



ETNZ Professional Development Training proposal, as at 12 May 2008.

The following documentation was publicly first presented at the ETNZ 2008 AGM in Wellington and is intended as a discussion document for all members of the entertainment community. It must be said that the presentation was very positively received by the individuals and company representatives present at the AGM.

Some notes to go with the proposal at this time:

The following training program is proposed as professional development and is to be run alongside, rather than compete with, existing training programs such as the technical production courses at Toi Whakaari, NZ Drama School and UNITEC.

The training programs will be run as a series of short courses utilizing specifically industry targeted courses and courses available from existing training providers (eg First Aid, Working at Height, Use of EWP training). This is in conjunction with the utilization of the skills and information gained in the workplace over a set period of time. Each participant will then be assessed within a uniform standard on a record of their work experience (log book), a written assessment and a demonstration of the practical skills in the work environment. At the successful conclusion of each completed course, the participant will receive an industry recognized certificate of competency in the relevant technical skills.

We have been advised that such a program should be administered by the Industry so that at all times the industry, represented by ETNZ, can maintain control of the program and course content and standards.

We will investigate, in the first instance, working with Toi Whakaari, NZ Drama School to provide the facilities and environment to present the short courses, providing a centralized training facility for New Zealand. By this means we can tap into the resources, information and experience available at the school and enhance the standard and legitimacy of the training programs. The courses will be held at times when the school is in recess, primarily during December and the term breaks. The exact nature of the course presentation is still to be discussed.

At this stage it is intended that the first of the introductory (basic) training programs will be run during 2009. These will include lighting, rigging, mechanist and costume courses in the first instance although several members of the AGM audience felt strongly that AV and Stage Management may also need to be run at this time.

I would like to ask you to peruse the training proposals following and make constructive comment to Rob Peters at rob@theatresystems.co.nz

Core Professional Development Training components, including:

Lighting

- Introductory lighting practices
- Intermediate lighting technician
- Senior lighting technician
- Advanced lighting techniques

Theatre Mechanist

- Introductory level theatre mechanist practices
- Intermediate mechanist
- Head mechanist

Entertainment Rigging

- Introductory level rigging practices
- Entertainment rigger
- Advanced rigging techniques

Sound

- Introductory level sound practices
- Intermediate sound skills
- Advanced sound techniques

Audio-Visual

- Introductory level AV practices
- Intermediate AV skills
- Advanced AV techniques

Stage Management

- Introductory level stage management practices
- Intermediate stage management skills
- Advanced stage management techniques

Costumes

- Introductory level costume manufacture and practice
- Intermediate costume manufacturing skills
- Advanced costume techniques

Properties

- Introductory level provision of properties
- Intermediate properties manufacturing skills
- Advanced properties techniques

Set construction and scenic painting

- Introductory level set construction and practice
- Introductory level scenic painting practice
- Set Builder
- Scenic Painter
- Advanced set construction techniques
- Advanced scenic painting techniques

Existing Certificated courses which may form part of the above training programs:

- Working at Height, 2 days
- Workplace First Aid, 2 days
- Workplace First Aid refresher, 1 day
- Occupational Health and Safety practice, Guideline for Safe Working Practices
- Risk ID and Management
- Communications (etiquette)
- Use of EWP, 1 day
- Pre Electrical Service Technician (electricity basics), 4 evenings, part time.
- Electrical service technician (part A), 4 days, full time
- Electrical service technician (part B), 4 days, full time
- Fire safety
- Pyrotechnics (?)
- Fire arms license

To Be Continued

Introductory Level Lighting Practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic lighting practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces lighting equipment and lighting concepts and is geared towards an entry level training into theatrical lighting equipment, its use and practice, including:
 - Types of instruments, accessories and their uses: e.g. Fresnel, PC, Parcan, profile, flood.
 - Basic rigging, cabling, patching and focusing.
 - Basic lighting systems, power distribution, fault finding.
 - Basic health and safety, risk management.
 - Basic lighting plans and lighting paperwork.
 - Basic lighting board operation.
 - Practical exercise utilising skills learnt i.e. rigging, focusing and plotting from a plan for a mock show.
2. Workplace First Aid
3. Operation and use of EWP training.
4. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic lighting practices.

