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## New Apprenticeship Opportunities at Royal Opera House Thurrock

### **Carpentry and Events Apprenticeships available for Young People in Thurrock**

Two new apprenticeships are on offer at the Royal Opera House in Thurrock from September 2013. Opportunities are available to work in the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop as a Scenic Carpentry apprentice and to work with Royal Opera House Education in Thurrock as an Education Tours and Events apprentice.

Both apprenticeships are based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet and last for two years. As well as learning on the job from some of the best skilled professionals working in the arts, the apprentices will study towards a formal qualification related to their specialism. The Education Tours and Events Apprentice will study for a Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Cultural Heritage Venue Operations through South Essex College and the Scenic Carpentry Apprentice will work towards a Level 2 Diploma in Bench Joinery at the Building Crafts College in Stratford, East London.

Previous experience in the apprenticeship area is not essential, but applicants should have a real interest in their chosen specialism, a strong desire to learn new skills and knowledge and be 18 or over on 2 September

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2013. Apprentices do receive a wage and their college fees are paid by the Royal Opera House. Apprenticeships are ideal for school or college leavers.

The current apprentices are coming to the end of their two years working for the Royal Opera House and Jamie Ashwell, Education Tours and Events Apprentice in Thurrock, is enthusiastic about the experience: “The Apprentice Scheme is a great way for people who are just starting out in their careers to get a foot in the door. Over the two years, you gain fantastic skills in many areas and are given countless training opportunities. The staff and college tutors support you really well on this journey and help you develop and nurture your talent. You help support all the projects run by the Education team and it seems almost every day you meet a new person who may be able to help you once you finish your apprenticeship.”

Scenic Carpentry Apprentice Michael Wilson has also gained a lot from this apprenticeship: “It’s a great experience for someone who wants a practical career in the arts and it is ideal for anyone within the Thurrock area. You’ve a lot to gain from this great opportunity”

The closing date for applications for both apprenticeship positions is Monday 3 June. Full details of all the apprenticeships available at the Royal Opera House in Thurrock and in Covent Garden can be found at [www.roh.org.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.roh.org.uk/apprenticeships)

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## **Notes for Editors**

### **The Derek Butler Trust**

The future of the Apprenticeships programme was secured by a generous donation to the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund by The Derek Butler Trust. The Trust's support will enable the scheme to expand to at least 12 positions per year through to 2018 and provide match funding for a further five years' activity. The Scenic Carpentry Apprenticeship is supported by this fund.

### **Royal Opera House Education in Thurrock**

Royal Opera House Education in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway for the past five years. In 2010, more than 1000 people from Thurrock, young and old, took part in the spectacular production The Purfleet Opera: *Ludd and Isis*, the third large scale performance created in Thurrock. From this, the Thurrock Community Chorus has now been created with more than 80 members of all ages. Over 100 local schools are participating in Royal Opera House projects working with creative professionals, learning new skills and developing their own creativity and new projects and programmes are being developed at the High House Production Park in Purfleet including tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built.

The High House Production Park is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House, Thurrock Council and Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation.