

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL - UK & IRELAND TOUR

HEAD OF AUTOMATION Job Description

Reports to Company Manager, Production Manager and General Manager

The Show

Set in a northern town during the Miners' Strike of 1984/5, *Billy Elliot the Musical* follows Billy's journey from the boxing ring to the ballet class, where he discovers a passion for dance that will change his life forever. Brought to life by the award-winning creative team behind the film, with iconic music by Elton John, *Billy Elliot* is one of the most successful and beloved British musicals of all time. Ten years after it last played to audiences, this landmark production returns to tour the UK including a limited West End run.

Purpose of Job

The Head of Automation is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all automation equipment and the smooth running of the Automation Department, including supervision of all Automation staff.

Duties and Responsibilities Include

- Responsible for operating the automation equipment for each performance as instructed and dictated by the artistic requirements and direction of the production;
- To ensure all automation equipment is cleaned and daily automation checks completed to ensure equipment is in working order for each performance;
- Responsible for all aspects of the planning and maintenance of all automation equipment both in-house and with suppliers of automation equipment so this may be scheduled to ensure no show delays;
- Developing excellent relationships with suppliers;
- Manage, supervise and schedule members of the Automation team. To set and supervise the automation plots undertaken by the Automation staff;
- Work collaboratively with other departments, including the touring venues' technical team, to ensure the smooth running of the show;
- To coordinate the supply of all equipment and consumables required to run the show within budget as approved by the Company/General Manager;
- To keep show cue sheets up to date;
- Being present for all rehearsals, show calls, maintenance calls, publicity calls on stage, get-ins, fit-ups and get-outs as required;
- Deal with emergency repairs to automation equipment;
- In collaboration with the Production Manager plan and budget for equipment renewals;
- Ensure that work materials and all automation equipment is kept in a tidy and secured manner;
- Ensure that security, safety and good housekeeping procedures for the department are properly carried out;
- Complying with the Manager's Health and Safety, risk assessment and other policies at all times using appropriate safety equipment and clothing at all times;

any other duties as may be reasonably required or as instructed by the creative team, Company Manager and General Manager from time to time.

Person Specification

The post-holder must have the following:

- Experience of operating and maintaining automation equipment for live performance/theatre.
- Experience of basic programming and fault finding.
- The ability to run a busy department.
- The ability to adapt work in accordance with performance requirements.
- The ability to work as part of a large team.
- Good communication skills.

Desirable

- Experience managing a team effectively.

Outline of Terms and Conditions

TITLE OF POST:	Head of Automation	
START DATE:	W/c 5 th October 2026 (some ad hoc days may be required ahead of the start date)	
CONTRACT:	Fixed Term to Sunday 30 th April 2028	
KEY DATES:	Billy rehearsals commence	w/c 8 th June 2026
	Full Company rehearsals	w/c 31 st August 2026
	Tech rehearsals	w/c 12 th October 2026
	Previews	w/c 2 nd November 2026
	Press Night	w/c 9 th November 2026
SHOW SCHEDULE:	8 performances Monday-Saturday Ad hoc rehearsal and press/marketing calls.	
PAY:	Competitive and in line with industry standard	
PROBATIONARY PERIOD:	3 months	

This contract is in line with the UK Theatre/BECTU Agreement.

The Head of Automation is expected to comply with the Manager's policies as shared at contracting stage. Policies include: Social Media, Anti-Harassment & Bullying, Alcohol, Smoking & Other Substances, Health, Safety & Well-Being, Children and Young People Safeguarding and all other policies outlined in the accompanying Staff Handbook.

Application Procedure

To apply, please send a CV and a short covering letter (no more than one page) outlining your suitability for the role, together with a completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form to recruitment@shortstreet.co.uk by 4pm on Thursday 16th July 2026. Please note all applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

SUBJECT LINE: *[Billy Elliot The Musical], [Role], [Your Name]*

CV: *[Your Name] – CV*

BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL

We are committed to embracing diversity and inclusion across all departments and recognise that relevant skills and experience may come from a non-theatre work setting or home context. Flexible working practices will be considered.