Duration

1-3 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Intermediate Lighting Technician

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling lighting personnel engaged in the entertainment industry to expand their lighting skills and prepare them to act as team leaders.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency in basic lighting practices.

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which expands and enhances the technician's specialist knowledge and understanding of lighting equipment, systems and concepts.
 - Lighting history and theatre etiquette.
 - Best practice, health and safety and risk management, fire safety.
 - Specialist lighting equipment: incl. moving lights, followspots, colour changers, low voltage LED, ect
 - Maintenance and fault finding
 - Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
 - Understanding of lighting control systems, incl DMX protocol, Ethernet, RDM
 - Power distribution and dimmer systems
 - Board operation, plotting and cuing.
 - Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
 - Basic lighting design and concepts.
 - Lighting design theory and practicality.
 - Plan reading, interpreting and drafting.
 - Advanced lighting paperwork, lighting management and budgeting.
 - Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
2. Certificate of Achievement of the NZQA unit standard 15757, Working at Heights.
3. Pre Electrical Service Technician (electricity basics), 4 evenings, part time.
4. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency as an Intermediate Lighting Technician.

Duration

4-6 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Senior Lighting Technician

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling lighting technicians engaged in the entertainment industry to become a senior member of the lighting department.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency as an Intermediate Lighting Technician

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which enhance a lighting technicians knowledge of lighting equipment, concepts and management and is geared towards employment as a senior lighting technician or head of department, including:

- Fault find, troubleshoot and maintain electrical and lighting equipment
- Advanced lighting paperwork and management.
- Power supply and distribution
- Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
- Design, configuration and management of lighting control systems, incl. the use of back-up system
- Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course
- Advanced board operation, plotting and cuing, moving light control.
- Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.

- Management processes, including:
 - Budgeting.
 - Communications
 - Conflict resolution
 - Scheduling and staffing
 - Planned maintenance

2. Electrical service technician (part A), 4 days, full time

3. Electrical service technician (part B), 4 days, full time

4. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency as a Senior Lighting Technician.

Duration

9-12 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Advanced Lighting Techniques

Aim

To provide specialist information and skills enabling lighting technicians engaged in the entertainment industry to expand their knowledge in specific areas of lighting.

Prerequisites

Minimum, Certificate of competency as an Intermediate Lighting Technician.

Scope of training

1. A series of intensive theory and practical programs, provided by the entertainment industry equipment and service manufacturers and suppliers which provide targeted training on specific items of lighting equipment, practices or systems, including:

- Specific control console operational training
- Data distribution and control systems, design and implementation
- Effects equipment
- Specific moving light operational training
- Industry specific management and communications training courses
- Lighting luminaires
- Concert lighting

Assessment

Internal course demonstration of practical skills and assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of achievement in the specific subject matter.

Duration

As required by the individual training program.

Introductory Rigging Practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic rigging practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces rigging equipment and concepts and is geared towards an entry level training into rigging equipment, its use and practice, including:

- Legal requirements
- Responsibilities of individuals
- Basic Health and Safety and hazard management
- Communication skills (verbal and non-verbal)
- Rigging science
- Truss science
- Safety factors
- Use of technical data
- Identifying rigging/lifting points
- Pre-use checks of equipment– slings, motors, truss, etc.
- Rigging technique & use of equipment

2. Workplace First Aid

3. Certificate of Achievement of the NZQA unit standard 15757, Working at Heights.

4. Operation and use of EWP.

5. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic entertainment rigging practices.

Duration

4-6 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Entertainment Rigger

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling people engaged as riggers in the entertainment industry to expand their rigging skills and prepare them to act as team leaders.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency in basic entertainment rigging practices.

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which expands and enhances the rigger's specialist knowledge and understanding of rigging equipment, systems and concepts, including;
 - Legal requirements
 - Health and Safety and injury prevention
 - Hazard Identification and Management
 - Advanced rigging and truss science;
 - PA rigging
 - Outdoor rigging; screens, roofs, towers
 - Specialist maintenance of equipment (eg chain motors)
 - Development of a management plan, managing the plan
 - Preparation of the rigging equipment inventory
 - Development of a maintenance plan, instigation
 - Developing and interpreting rigging plots
 - Assess and evaluate rigging situations
 - Loading for transport
 - Practical exercises utilising topics covered in the course
2. Fire Safety course
3. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in entertainment rigging.

