Lead Shop Carpenter

DEPARTMENT: Scenery
CLASSIFICATION: Full Time, IATSE Hourly, Non-Exempt
PAY: Department Head Rate, IATSE Local 122 – Currently $31.65/hr
LOCATION: La Jolla, CA on the beautiful campus of the University of California, San Diego
SCHEDULE: Regular weekday work, occasional overtime, weekend work and/or holiday work
REPORTS TO: Scenery Supervisor
WORKS WITH: LJP Staff, Visiting Artists & Designers
SUPERVISES: IATSE Carpenters & Metal Fabricators, IATSE Apprentices & Pre-Apprenticesces

POSTING DATE: August 2023
TO APPLY: Submit a cover letter, resume and references to productionjobs@ljp.org. Please include in the subject line – “Lead Shop Carpenter”

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what’s new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 110 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. These works include the Broadway hits Come From Away, Diana and Memphis, all directed by Ashley; The Who’s Tommy; the Pulitzer Prize-winning I Am My Own Wife; and Jersey Boys.

La Jolla Playhouse is committed to diversity in all areas of our work, on and off stage. We lead with our values and encourage individuals with unique perspectives to apply. La Jolla Playhouse is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).
STATEMENT OF JOB

The Lead Shop Carpenter is responsible for managing projects from delivery of drawings through completion, monitoring the progress of projects and ensuring the quality of construction and finish. They are an expert fabricator, taking on complex projects and acting as a resource to other shop staff leading carpenters and metal fabricators in the safe and successful execution of all designed scenic elements. The Lead Shop Carpenter collaborates with the Scenery leadership team in the development of build schedules and crew assignments and works to carry out those plans in a safe and efficient manner.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

• Collaborate with the Scenery Supervisor to create build plans & schedules for all La Jolla Playhouse productions, co-productions, presentations, and special events to which they are assigned.
• Lead carpenters and metal fabricators in the construction of shows built by the LJP Scene Shops and elsewhere, following industry best practices with special attention paid to safety, high quality of work, positive productive approach, and efficient use of time and resources.
• Distribute drawings with team members and discuss build approach at the start of each project.
• Serves as quality control throughout the fabrication process.
• In conjunction with the Shop Foreman, provide training and expertise to shop staff to ensure efficient and safe use of tools and shop resources.
• As work requires, fabricate, install, organize, and transport scenery projects for the production.
• Motivate and manage crews to ensure a safe, clean, and efficient shop environment during build and between projects.
• Manage a crew of 1 to 12 people.
• Attend meetings and note sessions as requested by the Scenery Supervisor or Production Management.
• Monitor and ensure that all scenic pieces are labeled accurately.
• Assist in risk assessments and reviews with Scenery Supervisor and Production Management to achieve workable and safe productions at all levels.
• Participate in the development of an environment that is both nourishing and invigorating for employees, artists and patrons.
• Function in a professional and collegial manner when collaborating with all theatre personnel, professional creative teams, staff, management and other visiting artists.
• Be an active participant in LJP’s work towards being a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace.
• Perform other duties as assigned in collaboration with theatre personnel, professional creative teams, staff, management and other visiting artists.

– more –
REQUIREMENTS & PROFICIENCIES

• 2 plus years of professional experience in theatrical construction, scenic methods, and crew management.
• Demonstrated success in leadership, goal setting, and personnel management.
• Possess strong verbal communication, critical thinking, attention to detail, problem solving, and organizational skills, including when working with competing priorities and time constraints.
• Demonstrated skills and knowledge of scenic carpentry, welding, rigging, complex automation solutions, and soft goods/fabric maintenance and repair.
• Working knowledge and experience with specialized tools used in advanced theatrical production operations.
• Knowledge of and dedication to safe work practices; ETCP Certification and OSHA 10 a plus.
• Possess strong critical thinking, attention to detail, problem solving, and organizational skills.
• Ability to read and execute scenic design and construction drawings.
• Commitment to uphold and meaningfully engage with the mission, vision, and values of La Jolla Playhouse.
• Access to reliable transportation.
• Being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by an FDA approved vaccine is a condition of employment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

• Frequently ascends/descends and moves about on ladders, lifts, catwalks, and grids.
• Ability to work extended hours including nights and weekends during load in.
• Frequently moves items weighing up to 50lbs and maneuvers heavy items with assistance.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

• Environment varies from dark/quiet backstage to bright/loud on stage.