

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL - UK & IRELAND TOUR

HEAD OF WHAM 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 Wigs, Hair & Make Up is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of all wigs, hair & make up and the smooth running of the wigs, hair & make up department, including supervision of all Wigs, Hair & Make Up (WHAM) staff. It is the Head of WHAM's responsibility to ensure the Designer's original specification and look of the production is maintained.

Duties and Responsibilities Include

- Being responsible for all aspects of the planning, supervision and maintenance of all wigs, hair & make up in the show for performances, press/marketing photography and press/marketing performances, ensuring the Designer's original specification and look of the production is maintained;
- Managing, supervising and scheduling members of the department including the Deputy and Assistants. Setting and supervising the wig dressing plots undertaken by departmental staff;
- Working collaboratively as a department with other technical departments, stage management, the acting company, resident creative team members and touring venue's staff to ensure the efficient flow of information as necessary for the smooth running of the show;
- Acquiring a familiarity with all plots/tracks within the department in order to provide absence cover for other members of the department as required, in addition to ensuring that the department is trained to cover other plots/tracks as required;
- Ensuring all wigs are cleaned and dressed daily and in working order for each performance;
- Performing the Head of Department plot for each performance;
- Liaising with the Company Manager/creative team regarding daily cast changes and preparing the relevant departmental adjustments accordingly;
- Coordinating the supply of all equipment and consumables required to run the show within budget as approved by the Company/General Manager. Keeping the petty cash documentation up to date;
- Compiling and keeping updated department cue sheets and other relevant show paperwork including the department show running bible (including photo references);
- Overseeing and advising on cast make-up as required;
- Overseeing and advising on hair styling/cuts as required;
- Cutting/styling hair as required;
- Being present for all rehearsals, show calls, maintenance calls, get-ins, fit-ups and get-outs as required;
- Dealing with emergency repairs to wigs;

- Recognising where maintenance work needs to be carried out on wigs outside of the theatre and to bring this to the attention of the Production/General Manager so this may be scheduled to ensure no show delays;
- Ensuring that work materials and all wigs are kept in a tidy and secured manner;
- Ensuring that security, safety and good housekeeping procedures for the department are properly carried out;
- Complying with the Manager's Health and Safety and other policies and ensuring departmental staff do the same at all times; and

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:

- Extensive experience with styling and dressing wigs and hair for live performance/theatre
- Experience working with textured hair
- Experience of hair cutting
- 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 Wigs	
START DATE:	w/c 21 st September 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 Wigs 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 **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*

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.