Duration

4-6 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Advanced Rigging Techniques

Aim

To provide specialist information and skills enabling entertainment riggers engaged in the entertainment industry to expand their knowledge in specific areas of rigging.

Prerequisites

Minimum, Certificate of competency in basic entertainment rigging practices.

Scope of training

1. A series of intensive theory and practical programs which provide targeted training on specific items of rigging equipment, practices or systems, including:

- Truss design, manufacture and maintenance.
- Lifting devices, detailed maintenance, testing requirements and implementation.
- Outdoor roof, tower and truss system design
- Concert truss systems.

Assessment

Internal course demonstration of practical skills and assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of achievement in the specific subject matter.

Duration

As required by the individual training program.

Introductory Theatre Mechanist Practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic theatre mechanical practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces mechanical equipment and concepts and is geared towards an entry level training into theatre mechanical equipment, its use and practice, including:
 - Legal requirements
 - Responsibilities of individuals
 - Basic Health and Safety and hazard management
 - Rigging science
 - Identification, use and operation of stage suspension systems.
 - The role of the Flyman.
 - Handling and use of stage draperies.
 - Understanding the construction, erection and use of various types of scenic elements.
 - A general understanding of the mechanical operation of the stage and the movement and the control of these elements during performance.
2. Workplace First Aid
3. Certificate of Achievement of the NZQA unit standard 15757, Working at Heights.
4. Use of EWP.
5. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic theatre mechanist practices.

Duration

2-4 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Intermediate Theatre Mechanist

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling stage personnel engaged in the entertainment industry to expand their mechanist skills and prepare them to act as team leaders.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency in basic theatre mechanist practices.

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which expands and enhances the specialist knowledge and understanding of mechanist equipment, systems and concepts.
 - Legal requirements
 - Health and Safety and injury prevention
 - Hazard Identification and Management, planning and preparation.
 - Fault find, troubleshoot and maintenance of rigging equipment.
 - Basic rigging design and concepts.
 - Loading for transport
 - Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
 - Planning, use and operation of stage mechanical systems for pack-in/out, rehearsals and performance.
 - Rigging paperwork, management and budgeting.
 - Plan reading, interpreting and drafting
 - Basic Motorised and Automated rigging principles and systems.
 - Mechanical devices and systems used with stage machinery
 - Lighting paperwork and design principles
 - Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
2. Pre Electrical Service Technician (electricity basics), 4 evenings, part time.
3. Fire Safety
4. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency as an Intermediate Theatre Mechanist.

Duration

4-6 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Head Mechanist

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling mechanists engaged in the entertainment industry to become a Head Mechanist for a production or venue.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency as an Intermediate Theatre Mechanist.

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which enhances a mechanists knowledge of mechanical equipment, concepts and management, including:

- Advanced mechanist paperwork and management.
- Interpretation and development of a rigging management plan
- Motorised and Automated rigging principles and systems.
- Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.
- Stage machinery and control systems
- Rigging and Truss science
- Electrical theory
- Practical exercise utilising topics covered in the course.

• Management processes, including:

- Budgeting.
- Communications
- Conflict resolution
- Scheduling and staffing
- Planned maintenance

2. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency as a Head Mechanist.

Duration

9-12 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Introductory set construction practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic set construction practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces set construction materials, skills and concepts and is geared towards an entry level training into set construction, including:

- Basic Health and Safety and hazard identification and management
- Understanding the construction, erection and use of various types of common scenic elements.
- A general understanding of the mechanical operation of the stage.
- Common set construction materials and methods;
 - timber, steel, fasteners, glues, paint
- Safe use of power tools and machinery as used in set construction
- Practical exercises utilising the skills gained on the course

2. Workplace First Aid

3. A basic welding course (technical institute or welding supplier)

4. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic set construction practices.

