

Pleasance Theatre Trust - Role Pack

Assistant Head of Lighting (Fringe) Festival 2026

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About Pleasance Theatre Trust

The Pleasance Theatre Trust is one of the most established operators at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, well known for discovering talent. Each year we nurture the skills of those working both on and off the stage.

Starting with just two venues in 1985 we now run 33 performance spaces across 3 sites in Edinburgh every August - presenting the festival's most compelling and entertaining shows. In 2025 our venues welcomed audiences of nearly 500,000 to over 5,700 performances of 285 productions in just 27 days.

The Pleasance is a place where journeys begin; built by us, but made unforgettable by you.

We hope you'll join us

The Pleasance Theatre Trust is a registered charity - charity numbers 1050944 (England & Wales) and SC043237 (Scotland).

What we look for in applicants

Our Festival team includes experienced industry professionals working proudly alongside those just starting out in the Pleasance Festival Volunteer Programme. Together they provide support to the artists, audiences and each other.

We are looking for team members with:

- A positive attitude.
- A willingness to work as a team.
- An ability to remain motivated, particularly in a fast paced environment.
- A commitment to sharing their experience with volunteers.
- Relevant skills that would support you in the role (see “Role description” for more detail).

Successful applications are most often ones which clearly and concisely communicate these points.

Contract terms and eligibility

Role	Assistant Head of Lighting
Contract type	Fixed Term
Period of engagement	20/07/26 to 11/09/26 - 43 working days, inclusive of Pre-Production: TBC (1 working day) On-site: 21/07/26 - 05/09/26 (41 working days) <i>Your travel days are 20/07/26 & 06/09/26</i> Post-Production: 11/09/26 (1 working day), inclusive of debrief on Friday 11 September 2026
Key dates	Festival Build / Get-In: 13/07/26 - 04/08/26 Festival: 05/08/26 - 31/08/26 Festival Strike / Get-Out: 01/09/26 - 05/09/26
Fee	£4,371.81 by Invoice * * The fee stated above is on the basis of a freelance contract for individuals that are registered self-employed. Fixed term employment contracts (PAYE) are also available to individuals that are not self-employed.
Payment schedule	50% Total Fee on 17/08/26 50% Total Fee by 18/09/26, on completion
Place of work	Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Schedule of work	Shift work on a daily changing rota with an average 6 day week during the Period of Engagement. Evening and weekend work are essential.
Accommodation	Accommodation is available to all that require it and is subsidised by the Pleasance, with a charge of £14.15 per night passed on to the team member. Accommodation is a private bedroom with a single bed in a 4 to 6 bedroom halls of residence style flat. Flats are shared with other Pleasance team members and located 5 - 10 minutes walk from the venues.
Travel	The Pleasance shall arrange travel to and from Edinburgh for the team member at its own expense up to the value of £100. Please confirm your departure venue upon signature of contract.
Right to work	All applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

Role description

Role	Assistant Head of Lighting
Department	Technical
Line manager	Head of Lighting
Key relationships	Deputy Head of Lighting, Head of Sound, Head of Video, Production Manager: Shows, Technical Management, Venue Crew

Summary

The Assistant Head of Lighting plays a key role in supporting the Head of Lighting to design, implement and manage the Pleasance lighting systems and control in venues as well as the temporary electrics distribution and services across the Dome & Courtyard sites. They will join the lighting team in Edinburgh, quickly getting up to speed on the plans and then lead sub teams during the build and represent the lighting department as required on site.

Key responsibilities

Construction/de-construction phase

- Work with the Head of Lighting to run the lighting team for build & strike. Ensuring all temporary electrical distribution is installed for the site as well as installing venue lighting and control requirements are met.

Festival phase

- Be a Technical contact for event operational lighting and electrical issues working alongside the Senior Technical Team to resolve all issues.
- Be part of the lighting team and rota to ensure adequate support throughout the festival.

- Active engagement in the ongoing delivery of workplace support, training and mentoring to all staff and volunteers.

Post-Festival phase

- All senior technical teams will be requested to supply a detailed appraisal on each member of the venue crew, this feedback will be used in future years for the purpose of re-employment, promotion and make up part of an employer's reference if requested.

Volunteer support

- All members of the Pleasance team have a responsibility to support those participating in the Pleasance Festival Volunteer Programme, including;
 - Champion the Pleasance's [Volunteer Values](#)
 - Maintain a supportive environment and workplace
 - Be inclusive and encourage equal participation
 - Support volunteer training by sharing your experience
 - Contribute to a fun and rewarding experience.

General

- Act as a representative of the Pleasance.
- Be responsive to situations as they arise.
- Work cross-departmentally to ensure the smooth running of the operation.
- Maintain high standards and excellent customer service.

Personal specifications

Essential skills / experience

- Working knowledge of current theatre lighting practices.
- Competent with rigging, focusing, electrical installation and ETC lighting control systems.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Good time management skills maintaining accuracy and attention to detail.
- Ability to work under pressure and deliver tasks to set deadlines.
- Keen interest in the training and development of young or inexperienced people.
- A positive and flexible approach.
- Good at motivating yourself and others.
- A passion for problem solving and creative technical solutions.

Desirable skills / experience

- A good lighting design eye with experience in design at Fringe level.
- 3 day first aid at work qualification.
- IPAF 3A/3B Qualification
- Full UK Driving licence and willingness to drive up to a Luton in size.

- Form of working at height or rigging training.
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Equal Opportunities

At the Pleasance Theatre Trust we want our team to reflect wider society and welcome applications from all sections of the community - in particular from anyone currently underrepresented in the creative industries.

We welcome applications from everyone, regardless of background or social group. If you would like to have an informal discussion about any role available or anything in this pack before you submit your application please contact jobs@pleasance.co.uk.

You can also email to talk to us about your access needs. We discuss access with candidates at each step of the application process, so first we would discuss access for the application, then, if successful for the interview and then if successful, for the job.
