



PRODUCTION MANAGERS FORUM

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION

ALL THE JUICY APRIL
HIGHLIGHTS AND OUR PLANS
FOR THE REST OF 2019



DDA FORUM REPORT

Zoe reports on the March Forum



WELFARE WITHIN PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL

We discuss rising mental health
concerns in the industry



SUPPORT HUB NETWORK

We talk about our Support Hub
Network project

2019 MEMBERSHIP STATS!

2019 has got off to a great start
with 58 new members welcomed
into the PMF fold.

78% of our members identify as
male, and 22% identify as female.

We have members in nine
countries outside of the UK
including Australia, Cameroon,
China, New Zealand, Russia, Sri
Lanka and the USA.

We aim to keep our membership
FREE and accessible to as many
as possible but to do this we rely
on donations to cover our running
costs - if you would like to make
a donation, please feel free to
contact us!

Welcome to the April 2019 newsletter

Spring has well and truly sprung and the PMF continues to flourish as we race full steam ahead into 2019. Thanks to all of you who have joined so far this year - we hope that you'll find the PMF a useful resource. Please do encourage your colleagues to sign up as well!

The April edition of the newsletter reports on the events we've hosted this year including our DDA forum held at the English National Opera in March which was very well attended and sparked an interesting discussion.

Welfare within Theatre and Live Events has been a hot topic in our industries media recently. In response to this we are hosting a Forum to discuss the topic at this year's ABTT Theatre Show - see page 2 to find out more.

After the Forum at the Theatre Show there will be a Forum in Edinburgh during the early part of the festival. Where better to discuss the world of Fringe Theatre?! Then there is a second Forum planned for Bristol in the autumn.

We are currently looking for participants for our Edinburgh panel. If you have experience of Fringe Theatre, will be in Edinburgh for the first half of the festival and would like to join the discussion then please get in touch! We welcome all voices to our Forum. We also welcome any questions or topics you would like to see discussed. Please submit your ideas and questions to: info@productionmanagersforum.org or message us via any of our social media channels using #PMFTopics. We look forward to seeing you all at one of our events!

JOB VACANCIES

To let us know of a relevant vacancy, send us an email!

Please include the following information when contacting us:

- Job title
- Location
- Duration
- Rate of pay
- Image or link
- Who and where to send the application to

DDA FORUM

Chaired By
Emma Wilson
Director of Technical &
Production
Sadler's Wells



Jonathan Suffolk
Technical Director at the
National Theatre



Jenny Sealey MBE
Artistic Director of Graeae
Theatre Company



Job Vacancies

Our job postings have been super busy this year! Since the beginning of 2019 we have published 45 roles on our website and social media channels. Advertising and applying for roles through us is completely FREE - we aim to be a one stop shop for all Production and Technical Manager Recruitment. If you have a role you want to advertise, send the brief including application details to info@productionmanagersforum.org and we will share it with our fast growing community!

DDA Forum - 'Beyond Compliance - It's Not Just About Wheelchairs'

Friday 15th March at the English National Opera

Our first Forum this year, kindly hosted by the ENO and diligently chaired by Emma Wilson, discussed access issues faced by audience members, venues and production teams alike, and aimed to give production managers and event producers a starting point of how to improve access both on and off stage.

The first half of the Forum saw Jenny Sealey MBE and Jonathan Suffolk, discuss common issues faced by those with access needs and how we can tweak our production processes to allow for greater integration and better communication. Jonathan also spoke about the new captioning glasses currently being developed at the NT and how the company is working to pioneer practices of access for their audiences.

After a short break, we were joined by Mekel Edwards, Production Manager for LIFT Festival, Dan Shelley, Technical Manager at the Battersea Arts Centre and Andy Franks, Project & Estates Director of Mountview Theatre School, which has recently finished construction of its new home in South London. The panel discussed historic and current challenges that Production and Technical Managers face as both Freelancers and Venue Managers.

We asked a couple of attendees their thoughts on the Forum, here's what they had to say ...

Mark Lovell of Charcoal Blue "The forum was a great opportunity to engage with and hear from theatre leaders and end-users in understanding the unique challenges they face using and adapting buildings. The collegiate, safe spaces being created for these kinds of discussions by the PMF is invaluable in empowering us all to share and espouse good practice, and to work with not against each other."

Phil Sparks of Stage Solutions : "I'm a supplier rather than a PM so why would I go to a PMF session? Partly because these people are my customers (let's be honest); partly because the topic - Beyond Compliance with the DDA - was important, interesting and a bit of a challenge; and partly because they attracted two absolutely top speakers: Jenny Sealey and Jonathan Suffolk. The result was honest, relevant and not at all "worthy". Just a bunch of professionals exchanging experiences about a topic which we really need to embrace. And, as an "imposter", I was not merely tolerated but made welcome."

