THINK... SOUND

All productions rely on technical skills to produce the magic of theatre. To be a competent sound technician you need a clear head, good communication skills, to be a team player and have a passion for things electrical. There is a wide variety of positions within the theatre technical family from sound designers to mixing & operating so any extra skills you learn can only be a good thing, as far as your attractiveness to employers goes.

The RSC Sound Department are responsible for all RSC Sound work, in Stratford and on tour or residency. This includes sound effects, music amplification, and show communications systems. Since a sound technician is likely to be working with music and musicians frequently, some musical knowledge can be extremely useful. But most of all you need the passion for listening.

Working Environment

Working hours unsociable, and can be long during technical periods. Sound technicians work alongside other technical departments in a theatre, such as Lighting, and also with the creative teams and Stage Management, so the ability to communicate and work well in a team is essential.

Qualifications

You may decide to train for an accredited qualification at a drama school or seek out a course in further education before going onto more professional training. Technical theatre courses tend to cover sound and lighting, as well as modules on stage management and even set construction. These will give you a good, broad base from which to build your specialism. On the other hand, if you are absolutely certain what you want to do as a job, you can choose to specialise straight from school. There are degree courses in subjects including sound design mixing and sound engineering.

Work Experience

The more hands-on experience you can get at your chosen subject the better, so opportunities to have a go – whether it is backstage at the local drama society or on the sound desk at your nearest church
– are all well worth grabbing. Your past experience becomes your toolbox of ideas and solutions which feeds into your new work.