

## **My Work Experience Article!**

Work experience! Most people expect you to hate it and be on your knees begging to get back to school. Others think it'll knock bad kids into shape, or hit you with the harsh reality of life. But no one genuinely expects you to have fun.

I chose to do my work experience at Theatre Peckham because I wanted to see what happens behind the scenes of a drama company. I wanted a taste of the hard work, the pace and the tedious little jobs you have to do in a work place; I got all that and more at Theatre Peckham.

From day one I found myself doing a variety of different jobs; from sorting badges, making posters and displays, photocopying and laminating, to cleaning the theatre and seating bank. Undoubtedly, there was always something to do and you found the fun in every task you tackled.

The staff are welcoming and supportive and almost take you under their wing - however sappy that may sound, and make your days ever more fun. On my second day, I had the privilege of attending a staff meeting which was very intriguing and insightful. The previous day I had observed three of the company's classes; Drama 1, Street Fusion 1 and Singing 3. I was able to voice my observations and have them noted down as minutes for the meeting. My main reflection was that the younger classes - from 11 under - have a greater enthusiasm for what they are doing and enjoy it more, whereas, the older classes (12+) are more withdrawn and show less engagement in their lesson. It was almost as if, through going into adolescence, they'd lost their passion. They'd lost their fun. My ideas for the solution were to make us do ridiculous things like pretend to be a gruffalo or teach/join in with the younger classes, so we see what we have lost and, hopefully, get it back.

Also on the Tuesday morning, I accompanied our singer teacher and Education Projects Manager, Androulla Constantinou, on launching a new non-religious gospel choir in a new-by primary school called Bessemer Grange. We got the children all singing in their assembly with a jazzy, soulful song called, 'Roc My Soul'. At one point I had to sing the tune solo, which was nerve racking but fun to be involved with. This helped me to see all the things that Theatre Peckham does outside their weekly classes, and their involvement and importance in the community.

On the Friday - which was my day off as I had worked long hours most of that week - I performed in Theatre Peckham's Trinity Guildhall exam preview showcase; performing my grade 6 piece from 'A Man of Mode'. I also won the Jack Petchey award for January-June 2013 which included receiving a Jack Petchey medal, certificate and a check of £200 to spend on the upkeep of Theatre Peckham. Following this, on the Sunday, I sat my exam and received the joyous news that I had passed.

Overall, I think Theatre Peckham has been a lovely place to have done my work experience and I would recommend it to all who want a well-rounded experience of work life, with a homely atmosphere while doing so.

Thank you to Theatre Peckham for having me.

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