Watch the Forum with captioning on our Youtube channel - soon to be announced on our socials!

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

There are several organisations set up to support theatre workers dealing with mental health issues. Theatre Helpline can be contacted 24 hours a day to provide confidential advice and support to any theatre professional

www.theatrehelpline.org



COUNSELLING FROM INDUSTRY MINDS

Industry Minds provide free podcasts discussing mental health within the creative industries. They chat with various creatives in our industry and release episodes on a weekly basis.

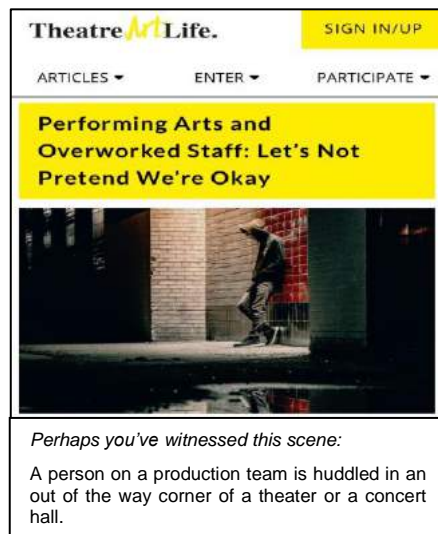
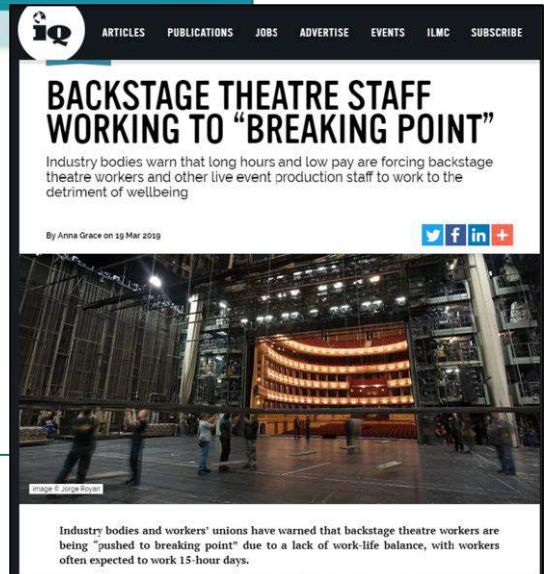
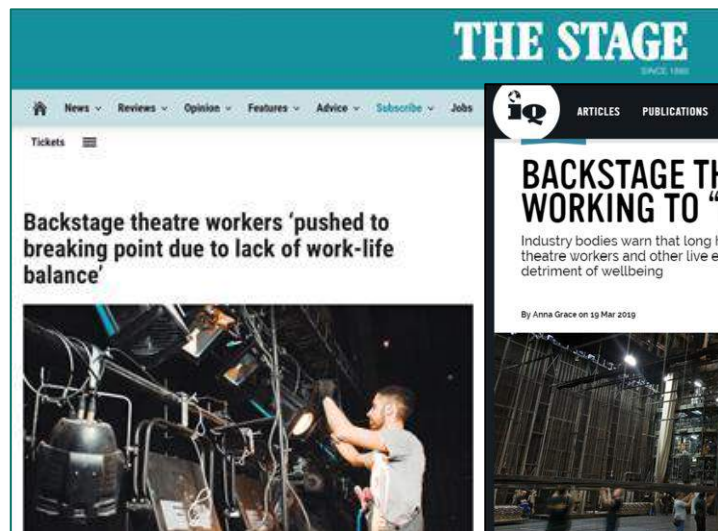
You can find their podcasts on Apple Podcasts or Soundcloud.

www.industrymindsuk.wixsite.com/industryminds



Welfare within Production and Technical Management

With numerous articles this year raising the veil on backstage working conditions and the impact upon the mental and physical health within our industry, it looks like industry leaders are finally starting to recognise and address the pressures and stresses inherent in putting on a live event and asking the question: what can we do to improve our working environments of our technical staff?



But the fact is, fewer of our colleagues seem to be reaching their mid 50s these days, and that's a huge problem that needs to be addressed. Drinking, drug use, coffee, lack of sleep and long and unsociable working hours all contribute to an unhealthy lifestyle that many of us lead. This sentiment was echoed at this year's Olivier Awards with many of the winners saying that the industry has to change drastically to address the issue.

