

NOVEMBER 2013

Be Inspired at the Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop

Production Workshop Tours offer an insight into backstage skills

The Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop in Purfleet, Essex is home to the world-class craftspeople who create the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Regular public tours and bespoke Inspiration Days at the Production Workshop offer the opportunity to discover the backstage world of set construction and scenic painting.

Since the regular tour programme began running in 2012, more than 1500 people have caught a fascinating glimpse into the skills and talents of the many scenic painters, carpenters and metalworkers who work at the state-of-the-art workshop. Here they realise the designers' visions, creating the many different sets and the scenery for the ballets and operas performed at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

A visit to the Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Production Workshop can last from an hour to a whole day. Options range from a short tour of the building to whole day packages of practical workshops, films, digital resources and the tour. Tours and workshops can be tailored for adult groups, specialist interest groups, primary and secondary school children,

students in further and higher education or even business team building and away days.

Led by expert tour guides, tours of the Production Workshop visit the scenic paint shop, the build area, and the carpentry workshop to see how sets and scenery are constructed. Visitors have access to the unique viewing galleries used by the artists and craftspeople to view their work from above. Inspiration Days offer hands-on practical workshops run by experienced creative practitioners in a variety of fields from costume and millinery to set design and prop making.

Set in the High House Production Park amid beautifully restored historic buildings and landscaped gardens, the purpose-built Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop is a fascinating place to visit to learn about the crafts and skills behind theatre set construction and design.

Tours run regularly throughout the year. Full details of the dates and times of tours can be found at www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours

Tickets for the tours can be booked in person at the Royal Opera House Box Office or by phone on 020 7304 4000. Tickets are £8.00 adult, £7.50 seniors/unwaged/students and £7.50 children under 16. A Group Price of £7.00 is available for groups of 10 or more. Inspiration Days can be booked at any time. For more information about Inspiration Days, please contact the Royal Opera House Learning and Participation Team in Thurrock on 01708 891200 or email getinvolved@roh.org.uk.

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway for the past six years. In 2010, more than 1000 people from Thurrock, young and old, took part in creating and performing the spectacular Purfleet Opera: *Ludd and Isis*, the third large scale ROH performance created with communities in Thurrock. As a result of this work a Thurrock Community Chorus has been created with over 140 members of all ages and a new Youth Vocal Group, RM19, for 11-25 year olds.

Local schools and teachers are benefiting from Royal Opera House projects which enable collaboration with creative professionals, the learning of new skills and the nurturing of creativity

Public and educational 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 are now available.

The High House Production Park is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House, Acme Studios' High House Artists' Studios and Thurrock Council.