



Trainee Costume Workroom Technician
Candidate Pack



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Your journey starts here...



English National Opera exists for everyone, creating new experiences with opera that inspires, nurtures creativity and makes a difference. Our vision is for lives changed through opera.

We take a fresh inspiring approach to opera to reflect the diversity of our culture.

We believe that opera is a living art form able to connect to people from all parts of our society. We collaborate with a range of artists and art forms as part of our commitment to the future of the art form. We sing in English, as we believe it enhances the emotional connection between performers and audiences.

We encourage creativity throughout the company and our commitment to the future of opera provides a platform to develop outstanding careers.



We are a world-class national company recognised internationally for the standard of our work. We nurture talent across the entire company including a platform for young singers to start and then develop global careers.

We connect to audiences through inspiring, accessible, world-class opera and stimulating, creative participation programmes.

We create our productions for the widest possible audiences and aim to introduce completely new audiences to the magic of opera whether at the London Coliseum, outside of our theatrical home or internationally.

We make our productions accessible by offering a large proportion of tickets at affordable prices, and through our attendance schemes.



We work with a wide range of visiting companies to generate essential revenue and welcome new audiences to share the experience of our theatre.

English National Opera is founded on the belief that opera of the highest quality should be accessible to anyone.



Trainee Costume and Workroom Technician

SUMMARY

We're hiring Trainee Costume Workroom Technicians for our upcoming 26/27 season at English National Opera.

Reporting to the Head Cutter and Assistant Cutters, the trainees will work under the direction of the show lead and assist the team with costume alterations for the entirety of the production period for a single show (3-6 weeks). This will take place between our workroom in Stockwell and at the London Coliseum.

This role is designed for someone at the start of their costume career to gain valuable experience within a professional workroom and to learn on the job to build professional and technical skills.

Reports to
Head Cutter

Salary
£150 per day

Location
ENO Costume Workroom, Stockwell & London Coliseum

Hours
8 hours per day



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Contract Dates

Successful applicants will be offered one of the following contracts based on their availability and skills:

Angels Bone- 28 September 2026- 16 October 2026 (16 days)

Tosca- 21 September 2026- 30 October 2026 (31 days)

Iphigenie en Tauride- 5 October 2026- 6 November 2026 (25 days)

Adriana Mater- 19 October 2026-27 November 2026 (30 days)

La Traviata- 4 January 2027-3 February 2027 (24 days)

Breaking the Waves- 4 January 2027- 12 February 2027 (30 days)

The Zoo/Trial by Jury- 8 February 2027- 4 March 2027 (19 days)



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Person Specification

Required:

- Completed a relevant course or training programme in garment construction (including Costume, Fashion or equivalent practical experience)
- High level of proficiency sewing by hand and machine
- Basic understanding of costume alterations
- Ability to communicate effectively and work well within a team
- Exhibits good time management and initiative
- Someone who is eager to learn, ask questions and follows direction
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends as required

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Applications and Interviews

You can apply for this position on our careers site.

We'll ask you for:

- Your CV
- A cover letter/video
- Your portfolio (optional)

Interviews will last 90 minutes and will include a 30-minute verbal competency interview (interview questions will be sent in advance) and a 60-minute practical assessment.

If you require any reasonable adjustments or have any access requirements, please let us know.

Application Deadline

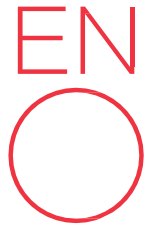
12pm, 20 May 2026

Interviews

w/c 8 June 2026, ENO Costume Workshop



We're proud to be a Disability Confident Employer. If you'd like to apply through the Disability Confident Guaranteed Interview Scheme or if you require any reasonable adjustments, please reach out to us on workwithus@eno.org



Backstage Secrets to Success

Read the job description carefully

The job description is your score and every note counts. This will help you understand whether the role is a good fit and what is required, so you can tailor your application effectively.

Read the application requirements carefully

Before your first act make sure you know your cues and stage directions. Check for any word limits, additional tasks, or submission deadlines.

Tailor your cover letter

Your cover letter is your aria- your chance to shine. Use this to tell us things that we can't see on your CV for example: why you want to work with us, how our values align with yours, and any transferable skills that make you a great fit for the role.

Check your application

Before submitting, review spelling and grammar, ensure attachments are included and correctly named, and double-check that your contact details are accurate and up to date. This is not a rehearsal. We repeat, this is not a rehearsal!

Prepare for your interview

Research the organisation, be ready to discuss experience mentioned on your CV, and think about questions you'd like to ask us. See the interview as a duet where each voice is equally as important.

Use AI tools mindfully

AI is a brilliant tool that's transforming how we work however, please ensure your application is honest and a true reflection of your experience. You can use AI to check grammar and spelling, improve structure and formatting, research the organisation or rehearse mock interviews but remember when the curtain rises, we want to see the real you in the spotlight.

Online interviews

If your interview is online, have a technical rehearsal. Check that the link works beforehand and make sure you have a quiet space, a good internet connection with minimal distractions.

In-person interviews

Confirm who you'll be meeting on the day, check your route in advance, and leave plenty of time in case of travel disruptions. This is your 5-minute call, you have 5 minutes.

Accessibility

We are an inclusive employer and want to ensure that our process is as accessible as possible. If you have any access requirements, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing us on workwithus@eno.org so that we can ensure that the stage is ready for your performance.



Confidentiality

Confidentiality is so important in this role and our policy is strict. All information concerning staff, patrons and other ENO business, the disclosure of which could be detrimental to the company, must be held in the strictest confidence and may not be divulged to any unauthorised person at any time.

Data Protection

Data Protection and adherence to GDPR is equally important. We therefore require that computer information should only be accessed if this has been authorised and is necessary as part of the postholder's work. You will need to be aware of the GDPR 8 key principals, and the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety is so important at ENO and we would expect that the postholder will be happy to undertake personal responsibility for safety as will be outlined in the ENO safety policy and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Equal Opportunities

Equal Opportunities is a given. We will expect the postholder to abide by ENO's policies on Equal Opportunities and Dignity at Work.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct is sometimes assumed, but at ENO we will require the postholder to act in accordance with ENO's Code of Conduct whereby everyone shall be treated in a professional and courteous manner with full regard to the avoidance of discrimination, consistent with current equal opportunities employment legislation.

ENO



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