

STORYHOUSE

so
incredible.

Deputy Stage
Manager
Recruitment
Pack



Antigone, 2021, Mark
McNulty



Storyhouse, 2017, Becci Lane

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Welcome from the CEO

Storyhouse is one of the UK's foremost cultural charities; its home in Chester incorporates a library, theatres, and a cinema. It is also an acclaimed theatre producer and runs the country's most successful regional open-air theatre in the city's Grosvenor Park, as well as the innovative Moonlight Flicks open-air cinema each year.

Storyhouse plays an important part of cultural life in Chester and continues to be a beacon of inspiration for many other cities and towns for the role it has played in social and economic regeneration, its successful and unique integration of world-class theatre, cinema, and library facilities, as well as its bold, exciting, diverse, and award-winning programming.

It is also a great place to work. We offer a flexible and supportive working environment, value experience as well as skills and qualifications, and work to ensure everyone in the organisation is aware of our equality and diversity commitments. We want to support all staff to fulfil their potential and enjoy a happy and healthy workplace.

We hope you decide to join us,

Annabel





Chester Disability Pride Parade, 2023, Mark McNulty

Our Story

You can find a bit about who we are on our [website](#), discover more about our innovative home and how it came to be in [this case study](#) by Arts Council England, or read about our renowned library in this [blog](#) by the DCMS's library team.

Above all, Storyhouse is a creative community. As a diverse cultural organisation, our home is one of the country's most successful cultural buildings housing a cinema, theatres and a library. Last year we welcomed 735,000 people through our doors. We are both a community hub and combined arts producer.

Our library attracts international recognition, known for its seamless integration, and boasts the longest opening hours of any UK public library.

In 2022, we supported 5,465 young people to connect and create, ran 200 free rhyme-time sessions, created 499 magical performances indoors and outdoors, sold 101,461 theatre tickets and hosted a total of 1,031 cinema screenings.

Visits are roughly split into thirds between event attendances, library users, and wider participation. We enjoyed the support of over 14k volunteer hours and 1,328 different individuals were involved in making and supporting our work.

Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, which we founded in 2010, is the UK's largest regional open-air theatre, welcoming over 25,000 every summer.



This House is Your House

We've become a vital part of the region's cultural landscape and a place of safety and support for the community - especially for young people, giving them a space where they can reimagine their place in the world.

Over 40 community groups use us as a base for creative activity each month, including LGBTQIA+ and disability groups, refugee integration activities, mental health support sessions, and groups combatting social exclusion by age.

We work extensively with young people and provide a range of different programmes, from youth theatre and our young company, to young leaders, young programmers, and our many schools and education programmes. Throughout our work we collaborate with local partners throughout to ensure we are reaching the people that would usually have the least opportunity to participate.

Across everything we do, we work to give people the power to build their own creative communities through inspiring stories and shared creative experiences: this house is your house.

As we blend theatre, library, restaurant and cinema services, we share inspiring stories and stage creative events which empower people to nurture their creativity and bring together communities. Through our work, we hope to build a more connected, inclusive and creative community network.

The more open we are to the true and rich diversity of our communities, the more vividly we fulfil our purpose. More engagement from more of our communities will make more of Storyhouse.

We are committed to creating a team which is representative of our communities and to bringing together those with a variety of skills and experiences to help shape what we do and how we work.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023, Mark McNulty

Our Strategy...

Storyhouse is about to enter an exciting new phase in our evolution as we look to develop our programmes, based on a new strategic plan, to deliver world class arts and meet community needs.

Our Vision:

Here at Storyhouse, culture is owned by everyone.

Our Mission:

We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

Our Values:

LISTEN CLOSELY.

True empathy takes effort. So we work hard to understand different points of view.

LOOK AROUND.

Opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.

SPEAK UP.

Not everyone's stories have been told. So we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.

STAND UP.

Debate and discussion make things better for us all. So we don't shy away from a challenge.

REACH OUT.

Diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So we seek them out, and invite them in.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2023,
Mark McNulty



Our Resources

Storyhouse is a medium-sized charity with approximately 140 staff and a gross revenue of over £6 million per year. The charity is financially stable, with a number of steady revenue streams, including a 20-year lease and contract for services with the local authority (Cheshire West and Chester) and NPO funding from Arts Council England for 2023 to 2026. Revenue from commercial activities is also essential to the charity's financial stability, and over 57% of its revenue is earned.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries: Storyhouse Production Company Limited - creating and staging Storyhouse Originals theatre productions - and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited - providing a range of catering, retail, cinema, receiving theatre and commercial services.

Despite our financial stability, like all other charities our resources are being eroded by rising costs caused by inflation and higher energy prices, and as a result of the continued cost of living crisis, demand for free-to-access services (such as warm spaces) is increasing.

Our Building

The original parts of Storyhouse were constructed as an art deco Odeon cinema in 1936, and have been restored, extended and renovated into a library, two state of the art theatres, a cinema, restaurant, and two bars.

