

David Ripley

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A highly experienced theatre professional with extensive technical, design and managerial knowledge. An experienced educator and teacher in the entertainment industry. Creator of an award-winning Stage Engineering product

Career History

Freelance/'retired-adjacent' June 2025 – present

Trading as cad4theatre (see below)

- Creative Industries Assessor Pool – CoSTAR Network (AHRC)
- Assessor/Developer Creative Industries Apprenticeship Endpoint Assessments (OCN London)

Head of Technical & Production August 2013 – May 2025

Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

- Responsible for managing five cross curricular departments within T&P
- Member of Academic and other committees across the School
- Teaching on various courses across the School
- Responsible for Risk management on all activities in the Schools performance spaces
- Providing technical support and advice across all programmes
- Implementing H&S, scheduling and budgetary procedures
- Responsible for licencing of, and IP advice on Public Productions
- Reporting on and implementing updates and improvement to the Technical and Production provision across the School
- Engaging and managing Visiting Professionals on Public Productions
- Internal Project Leader on £16.7million North Block building project

Theatre Director May 2012 – July 2013

Birmingham Ormiston Academy

Freelance February 2009 – May 2012

Trading as cad4theatre □

- Venue Consultancy
- AutoCAD for Performance Training (from 2000)
- Production Management

Lecturer, Technical & Production Management

Central School of Speech and Drama

April – July 2011

Designer
Arup Theatre Consultants, London

May – July 2010

Technical Consultant
2009

August 2008 – January

Anne Minors Performance Consultants, London

Academy Production Manager/Lecturer

September 1999 – August 2008

Royal Scottish Academy Of Music and Drama, Glasgow (now RCS)

Production Manager
1999

July 1993 – September

Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke

Technical Tutor

July 1990 – June 1993

Guildford School of Acting

Various roles

July 1983 – June 1990

Freelance and Full time

West End and Regional theatre and corporate sectors

Education Work

1987 – 1989

Berkshire CC - Reading Youth
Theatre, Production Manager

1990 – 1999

AETTI

1995 – 1999

Metier - Sound NVQ Committee

1996 – 2012

ABTT Training and Education
Committee (Vice Chair)

2000 – present

Visiting Lecturer at various UK HEIs

2004

External Consultant LIPA Course
Validation

2004

Co Author CCSkills NoS/AoC for
Production Lighting

2014 – 2018

External Examiner, Birmingham
School of Acting, BA (Hons) Stage
Management

Awards

2004

Joint winner ABTT Widget of The Year with LeMark for The Bar-Fly

2007

Fellow, Higher Education Academy

2024

ABTT VIP Idea of the Year - The Counterweight Caddy, now a
JV with Triple E

Education

1983	LAMDA, Stage Management/Technical Theatre Diploma
2001	IOSH Managing Safely
2002	SQA Diploma in Management

Professional Memberships:

Association of British Theatre Technicians Full Member (former Vice Chair T&E Committee)

Founder member – The Profile Group – Performance Light Educators

PLASA Board - Organisational Representative, Governing Body 2014-20

Associate Committee Member, Production Manager's Forum
(Education representative) 2020 - 2024

ELIA – ETHO (European Technical Heads Organisation)

Published Works & Seminars

ABTT CAD Standards (with Steve Green et al)

AutoCAD – Handbook for Theatre Users (5th Edition)

Various articles for Trade magazines; LS&I, ALD Focus; AUGI World etc

ABTT & PLASA Seminar programme contributor (Annually)

Contributor to 'Stage Lighting – The Technician's Guide; section on CAD