PS21, a cutting-edge performance venue in the Hudson Valley, seeks to hire a Stagehand for our 2023 Season of innovative programming by leading and emerging artists in music, dance, theater, contemporary performance, and the visual and multimedia arts.

OVERVIEW

Stagehands are part of the Production team and support the planning, preparation, and physical implementation of all rehearsals and concerts for PS21 Performing Arts Center. They report to the Production Manager or Technical Director and work closely with other production team members.

While prior theatrical experience is helpful, we are accepting applications from entry-level candidates, including current and/or recently-graduated students who are eager team players and are willing to receive training on specific tasks related to being a stagehand.

This is a seasonal, non-exempt (overtime eligible) position from June – August, paid hourly at a rate range of $18 - 27/hr depending on experience. Hours will average 10-20 hours/week, with the potential of more dependent upon performance schedule.

This position requires local residence during the dates listed above.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain a safe, healthy, and inclusive workplace at all times.
- Assist in the installation of stage plots, orchestra chairs and stands, risers, and other equipment.
- Assist in the moving of equipment and instrument deliveries across campus.
- Assist the Stage Manager in technical rehearsals.
- Run crew for orchestra rehearsals, technical rehearsals, and performances.

QUALIFICATIONS

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Ability to work in an organized, self-directed, and detailed manner.
- Ability to prioritize tasks in a fast-paced, continually-changing environment.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively.
- Ability to work evenings, weekends, and holidays, as determined by the production schedule.
- Ability to climb stairs and ladders
- Ability to push, pull, hang, reach, lean and balance
- Ability to move and lift up to 50lbs.
- Ability to sit or stand for extended periods of time.
- Ability to remain calm during high-pressure backstage situations.
Successful candidates possess strong communication skills and a keen attention to detail. They are collaborative, self-motivated, and bring a positive, can-do attitude!

PREFERRED/ADVANCED QUALIFICATIONS

- Scenic construction & carpentry
- Rigging experience preferred but not required
- Experience clean licensed driver for box truck or cargo van
- Theatrical run crew or stage management experience.
- A passion for the arts; some theatrical experience—either scholastic, community, semi-professional or professional.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- May work in outdoor conditions or event tent conditions with limited temperature control.
- Frequently works at heights above 6 feet.
- Regularly exposed to electrical connections
- Regularly works in dimly lit areas
- Regularly works in areas with atmospheric effects including but not limited to haze and strobes.

TO APPLY

Send a cover letter with your resume to info@ps21chatham.org. Applications for this position will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

PS21 is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, immigration or citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, marital and partnership status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran or active military service member or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws in its employment policies.

FIND US @PS21CHATHAM ON

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ABOUT PS21/CHATHAM

With a well-earned reputation as “a Hudson Valley outpost of the avant-garde” (The New York Times, June 2022), PS21: Performance Spaces for the Twenty-first Century, is a home to a new (2018), state-of-the art, green, 350-seat theater offering resident makers and performers the tools and flexibility for successful innovation and collaboration in the development of sophisticated multimedia work. Just five of PS21's 100 acres of grounds are developed; the rest are meadows and woodlands.
Founded in 2006, PS21 is the mecca for innovative programming by leading and emerging artists in music, dance, theater, contemporary performance, and the visual and multimedia arts in the Hudson Valley. We support artists' creative endeavors, connecting them to a broad, diverse audience outside the conventional urban setting, and offer the region’s year-round inhabitants the opportunity to engage with the arts regardless of economic status, age, or cultural background.

PS21’s programming also reflects our commitment to environmental preservation and the quest for a sustainable future. Among recent seasons’ performances that focused on environmental issues, including global warming, were the New York State premiere of John Luther Adams’s Ten Thousand Birds (2020), Heartbeat Opera’s The Extinctionist (2021), a cautionary vision of a future threatened by rising sea levels, and—last year—the screening of Earth, Oleksandr Dovzhenko’s masterly 1930 critique of the collectivization of Ukrainian farms, with live accompaniment by DakhaBrakha, the Ukrainian ethno-chaos band. Our Pavilion Theater is a green-energy marvel surrounded by 100 acres of unspoiled meadows, trails, and woodlands that are a haven to wildlife and visitors across the region. Integrated into our unspoiled campus, the theater embodies our commitments to the public: open, inviting, and optimized for their enjoyment, encouraging citizen expression and participation.

The theater itself is a state-of-the-art, green facility offering resident makers and performers involved in the creation of new work the tools and flexibility for successful innovation and collaboration in the development of sophisticated multimedia work. Few facilities, in the US or elsewhere, provide this level of technical support. Throughout the year, PS21 hosts residencies for dancers, choreographers, musicians, composers, actors, and creators of unclassifiable innovative and multimedia theater pieces.

In 2022 PS21’s adventurous summer season embraced genres and companies from around the globe, 19 productions in four months, including seven from South Korea, Nigeria, Haiti, Canada, France, Israel, and Ukraine, with programs that address challenging contemporary issues. Highlights included Philippe Quesne’s ecological fable Farm Fatale, One. One & One, a vision of sustainability by Israel’s celebrated Vertigo Dance Company, and Bang on a Can cofounder Michael Gordon’s Field of Vision – 36 Percussionists performing on PS21’s rolling landscape.

A number of the works were presented as part of PS21/PATHWAYS: Blazing Trails to a Sustainable Future, an ambitious, multi-faceted series of spectacle, performances, art installations, international contemporary circus, and participatory events. Among them were Farm Fatale, Field of Vision, and Compagnie Galmae’s C’est pas là, c’est par là (It’s not here, it’s over here). Writing about Farm Fatale, New York Times critic at large Jason Farago said “It’s not easy being green.” Full marks to Philippe Quesne’s sprightly eco-clown show ‘Farm Fatale,’ at PS21 in Chatham, N.Y. — a country theater that outclasses most of Manhattan.”

Highlights of the 2023 season include ANIMA, from France, an immersive multidisciplinary installation by French visual artist/photographer Noémie Goudal, theater director Maëlle Poésy, and circus artist Chloé Moglia; Runners, by the Czech New Circus ensemble Cirk La Putyka, praised by The Guardian as “a moving exploration of time . . . through dance, music, acrobatics and dialogue”; and Alessandro Sciarroni’s Save the Last Dance for Me, the inventive Italian theatemaker’s rediscovery of the polka chinata folk dance.
SELECTED PRESS

“‘You Are the Show’: A Hudson Valley Outpost of the Avant-Garde, PS21 presents work that challenges and invites...”, “The summer programming — which also features contemporary chamber opera, postapocalyptic scarecrows, a parade of human-size moles and a participatory installation made of string — is indicative of how PS21 has become a rural outpost of high-end and often avant-garde performance.” — Brian Seibert, The New York Times, June 2, 2022

“A beautiful, reconfigurable indoor-outdoor space that appears to have landed like an exotic bird in the midst of a 100-acre former apple orchard in this tiny Hudson Valley town. It’s not the first place you would expect to encounter cutting-edge performance, yet PS21 offers little else.” — Jesse Green, The New York Times, June 22, 2021

“This supercool avant-garde hothouse in Columbia County.” — Jesse Green, The New York Times, January 17, 2022

“It’s not easy being green. Full marks to Philippe Quesne’s sprightly eco-clown show ‘Farm Fatale,’ created at the Münchner Kammerspiele and now at PS21 in Chatham, N.Y. — a country theater that outclasses most of Manhattan.” — Jason Farago, critic at large for The New York Times, September 3, 2022