The larger theatre is an 800-seat proscenium arch stage. With state-of-the-art facilities, its auditorium spreads across three tiers: stalls, circle and gallery. This same theatre converts into a 500-seat thrust stage (with the audience wrapping around three sides of the stage). In this format, the auditorium spreads across two tiers, with intimate seating putting the audience right in amongst the action.

On top of the building sits the Garret Theatre and Bar. This 150-seat black-box theatre is a flexible, fully-equipped performance, rehearsal, or workshop space. It is designed to be full of work made by local creative companies, individuals, and community groups, as well as a space we hire to companies and individuals.

The 100-seat boutique cinema is designed to honour the original Odeon's history as a cinema in 1936. With red velvet, soft, sunken seating, it is a beautiful event space.

The library spreads right through the building, with a dedicated family-friendly area (with wet play, storytelling room, and arts and crafts) in The Den and extensive book-stocks covering the walls throughout Storyhouse offering opportunities for studying, learning, and research.



The Role

We are seeking Deputy Stage Manager to work on a brand-new musical premiering at Storyhouse in 2025, based on a best-selling children's book.

You will join the Production team working closely with the Stage Management and Creative departments, and the wider Storyhouse team. You will also work closely with Scenario 2, with whom we are co-producing the piece, and Tim Jackson, the director.

Key dates:

6th January-8th February: Rehearsals in London start

10th February: Tech at Storyhouse

15th February: Opens at Storyhouse

1st March: Closes at Storyhouse 1st March

This is a fixed-term contract ending on 2nd March 2025.



Role and Responsibilities

You will

- Be responsible for the smooth running of the rehearsal period and production, ensuring the creative team and company are suitably supported
- Along with the Head of Producing and other members of the SM team, liaise with the creative team and facilitate their requirements to the highest standard
- Run the rehearsal room to a high standard, ensuring the needs of the company and director are met
- Assist the stage management team with rehearsal requirements, including script copies, stage mark up, rehearsal props and furniture requests
- Be responsible for monitoring and documenting the rehearsal process, including noting entrances and exits, use of props, blocking, and costume changes
- Flag any potential issues during rehearsals before hitting the stage
- Keep appropriate paperwork pertaining to cues, setting, technical, costume, etc. Produce and distribute concise rehearsal notes on a daily basis to the relevant teams and show reports, and contribute to the distribution of call sheets as required, in conjunction with the CSM
- Attend and minute production meetings as required
- Create a comprehensive prompt book showing all blocking, entrances and exits, lighting cues, scene changes, and technical cues
- Call each performance, noting any issues and inconsistencies in the performance

Role and Responsibilities (continued)

You will

- Along with the Head of Producing and SM team, liaise with the company and creative team to ensure access requirements are identified, met, and maintained to the highest standard
- Support the CSM in the running of the technical and dress rehearsals, ensuring the needs of the company, creative team, and production are identified and met
- Write a fully comprehensive show report after each performance and distribute to the relevant teams
- Deputise for the CSM where necessary
- Be an active member in creating the piece in the rehearsal room
- Create accurate production-related paperwork and ensure the prompt book is up-to-date and concise for archive upon completion of the run
- Support the ASM during the run in the daily setup of the show, and lead on pre-show tech checks
- Uphold health and safety standards in line with company policy
- Manage working hours and breaks in conjunction with the SM team, and keep timesheet records up to date
- Act in accordance with Storyhouse's policies and procedures, and undertake any training as required by Storyhouse
- Act as a role model for other staff and contribute to the life of the organisation as a whole
- Carry out any other duties as may be required as part of the Deputy Stage Manager's role

Skills & Experience

Demonstrable professional experience

Knowledge and experience of creating production paperwork and prompt copy

Experience calling from a musical score, and confident reading music

Previous experience calling a busy musical

Experience working with creative teams, and the ability to manage expectations

Experience working on shows with swings/understudies

Experience working with child performers

Able to manage a team and cover for the CSM where necessary

Excellent musicality

Attention to detail with excellent communication skills, both written and verbal

Proactive and flexible attitude, with the ability to prioritise effectively

Able to manage lots of groups of different people in a kind and friendly manner

Discretion and sensitivity when dealing with confidential information

Able to work under pressure

Knowledge of Equity agreements and good working practices

Knowledge of current Health and Safety guidelines

The opportunity

Title: Deputy Stage Manager

Reports to: Company Stage Manager

Salary: Rehearsal fee of £601.27 per and show fee of £687.36 per week, plus subs where eligible

Contract: Full time, fixed-term for 2 months until 2nd March 2025

Closing date: 24th October 2024, with interviews taking place w/c 28th October

Application Process

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter expressing interest in the role and a CV demonstrating relevant experience online at:
www.storyhouse.com/jobs/

Applications should be submitted on or before Thursday 24th October 2024. We will review applications and interview suitable applicants as they are received. This role will close early if a candidate is successful before the advertised close date.

For an informal discussion about the role or support in the application process, please contact our Head of People, Emma Hutt, at peopleteam@storyhouse.com.

No agencies please.



Faustus That Damned Woman, 2023,
Mark McNulty



GDPR

Personal Data Notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent.

The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

STORYHOUSE