


CHARLIE HAIN

FOLLOWSPOT OPERATOR



IF you've ever been to the theatre, you'll have seen a light following the main character across the stage. But we bet you've never met the person who controls the light! Until now, that is...



WHAT I DO

I'm a followspot operator, which means I shine a huge light at the main characters on the stage. I'm also a stage electrician, so in that role I move lights to make way for set coming on and off stage and make sure the lighting is running smoothly from the wings.

HOW I GOT MY JOB

I applied via email. I've worked with someone who used to have this job and she put in a good word for me. This industry is very small and word of mouth is vital to continue getting work!

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY JOB

I love the energy that comes from the audience every night. Being a small cog in the machine that entertains so many people every night is a joy!

WHAT'S DIFFICULT ABOUT IT

We work unsocial hours, so it's tough to meet up with friends and family.

WHAT SKILLS I NEED

A basic understanding of theatrical lighting helps. For this show specifically,

a background in working with moving lights is also useful. However, the most important skill is teamwork. We have a small team and spend a lot of time with each other. It makes a world of difference to be able to get on and work with your team effectively.

WHERE YOU SHOULD START IF YOU WANT TO DO THE JOB, TOO

Get as much experience as possible. Find smaller jobs in local theatres and work up. It's a small industry and making contacts is so important. When you have a bit of experience behind you, try dropping your CV off at theatres or with shows you want to work with.



WHICH QUALIFICATIONS YOU MIGHT NEED

A lot of drama schools and even universities now offer technical theatre courses and are a good way of giving a background knowledge in theatre and making contacts. It's important to realise that real-world working environments are very different, so getting on-the-job experience is crucial.

HOW MY JOB COULD CHANGE IN THE FUTURE

Every year technology changes and everyone in this industry has to keep up with it. The core of what theatre is obviously hasn't, and probably won't, change. Our knowledge and skills are always shifting slightly, but I'd be surprised if our jobs change drastically.

You can follow (get it?) Charlie in our latest film made backstage at *Wicked*. So stop reading and go to first.news/spot to watch it now!

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QUIZ TIME



FirstNews QUIZ



HAVE a go at our First News Quiz! Why not set yourself and your friends or family a time challenge to see who can get the highest score in the quickest time? Good luck! See how well you did by using the answers at the bottom.

1. MATT HANCOCK HOLDS WHICH POSITION IN GOVERNMENT?

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2. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST NHS ENGLAND EVERY YEAR WHEN PEOPLE MISS THEIR DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS?

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3. JEAN-JACQUES SAVIN IS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS WHICH OCEAN IN AN ORANGE BARREL?

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4. TWO INCREDIBLY RARE BIRDS HAVE BEEN BORN AT CHESTER ZOO. WHAT ARE THEY?

.....

5. WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM DOES DENIS ODOI PLAY FOR?

.....

6. JIMMY WALES AND LARRY SANGER ARE THE CREATORS OF WHAT?

.....

7. WHAT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR A TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE, WHEN THE EARTH MOVES BETWEEN THE SUN AND THE MOON?

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8. THE SNOWMOBILE FIRST WENT ON SALE IN WHAT YEAR?

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- ANSWERS:** 1) Health Secretary 2) £216 million 3) Atlantic 4) Socorro dove chicks 5) Fulham 6) Wikipedia 7) super blood moon 8) 1937

