

# Next Steps @ TRGA

Your weekly Careers news!

5th November 2018

**Next Steps @ TRGA** is a weekly newsletter which aims to provide students at TRGA with useful careers information, advice and ideas for the future – stay tuned for more tips and information next week!

## Career of the week

This week – **Theatre Director**

**Rowena English**

**Freelance Theatre**

**Director/Facilitator**



### I want to know more about...

Got a job or career area you'd like to find out more about that we haven't featured in the newsletter?

Let us know by coming and speaking to **Mr. Webb** in the **Careers Room** (Room 203)!

### Tell us a little about what you do...

As a freelance Youth Theatre Director and Facilitator, I am self-employed and work around the UK for various companies throughout the year. At the moment, I am working with Leeds Grand Theatre as Assistant Director for the City Varieties Youth Theatre (for 8-17 year olds) and Leeds Actors in Training (for 18-25 year olds), which helps aspiring actors train for a career in theatre through an affordable and flexible alternative to studying at university or drama school. I deliver drama and creative workshops on behalf of Leeds Grand Theatre and City Varieties Music Hall, including their "Summer Festival" and Schools Partnership programmes.

### What's the best thing about your job?

There are so many wonderful things about my job, not least that I really enjoy it, but if I had to choose one thing it would be working with young people. I find their energy, openness and curiosity really inspiring and enjoy getting to know them as individuals as well as helping them to work together. I love theatre because it encourages us to think about other people's points of view, to empathise with people who may seem very different. I enjoy the opportunity as a director to work with young people of all ages and backgrounds and give them a safe environment in which to express themselves, be heard and be appreciated for who they are.

### What sort of challenges do you face?

One of the challenges of being self-employed is that unlike a typical 9 to 5 job, working freelance can be unpredictable and you don't necessarily get paid regularly. It's really important to plan ahead and budget carefully so that you can work as steadily as possible and work around the fact that some times of the year are busier than others.

### What skills, qualifications or experience do you need to get into this industry?

**Energy:** engaging and enthusing others for long working days during anti-social hours.  
**Diplomacy:** balancing the various priorities of diverse groups of people.  
**Time-management:** managing multiple projects for different companies by maintaining clear communication and scheduling your time.  
**Flexibility:** there is never a dull day in the theatre, so you have to adapt to change and embrace creative challenges, always going with the best idea, even if it's not yours!  
**Networking:** presenting yourself in a confident, professional and approachable way to clients (theatre companies, schools etc.) in order to seek out and/or create opportunities.

My advice would be to get some experience by volunteering in any area of theatre/creative arts/education that you can as you never know when that knowledge and experience will come in handy but, trust me, it will. I volunteered (and later worked) as a Front of House Attendant at Leeds Playhouse, which I did partly because it meant I could see lots of shows for free, but which also gave me a real insight into how theatres run behind the scenes. Since then, I have worked in theatres all over the country and found it incredibly useful to have an understanding of how their different departments work and how they are connected.

### What advice would you give to someone wanting to get into this type of work?

### Monday Morning inspiration:

*"Never, never, never give up".*

*Winston Churchill*

### Need some support with your future plans?

*Speak to your Careers Adviser!*



You can find **Mr. Webb** in the **Careers Room** (203) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at breaks or lunchtimes if you have any questions!

Email: [careers@ruthgorse.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:careers@ruthgorse.leeds.sch.uk)

**For more info on similar careers, check out the link below:**

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/theatre-director>

<https://www.screenskills.com/education-training/careers-information/job-profiles/content-creation/director/>

