

JON MELHENNEY-HAYWARD

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PROFILE

I am a Stage Manager/Stand By Art Director with extensive experience within television production and have continuously used my determination to succeed in whatever I do and to push myself 101% in order to achieve success. I am recognised as someone who completes tasks with a positive approach, regularly exceeding the expectations of my colleagues peers and employers. I pride myself on receiving a healthy level of respect from everyone I work with. I believe wholeheartedly in working as part of a team and in helping that team to shine as brightly as it can. I am always up for a challenge and like to bring innovation and new ways of thinking and working to achieve results. I am very definitely a people person and work well with people from all walks of life.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- At *Emmerdale* we moved from producing 5 episodes to 6. This required a fundamental shift in the way these episodes were prepared for filming. I developed a new method of "prep" which involved completing tasks in a different order and which maximised the available 2 week prep period to best effect. This method was then rolled out to my colleagues as the "Best Practice" way to prep a 6 episode block.
- In Live Theatre the Deputy Stage Manager calls all lighting and sound effects live from a special script called a "book". During one performance of a very busy musical the Book went missing and I had to "call" all sound and light effects from memory! I did this in a calm and professional manner and was told by everyone at the end of the show that no one could have told the difference, thus the Audience, Cast and management experienced a technically smooth show despite the potential chaos that could have happened.
- An *Emmerdale* script called for 2 characters to sabotage a fleet of lorries at their depot and for an exciting chase between the vehicles. Our budget stretched to two vehicles! After discussions on a shot by shot basis with my Director, and borrowing two production vehicles, I devised a map which constantly re-used the same vehicles in a different configuration whilst logging where they should be for continuity of angles. On the night I moved the vehicles like chess pieces between shots and completed the shoot to the great satisfaction of myself and the director. On seeing the edited footage, my line manager then summoned me to their office to account for all the additional vehicles he had counted on screen - and to check how I had obtained them!
- Working as Stage Manager on a play at the *Everyman Theatre* I was presented with an impossible scene change. As per the designers plans the scene change would have taken at least 5-10 minutes and cost a vast amount of time and resources to achieve (the staging was two twenty-foot windows with 1950s Russian newspapers pasted onto them – her intention was they should be washed off in front of an audience, then the stage would have to be dried and the windows clean enough not to be smeared. I provided a cheaper and easier option by ordering two twenty foot sections of clear Perspex which sat in front of the glass windows and had the newspaper firmly attached. The scene change which resulted was quick (less than two minutes), professional looking and cheaper as there was no need to have more than one set of Russian newspapers made.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Freelance Work in Television Continuing Drama / Drama

Jan 2014-ongoing

- **Art Director - Coronation Street** (5 Eps) (Director: Brett Fallis) Jun-Jul 2014 - **ITV Studios**
- **Art Director - Coronation Street** (4 eps) (Director: Brett Fallis) Apr-May 2014 - **ITV Studios**
To arrange, supervise and be ultimately responsible for all design requirements of a block of episodes in line with the Director and Production Designers vision of the show.
- **Standby Art Director - Hollyoaks** (Dailies) (Director Paul Riordan) April 2014 - **Lime Pictures**
- **Art Director - Coronation Street** (5 eps) (Director: Neil Johnston) Feb- Mar 2014 - **ITV Studios**

Stage Manager (Standby Art Director), "Emmerdale" for ITV Studios, Leeds

Jan 2003-Jan 2014

- Ensure the look, design and continuity of each shot is composed to optimum effect
- Maintain accuracy to detail whilst operating under pressure to ensure desired creative effects were translated across the scene
- Proactively identifying, sourcing and organizing filming requirements in line with the directors vision.
- Liaising effectively between various production departments to ensure shoots run smoothly
- Supervising a team of 4 to ensure all tasks are carried out to optimum outcome.

Cont...

Assistant Stage Manager, "Emmerdale" for ITV Studios, Leeds **Apr 2001-Dec 2002**

- Work closely with the Stage Manager, providing support where necessary in order to maintain schedules and production outputs.
- Actively support the Artistes with line runs & prompts & liaise with the PA and sound department with regards to script changes
- Build effective relationships with cast and crew to ensure minimal disruption to the filming schedule.

Waterstones, 93 Albion Street, Leeds **Sep 1999-Mar 2001**

- Responsible for creating impactful, visually striking displays to promote events and bespoke products, gaining recognition from senior managers.
- Delivering exemplary customer service to the general public, resolving queries and issues in a timely manner.

Stage Manager, Everyman Theatre, Liverpool **Feb 2000-Jun 2000**

- Work alongside the Theatre Designer, in identifying, sourcing and purchasing props, furniture and scenery for in house productions.
- Management of the Prop and Scenic budget for each production to ensure it stays within the established limit: to negotiate with suppliers to ensure purchases are cost effective
- Co-ordinating stage crew and ensure the accuracy and economy of staff rotas and timesheets.
- Responsible for the smooth running of all rehearsals and performances of a show to the standards set out by the director.

Deputy Stage Manager / Stage Manager, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds **Aug 1996-Aug 1999**

- Monitor production, calling for lighting and sound cues in line with director's vision using experiential observation and script annotations.
- Record actors movements and dialogue changes to ensure the most effective feel and creative delivery of performance.

Assistant Stage Manager, Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford **Feb 1996-Jul 1996**

- Ensuring the smooth flow of information between departments in different cities to a high standard.
- Supervising the various performance staff during performances providing support and guidance where appropriate.

Assistant Stage Manager, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds **Apr 1994-Jan 1995**

Assistant Stage Manager, "Pickwick - The Musical" for PW Productions **Oct 1993-Apr 1994**

Assistant Stage Manager, Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester **Jun 1992-Sep 1993**

TV / Theatre Technician, Mountview Theatre School, London **Oct 1991-Jun 1992 & Oct 1992-Feb 1993**

- Training 2nd year acting and technical students in the basics of single camera Video production, including Lighting, Sound, editing and camera work "on Location"
- Supervising 2nd year Technical Theatre students during production weeks to troubleshoot any problems arising.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Diploma in Stage Management, Technical Theatre & Design (1991):
Mountview Theatre School, Crouch End, London

INTERESTS

My interests are varied, I enjoy reading and finding new ways to use computers. I also enjoy exploring new places from ginnels to cities and walking for miles with my dog. My family though is probably my strongest interest.

REFERENCES

Available on request