The Sustainability in Production Alliance (SIPA) was set up in 2015 to tackle issues commonly faced by the live events industry, aiming to enforce sustainable cultural change. Read on to find out more ...

“Working 12 hours plus a day, six to seven days a week has long been indoctrinated in our way of work, with technical teams working with touring bands often subject to much harsher working conditions than their theatre counterparts.”
From an article published in The Stage in March 2019



GOT AN IDEA FOR A FORUM YOU'D LIKE TO HOST?

We always love to hear from our membership on what topics you would like to see discussed.

We love it even more when a member wants to host a Forum themselves and increase the accessibility of the PMF in their area.

If you have an idea for a Forum you would like to host in your venue/village hall/living room, then please do get in touch!

Our only requirement is that the Forum should be filmed with good sound quality so we can distribute it to everyone. For more details, please email us!

PMF MENTORING SCHEME

The PMF are piloting a mentoring scheme, providing an opportunity for entry level PMs to learn from veteran PMs across the country.

We hope this will enable young and aspiring Production Managers to have a reliable source of support and practical advice but also to allow more Senior PMs to build relationships with possible future deputies.

Message us to find out more!

SiPAs website details their goals and events forthcoming in 2019. Check out their website for more information on their events and projects: www.sipa.org.uk

GOAL 2: WELL BEING

Sustaining ourselves and each other

Our industry is tough. Our goal is to build support for individuals within the live production industry and value their well being as highly as their skills and our profits. We must also challenge the impact that our industry imposes upon our lives by promoting the right to family life alongside the practicalities of a career. Together we will create a culture which recognises that burnout is no longer a badge of honour and rejects the norm of funerals in our fifties.

The PMF want to join this highly important conversation and, as such, we will be hosting a Forum at this year's ABTT Theatre Show. Our Forum will be focusing on this issue with our guest panelists Oliver Brown, Head of Production at Hull Truck Theatre; Andy Rowley of the SMA, Philippa Childs, Head of BECTU; and Giverny Masso, Journalist and Author of the article in The Stage magazine mentioned above.

Our panel will be chaired by Emma Wilson, Technical Director of Sadler's Wells.

Join us on 6TH June at Alexandra Palace for the FREE Forum - send your Q's to us using #PMFTopics or message us via our website. We will be live streaming via Facebook again so you can watch from home!



SUPPORT HUB NETWORK

The Support Hub Network is a nationwide project which enables our membership to communicate with one another, share knowledge and ideas, and help build our community in areas outside of London. The project has been in a 'scratch' situation for the past couple of years during our startup phase, we are now redeveloping this area of our website ready to launch to our membership in Autumn this year!

Our Support Hubs play a vital role in extending the reach of the PMF beyond London, anyone can be a Support Hub and all our membership will have access to this service. If you are a current Support Hub, we will be in touch to update all details over the next few weeks, if you would like to become a Support Hub, please head to our website and fill out the online form.

Our mentoring scheme is an off-shoot of our Support Hub using our private Facebook Group as our online private Forum for discussion! Join now! www.facebook.com/groups/pmfmembers

PMF INTERVIEW SERIES

How often are PMs heard in the media or even in Programme biogs?

Not often enough sadly. We want to change that and promote what an amazing job you all do and how you make everyone's ideas a reality!

So we are creating a small series of interviews with leading Production Managers so you can hear what does through their minds during their fit ups.

Coming soon...

RECENT COURSES

Have you undertaken a course relating to your work recently which you recommend to your colleagues? Share it with us and we will feature all recommended courses on our website on our INFORMATION PAGE.

- Regulation and Guidance
- Training Courses
- Fellow organisations we haven't met yet!

PMF Working Group – Standardising Technical Spec and Riders

The PMF have set up a working group in response to requests from our members to take a look at standardising tech specs and technical riders.

If you have created or used a particularly good (or bad) version of either, we would be interested in hearing from you. Send in your examples or ideas via our email info@productionmanagersforum.org

ROH Loses appeal – What does this mean for our industry?

We're interested in hearing your thoughts on the High Court Ruling and what it means for our industry and you as a Production Manager. Get in touch via our socials, we'd love to hear from you!

Entertainment & Arts

Royal Opera House loses appeal over viola player's hearing

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f     Share



Christopher Goldscheider joined the viola section of the ROH orchestra in 2002

The Royal Opera House has lost its appeal over the life-changing hearing damage caused to a viola player at a rehearsal of Wagner's Die Walkure.

With thanks to our supporters

