

John Evans

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John Evans is a Stage Engineering Consultant at Charcoalblue. Working in a multi-disciplinary team with architects, engineers and designers, he specialises in the design and commissioning of complex technical systems for performance venues and studios.

Employment

Charcoalblue

Stage Engineering Consultant

London

Jan 2025-present

Working in Charcoalblue's dedicated Theatre Consulting team on a variety of projects in theatres, concert halls, film and TV; specialising in stage machinery design and project managing. Current projects include leading stage engineering design for a large multi-purpose transformable theatre, project managing work on an innovative film production space, and collaborating on a number of smaller theatre design projects with Charcoalblue's dedicated team of theatre designers.

Arup

Winchester

Venue Consultant

Jan 2019-Dec 2024

Worked in a multi-disciplinary consulting team on specialist engineering projects in the performing arts; including specification and concept design of production lighting and electrical systems, broadcast and communication systems, and stage machinery. Close collaboration with artistic stakeholders, engineers, designers and architects; clients in the UK include the BBC, the Royal College of Music, Leeds Beckett University, and the University of Liverpool, with international work on projects in Belgium, Serbia, Japan, and the USA.

Selected projects:

- Belgrade Concert Hall - led production of all BIM and drawing deliverables as well as technical design of stage engineering equipment
- Tung Auditorium, University of Liverpool - part of design team working on lighting & AV systems, writing specifications, and working on commissioning and snagging on site
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama Old Library - led client engagement and design of new infrastructure and rigging in listed building
- Leeds School of Arts - part of fitout design team specifying a complex package of performing arts, recording studio, and film and TV studio equipment; led detailed reviews of contractor submittals

ADC Theatre

Cambridge

Technical Manager

Sep 2016-Nov 2018

Responsibilities ranged from advising, training and supervising students on equipment and techniques, to theatrical equipment maintenance and testing, as well as planning and scheduling building upgrades and improvements. Responsible for annual technical budget of approx £35k. Project managed a £100k refurbishment of the theatre's lighting system and signal services, including leading the installation and certification of new dimmers, wiring and patching.

Pleasance One/Pleasance Grand, Pleasance Theatre

Edinburgh

Venue Crew

Summers 2015-2016

Underground Venues, Buxton Fringe

Buxton

Technical Manager

Summers 2013-2015

Jacobs Engineering

Whitehaven

CAD Technician

Summer 2012

Skills and Experience

Consultancy and Design

- Good teamwork and interpersonal skills, with considerable experience working in small teams under pressure. Participation in artistic and technical stakeholder engagement through workshops.
- Knowledge of relevant standards, legislation and codes of practice related to the performing arts and technical systems.
- Committed to continuing professional development, attending trade conferences, training on specific equipment and obtaining industry specific certifications on common entertainment technologies.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with experience writing in depth technical reports and specifications, and creating drawings and documentation packs for tender.
- Experience of budgeting and providing cost estimates for procurement of large scale technical systems.

Theatre Management and Maintenance

- Day-to-day management of backstage facilities, managing workshop time, storage, and logistics. Regular procurement of both regular supplies and capital equipment purchases.
- Equipment experience ranges across ETC Eos, Zero88 and Strand lighting consoles, Yamaha and Allen & Heath digital audio consoles, Dante networks, wireless microphone systems, d&b loudspeaker systems and common LED lighting fixtures.
- Significant experience PAT testing and maintaining theatrical equipment such as lighting fixtures and cabling, problem solving, ordering spare parts and fixing electrical problems.
- Management of theatre health and safety, regular emergency systems testing, and maintenance/upkeep of workshop tools and electrical systems.
- Experience training theatre users on stage equipment and skills, such as sound mixing, counterweight flying and basic carpentry.

Installation

- Electrical installation skills including containment installation, cable pulling, termination and commissioning of audio, video and data tielines, as well as mains electrical circuits.
- Experience specifying electrical systems including materials, circuit and distribution designs to BS7671.
- Mains certification and testing experience to BS7671 on general purpose and control circuits, as well as theatre lighting systems and patch systems.
- Experience designing, constructing and installing custom control panels using devices such as contactors and timers to create power sequencing, switching and control systems.

Software and Digital Development

- Experienced user of Windows, MacOS and Microsoft Office; some experience of Linux systems.
- Confident user of Autodesk AutoCAD and Autodesk Revit for drawing and modelling; experience of Rhino & Grasshopper patch development and some Revit API development.
- Variety of experience using specialist performing arts software such as lighting & sound console offline editors, QLab, Sennheiser Wireless Systems Manager, Dante Controller/Dante Virtual Soundcard, d&b ArrayCalc, Vectorworks Spotlight and Pro Tools.
- Experience creating scripts using Python to automate processing of data between documents and schedules, for creation of technical documents and similar.
- Various experience during degree of scientific analysis using Python and C, as well as typesetting reports using LaTeX and Typst.
- Hobbyist embedded systems programming and electronics design, using FreeRTOS/C based platforms. Basic PCB design skills using KiCad.

Qualifications

St John's College, Oxford University

MPhys (Hons) Physics, Upper Second Class Honours

2012-2016

Thesis Title: Measuring the Earth's atmosphere from a novel small satellite infrared radiometer. Wrote custom tools and software to interpret data from an experimental satellite based instrument, investigated compliance with engineering and scientific targets, and analysed areas for improvement in future instruments. Completed thesis won Met Office Academic Partnership Prize.

Professional qualifications (current and past)

- Full membership of the Institute of Engineering and Technology
- Full membership of the Association of British Theatre Technicians
- City and Guilds 2382-22 18th Edition Requirements for Electrical Installations
- City and Guilds 2382-15 17th Edition Requirements for Electrical Installations
- Dante Level 3 Certification
- CSCS Card (IET Professionally Qualified Person) (currently expired)
- St John Ambulance First Aid at Work (currently expired)
- IPAF PAL 3a/3b MEWP license (currently expired)