

# Chris Harrison

**DOB:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 1975  
**Home Tel:** 0113 2780037  
**Mobile:** 07967 831734  
**E-mail:** chrishedgehog@yahoo.com

**Address:** 2 Hollin Gardens  
Weetwood  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS16 5NL

## Profile

- Freelance Scenic Carpenter / Fabricator for TV and Theatre since January 2022
- Head of Stage at Leeds Playhouse 2016 – 2022
- Metalwork, carpentry and AutoCAD skills attained from theatre set / climbing wall fabrication
- Extensive rigging, counter-weight flying and rope skills supported by IRATA level 1 training

## Education

**Undergraduate Study**  
1993 - 1996  
University of Leeds  
BA (Honours) Degree (2:2) in Theatre Studies & English Literature.  
I focused mainly on lighting design and technical support.

**Sixth Form Education**  
1991 -1993  
Bilborough College, Nottingham  
A-level Theatre Studies                   A  
A-level English Literature                A  
A-level French                                E

**Secondary School Education**  
1986 - 1991  
Nottingham Bluecoat School  
9 GCSEs at 'C' and above including Maths & English.

## Work

- Jan 2022 - Present**
- Freelance Carpenter and Fabricator for  
**RT Scenic (Die Cast Manchester, Crucible Sheffield)**  
**Harrogate SET ('Six' Seoul South Korea, Garsington Opera)**  
**Moonage Productions / Netflix Production 'Bodies'**  
**Paramount Production 'A Gentleman in Moscow'**  
**CES Exhibitions**
- Oct 2016 – Jan 2022**
- I was Head of Stage at Leeds Playhouse six years. I managed the stage team and all flying, rigging, fit-ups and get-outs, working across three main spaces. I was involved in planning and implementing the £15 million redevelopment of all existing spaces and the creation of a new subterranean studio. I toured Baz Luhrman's 'Strictly Ballroom' to The Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto.
- Oct 2014 – Oct 2016**
- I worked at Leeds Beckett University as Senior Learning Officer for Performing Arts. In this role I produced all the student shows in both Performance and Dance Schools, particularly focusing on lighting, sound and video requirements for the department. I also built sets for the Northern Film School within this role.
- Jan 2007 – Oct 2014**
- I became Deputy TSM and operated as technical stage manager for around half the output of shows produced by WYP. On shows allocated to me, I was responsible for all flying, stage technical, crew staffing and masking requirements. I built stage automation kit and large props such during this time: I made a Model T Ford out of an electric golf cart, a twin motor revolve system, a fully operational guillotine illusion, a gallows and many other complex and intricate welding projects. Prior to this appointment I worked as a Freelance Fabricator at the Playhouse.
- Mar 2005 - Sept 2005**  
D.R. Climbing Walls Int.
- We built K2 Climbing Centre Crawley, one of the biggest climbing walls in Europe. My responsibilities involved ordering materials, production scheduling, 3D AutoCAD design, fabrication with wood, fibre glass and welding.

- Feb 2005**  
Unlimited Theatre

  - Technical support for **Neutrino** on the company's visit to the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles.
- Sept 2004 - Feb 2005**  
West Yorkshire Playhouse

  - I was involved in many aspects of the staging of **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**, working in **Construction** for the duration of the build and then as crew cover for the run.
- Nov 2000 - Aug 2004**  
West Yorkshire Playhouse

  - I was promoted to Stage Technician for a year.
  - I frequently acted as Duty Stage Manager.
  - I worked as Head Flyman on numerous shows.
- Sept 2000 - Oct 2000**  
Derby Playhouse

  - I operated a revolve and crewed on **Leader of the Pack**.
- Aug 2000 - Sept 2000**  
Xtreme Rope Access

  - Industrial Rope Access Engineer on various sites in Bath.
- July 1997 - July 2003**  
The Leeds Wall

  - Route-setting and general maintenance incorporating rope access work.
- Nov 1996 - Feb 1997**  
West Yorkshire Playhouse

  - I joined the WYP as a member of the Crew for the second run of the Christmas show **Peter Pan**.
- July 1995 - Aug 1995**  
Nottingham Climbing Centre

  - Route-setting and general maintenance incorporating rope access work.

## Skills

### Technical

- Twenty years' professional experience in theatre and associated industries
- Welding and metalwork skills obtained building climbing walls / stage mechanicals
- Experience building and converting stage vehicles, stage trucks, wheeled props, chassis's for theatrical cars, vans, motorbikes such as the car and motorbike in Chitty....., Vespas in The Duchess of Malfi, Toad's car in Wind in the Willows, Suzuki minivan for Sweeney Todd
- Accustomed to working from CAD drawings during builds on a day-to-day basis
- Comfortable working at height with Tallescopes or ladders, highly skilled in rope access and abseiling techniques and physically fit to meet the demands of this nature of work
- Three years' carpentry experience in the Workshops building sets to an excellent standard
- Highly experienced rigger – extensive experience with Lodestars, Prostars, manual chain hoists, Tiraks, turfors and overseeing annual insurance inspections to LOLER standards
- Take pride in producing high quality work within deadlines

### Communication

- Accustomed to dealing with visiting companies, young people and young adults in an instructional capacity, such as WYP Youth Theatre work and National Student Drama Festival tutoring
- Supportive of other departments and appreciative of the need to compromise when necessary
- Articulate individual with strong literacy skills and an academic background
- Excellent listener and observer, individually and in group settings

### IT/Administration

- Computer literate with a solid understanding of Word, the Internet, email and other routine programs on both Microsoft and Apple Mac systems
- Good administration skills with an eye for accuracy, attention to detail with paperwork
- Everyday familiarity with working off CAD drawings; practical design experience on 3-D AutoCAD gained at D.R.

### Management

- I have frequently acted as Duty Stage Manager in both the Quarry and Courtyard Theatres
- As Head of Stage I regularly lead a big team on my shows. This is often on full West End – scale productions such as **'Strictly Ballroom' (Toronto Princess of Wales and West End)**, 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' (Leeds Playhouse and then transferred to The Bridge, London South Bank) and 'The Wizard of Oz' (Leeds Playhouse Quarry Theatre).
- At D.R. I was responsible for creating and maintaining the production schedules, ensuring all products were completed and sent out on time

- I have good knowledge of the Health and Safety requirements that govern theatre work such as proper use of PPE, LOLER regulations, COSHH and writing and implementing risk assessments
- My working practice is informed by the equal opportunities policy and its place within the organisation and the wider community

### Supporting Information

- I have a clean driver's licence with my own transport and have been driving work vans for many years.
- I have undergone a fire extinguishing training course.
- I hold a fork-lift truck licence and can operate of various work platforms such as Tallescopes and Genies.
- I have IRATA Level 1 Rope Access training. I am an experienced rock climber and mountaineer, having led major routes in Snowdonia, Scotland, The Alps, The Lofoten Islands, Yosemite and The Canadian Rockies.
- I have been labouring on building sites during lockdown.
- I worked for Lister Bell Specialist Cars building the chassis for the STR, the modern updated version of the Lancia Stratos rally car. I worked part-time for around 6 months at the factory in Nottinghamshire.

### References

Mick Cassidy – [mick.cassidy@leedsplayhouse.org.uk](mailto:mick.cassidy@leedsplayhouse.org.uk)  
Production Manager  
Leeds Playhouse  
LS2 7UP

Kieran Myles - [kieran@rtscenic.co.uk](mailto:kieran@rtscenic.co.uk)  
Co-Director  
RT Scenic  
WF14 9DQ