Duration

6 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Set Builder

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling personnel engaged as set builders in the entertainment industry to expand their set construction skills and knowledge.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency in basic set construction practices.

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which expands and enhances the set builders knowledge of construction materials, skills and concepts of set construction, including:

- Legal requirements
- Health and Safety and injury prevention
- Hazard Identification and Management, planning and preparation.
- Fault find, troubleshoot and maintenance of construction equipment.
- Basic rigging design and concepts.
- Plan reading, interpreting and drafting
- Practical exercises utilising the skills gained on the course
- Structural design for stage sets
- Introduction to CAD
- Planning for the workshop and set build process
- Practical exercises utilising the skills gained on the course
- Basic scenic painting
- Mechanical and electrical devices and systems used with stage machinery
- An understanding of the mechanical operation of the stage and the movement and the control of these elements during performance.
- Practical exercises utilising the skills gained on the course
- Management processes, including:
 - Budgeting.
 - Communications
 - Conflict resolution
 - Scheduling and staffing
 - Planned maintenance

2. Certificate of Achievement of the NZQA unit standard 15757, Working at Heights.

3. Operation and use of EWP.

4. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.

2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency as a Set Builder.

Duration

12-24 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Introductory set painting practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic set painting practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces set painting materials, skills and concepts and is geared towards an entry level training into set painting, including:

- Basic Health and Safety and hazard identification and management
- Materials hazard identification and control
- Understanding the use of various types of common scenic elements.
- Set painting materials: primers, undercoats, various types of finishing paints, cloths, timber, steel
- Basic set painting techniques
- Practical exercises utilising the skills gained on the course

2. Workplace First Aid

3. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic set painting practices.

Duration

6 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Set Painter

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling personnel engaged as set painters in the entertainment industry to expand their set painting skills and knowledge.

Prerequisites

Certificate of competency in basic set painting practices.

Scope of training

1. A series of 2-day intensive theory and practical courses which expands and enhances the set painters knowledge of painting materials, skills and concepts of scenic art, including:

- Scenic Art techniques;
 - Show floors
 - General painting
- Painting of cloths;
 - Choosing the appropriate materials and techniques
 - Preparation of cloth
 - Marking out
 - Painting process; applying the materials, techniques
- Specialist Scenic Art techniques, including;
 - Marbling
 - Concrete
 - Brick

2. Operation and use of EWP.

3. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency as a Set Painter.

Duration

12-24 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Introductory Sound Practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic sound practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces sound equipment and sound concepts and is geared towards an entry level training into sound equipment, its use and practice, including:

- Basic sound system components, incl. microphones, amplifiers, speakers, mixing desks
- Connectors and Cables, Balanced vs Unbalanced
- Basic Sound Theory
- Typical Sound System, Signal Flow from various sources to output device
- Microphones, types and uses
- DI boxes, splitters, ect.
- Basic health and safety, risk management.
- Basic sound desk operation.
- Practical exercise utilising skills learnt

2. Workplace First Aid

3. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic sound practices.

Duration

1-3 months, depending on nature and level of work experience

Introductory Stage Management Practices

Aim

To provide information and skills enabling new entrants into the entertainment industry to gain competency in basic stage management practices.

Prerequisites

It presupposes none or minimal previous knowledge

Scope of training

1. A 2-day intensive theory and practical course which introduces stage management practices, systems and concepts and is geared towards an entry level training to enable working as an assistant stage manager on a theatrical production, including;
 - Function of the stage management and production teams
 - The stage management process:
 - Pre-production planning, incl. preparation of scores and scripts
 - Rehearsal planning, incl. schedules, rehearsal room set-up
 - Rehearsal process, incl. prompt script, rehearsal room management
 - Production week, incl. plotting process, rehearsals
 - Performance, incl Que calling
2. Workplace First Aid
3. On going practical use of the above listed information and skills in the workplace.

Assessment

1. Record of work experience.
2. Demonstration of practical skills and written assessment.

Outcome

An industry recognized certificate of competency in basic stage management practices.

Duration

2-4 months, depending on nature and level of work experience