system and winch bars
- » Traditional theatre lighting alongside intelligent lighting with moving programable heads
- » 3D workshop for prop making
- » SFX facilities

Course Content

Over this two-year course two thirds of your time is spent on hands-on projects which include working on studio installations, at events and in the theatre.

Your first year will be spent exploring the different roles within the industry and in your second year you will choose the area you want to specialise in.



Open Event

Interactive installation showcasing the department

Who working with: Marketing; Performing Arts; Theatrical Hair and Media Make-up

Venue: Studio space



Studio Projects 1 & 2

Plan, build and show installations based on group concept

Venue: Studio space



Studio Project 3

Plan, build and show installations based on group concept

Venue: Studio space

Annual project timeline

Awards

Working to set-up and run an Oscar-style awards event

Who working with: Marketing; Media (TV & Film)

Venue: the Hub



Panto

Create and run all elements of backstage, light and sound

Who working with: Performing Arts; Theatrical Hair and Media Make-up

Venue: the Hub theatre



Maintenance

Learn to maintain and service all equipment

Venue: Studio space/backstage Hub theatre



Key facts

Course: Level 3 Extended Diploma

Duration: 2 years

Assessed by: 100% Coursework

UCAS points: Earn up to 168



Light and Sound project

Gig project creating a light display to a track you have mixed

Venue: 1st years in theatre
2nd years on location in Church



Final Major Projects

Create and run all elements of the backstage end of year show including sound and lighting design

Who working with: Performing Arts; Theatrical Hair and Media Make-up

Venue: the Hub theatre

Showcase

Design, set-up and run a live variety theatre performance including light shows

Who working with: Performing Arts

Venue: the Hub theatre



Catwalk

Work to a theme to create interesting and atmospheric lighting for end of year catwalk

Who working with: Theatrical Hair and Media Make-up

Venue: the Hub theatre



Trips and Activities

As part of the course you will have the opportunity to take part in industry trips and activities including networking events, studio visits and guest lectures.

Previous events have included:






- » Two-day training at ChamSys HQ on their industry standard MagicQ software for light programming
- » Tours of facilities and careers talks including Mayflower and MAST theatre, cruise ships, trade shows, production companies and studio tours
- » Progression coaching including visits to drama schools and universities
- » Industry networking opportunities through work experience and a dedicated industry week
- » Guest lectures from a wide range of industry professionals







ChamSys training



Get social with us

-  [sotoncitycollege](#)
[citycollegetheatre](#)
-  [sotoncitycollege](#)
-  [citycollegesoton](#)
-  [@city_college](#)
-  [southampton-city-college](#)

Contact us

-  023 8048 4848
-  enquiries@southampton-city.ac.uk
-  www.southampton-city.ac.uk
-  St Mary Street, Southampton SO14 1AR

