

SPOTLIGHT – Sam & Tafara, Assistant Stage Managers ***Wed 29 March 2017***

Hello, we are Sam Griesser and Tafara Takavarasha, the two Assistant Stage Managers for Matthew Bourne's production of *The Red Shoes*.



Sam & Tafara backstage at The Red Shoes

Our role in Matthew Bourne's production of The Red Shoes:

During the rehearsal period it's our job to assist the Stage Manager in running the rehearsal room. This includes setting up furniture, set pieces and props and laying floor marks to ensure pieces of set and furniture get set in the same place throughout the run of the show. We also begin to pick up cues that will need to be done during the show and run errands needed to keep rehearsals moving. Making sure there's enough tea, coffee and biscuits is essential!

Each week we move to a new theatre, when we do it's our job to set up the wings (each side of the stage), this includes setting up our props tables, arranging set pieces in the order they will be needed, checking that wardrobe have enough space for quick changes and ensuring the wings are safe and ready for the show.

During the show it's our job to run the wings, this includes assisting with scene changes, handing and receiving props from cast members and generally making sure people are in the right place at the right time. We also have two crew members on each side of the stage who help us when needed.

Another part of our job is maintaining all the props, we have around 110 props in *The Red Shoes* so between two of us, there's a lot to do.

NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

Our favourite moments in The Red Shoes?

Sam's favourite part of *The Red Shoes* is the Company Party, it's a fun and light hearted part of the show that gives the audience a few laughs! Tafara's favourite is The Red Shoes Ballet, it's such a captivating and beautiful section.

Highlights of our career so far:

We both agree, our career highlight to date is taking Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* to Asia...what an experience. Getting to work in incredible international venues alongside talented industry professionals was an unforgettable experience ...and of course it was great to do some sightseeing!

Our advice for someone trying to get into the industry:

We would say that having incredible attention to detail and great communication skills are essential. The stage management team on a production are the central point of communication for all departments, passing on information to the relevant people. We're like the center of a big spider web!

It can become quite busy; a lot of time and hard work goes into creating and maintaining a show from an ASM's point of view. However, it's definitely a job you should be passionate about and enjoy. We both do and it's incredibly rewarding to see people entertained and moved by what they see on stage each night.

That being said, go and see lots of different types of shows and find out what type of theatre you find exciting and are passionate about. Also, if you get the chance, try and shadow Stage Management teams at any local theatres near you. You can learn so much from watching others and see various ways of running different types of productions.



Sam & Tafara onstage at Wales Millennium Centre