

Short description

Derby Dinner Playhouse, a preeminent professional dinner theatre in southern Indiana, seeks a full-time Technical Director. The Technical Director would build 12 plays and musicals every year in an on-site production shop. This is a full time salaried position with benefits, and the TD is a part of a small staff of artists, producers, and craftspeople who work to uphold the excellent 51-year reputation of the company.

Technical Director

Derby Dinner Playhouse is currently seeking a Technical Director. The TD is responsible for fulfilling scenic designs for all productions. Scenery is produced to meet the director and designer's vision for a show within the allotted time, budget, and scope. The TD handles build logistics, manages the shop and any support staff, and helps maintain DDP's high values of artistic excellence.

Strong applicants will have a demonstrated background in theatrical construction, a proficiency in CAD drafting and the ability to communicate effectively with production staff and part-time changeover crew. The TD is expected to take a leadership role in the installation of scenery in the theatrical space. The Technical Director is responsible for the preparation and organization of technical information pertaining to the scenery of any given production, through collaboration with the design team and the other production departments, working from knowledge of standard theatrical technical design.

Derby Dinner Playhouse is in its 51st season and is located in Clarksville, IN, just outside the Louisville, KY, metro area. Derby Dinner produces 8 mainstage and 4 children's musical theatre shows, and our seasonal concert series brings in 6-8 guest performances in our 500 seat arena theatre each season. For more information, please visit www.DerbyDinner.com.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Staff Supervision

- Deliver construction drawings to the shop floor and supervise the building of all scenery.
- Work with over-hire, part-time and changeover crews to accomplish a complete set and professional production.

Budget Responsibilities

- Create production budget estimates for approval.
- Source, purchase and maintain record of materials and services.
- Exercise fiscal responsibility and accountability in purchasing.

Production

- Collaborate with design team (specifically set designer) and other production departments to establish methods for the design and execution of the scenery and/or other elements of production.
- Work independently to design technical solutions for the construction, movement, and function of scenic elements.
- Draft construction drawings and layouts for the shop floor.
- Take a leadership role in the load in and strike of all productions, managing multiple teams as they execute tasks.
- Take an active role in the general safety of all DDP Scene Shop operations and overseeing compliance with safety regulations.
- Maintain tools and equipment in and related to the shop.
- Assist in loading and unloading scenery and trucking scenery to and from theatrical spaces.

Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

Experience

- Three or more years of experience in theatrical construction and management; or a combination of education and experience providing equivalent knowledge
- Significant experience in theatrical building techniques, general construction, and metal work.
- Experience in rigging, working at height, truss and chain motors.
- Any experience in general mechanics, electrical wiring, hydraulics/pneumatics, and theatrical automation are a plus.

Skills and Abilities

- Strong project management skills that demonstrate the ability to deliver complex projects on time and on budget with an eye to artistic excellence.
- Ability to communicate and collaborate with a wide variety of artists, technicians, and administrators with diverse backgrounds, including people with demanding artistic talents and personalities.
- Ability to manage teams efficiently and capably delegate tasks based on a team members' skills and abilities.
- Experience using CAD (AutoCAD/Vectorworks) to create scenery construction drawings preferred.

- Knowledge of advanced modern theatrical scenic construction methods including rigging, hydraulics, pneumatics, theatrical automation, engineering, and structures to use in technical designs.
- Knowledge of a wide variety of construction materials and developed skills in carpentry, welding, rigging, and sewing to draw upon for technical designs.
- Experience in budgeting and scheduling.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office, including the ability to create and maintain complex spreadsheets.

Physical Demands/Work Environment

The work environment and physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Necessary accommodations can be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Ability to drive a car with a valid drivers license.
- Standing, walking, bending, frequent use of hands, stooping and heavy team lifting (at least 75 pounds).
- Work at heights on ladders is common. Work on the grid (with harness) above the stage to hang flying scenery is common for changeovers.
- The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Additional Details

- Salary is \$46,800
- Medical insurance available after 60 days of employment with a portion of the cost paid by Derby Dinner and a portion paid by employee
- 401k plan available
- Paid vacation
- Assistance with relocation
- Position to start on or after May 4, 2026
- Hours 40 hours a week, flexible, with late nights and weekends during technical rehearsals.

To Apply

Please send a resume, letter of interest, and 3 professional references to Associate Producer, Annie Myers at amyers@derbydinner.com. Review of applications will begin ASAP and will remain open until the position is filled.