

I applied as a Technical Theatre trainee at Theatre Peckham as I had previous experience doing technical theatre in my school drama society, but wanted to get more experience and learn more as I felt there was still so much I didn't know. I certainly got that at Theatre Peckham!

I had a wide range of tasks, so nothing was ever dull – during rehearsals of *The Magic Paintbrush*, I operated the music and occasionally took note of stage directions and blocking, and I operated lighting for the performances. I also attended production meetings, helped construct the set, cleaned the theatre, and occasionally organised the children. The director Teresa and the production manager Suneeda also ensured that my particular skills were put to use, which made me feel like a useful member of the team: I coached the actors in their pronunciation of the Chinese character names, and contributed some help with the musical aspects of the show.

I also really appreciated the range of opportunities to operate tech apart from the main production – I had the chance to operate lighting for Theatre Peckham's Open Day performances and the BTEC production, and also operated projections for a performance at Theatre Peckham by an external group. This gave me a wider range of experience, especially since each production was different and had a different amount of tech rehearsal before the actual performance, which kept me on my toes.

Throughout my traineeship, I felt that the work and environment for trainees had the right balance of being both challenging and supportive, giving us tasks with a good amount of responsibility, while also giving us the necessary guidance to carry out our tasks. I really enjoyed my time at Theatre Peckham, and I certainly feel that the knowledge and real-world experience that I gained during my traineeship was incredibly valuable.

Azura (2014)