

A grey spotlight with a yellow beam and three yellow stars.

Glorious Age

A visual guide to what
gets a show on stage



Inspired by the
National Theatre Backstage Tour



Meet Me on the Move is generously supported by City Bridge Trust

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"Before the actors go on stage a lot of hard work needs to happen backstage"
- Glorious Age

1. Who's who

Creative team



Playwright
Director

Set, costume, lighting,
sound Designers



Production team



Julie



Producer
Production Manager

Stage Manager
Scenic construction
and painting

Props, lighting, sound,
costume, make-up teams



Cast

Glorious Age



2. How it starts



Research



ideas

themes

questions

context

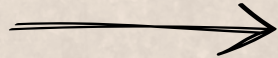
characters

setting

plot



Script



scripts for **improvised** plays can be visual (for example in the form of a storyboard) or provide a guiding context



Design

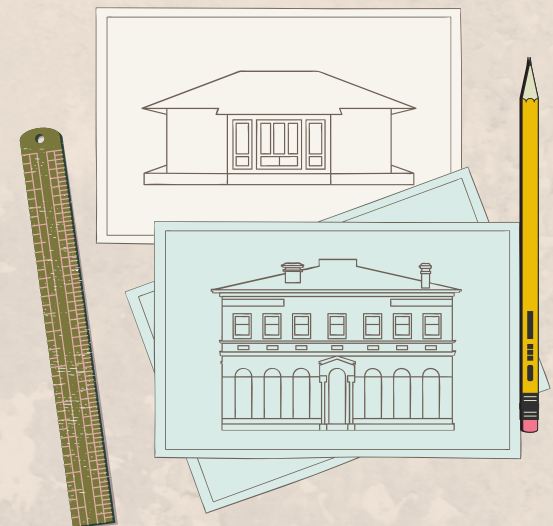
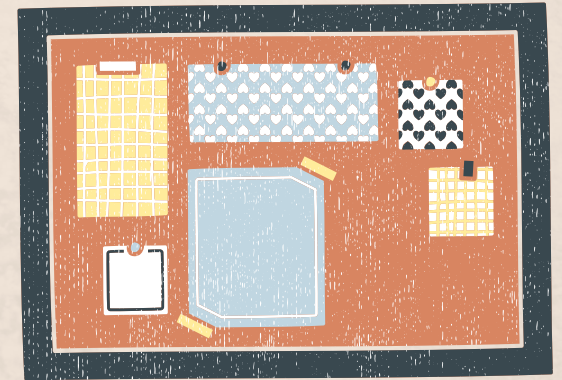


mood boards

references

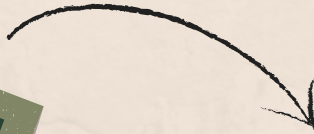
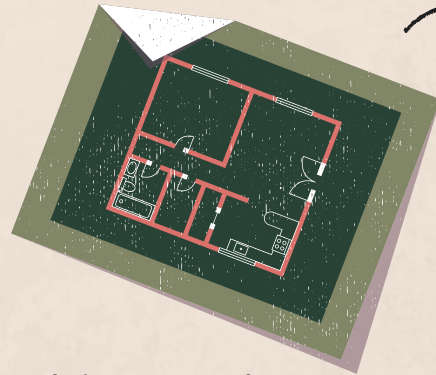
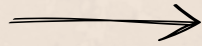
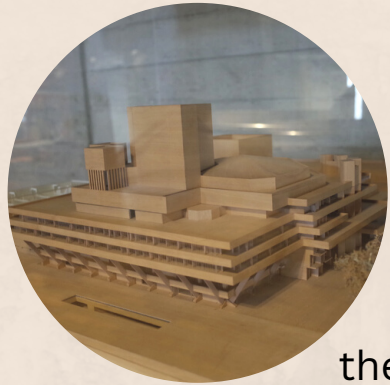
sketches

models



3. Building the set

Construction

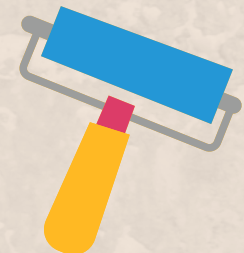


the designer's work is turned into construction drawings for **welders** and **carpenters** to build the set using **different materials**



Scenic work

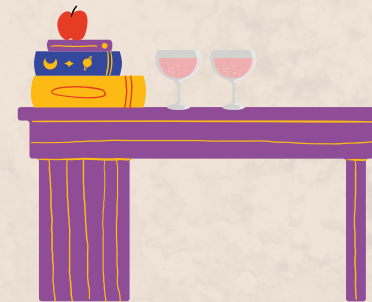
scenic artists finish the set by adding more details to make it look real



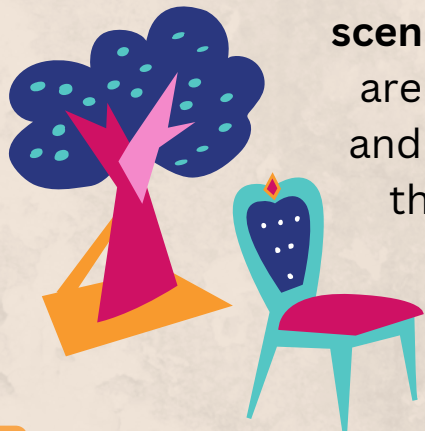
4. Props



there is a **props table** off-stage to store all the props that are carried on stage by actors



hand props are small and carried by actors



scenic props are bigger and part of the set



set dressing props are decorations and not handled by actors



Moving Day props



costume props are worn on stage



5. Costume, hair & make-up



costumes start as **sketches** and mood boards



the wardrobe team **clean and repair** costumes after each performance



for **quick costume changes** actors often wear layers of clothes!



the **wig team** discuss with designer and director how the actors' hair will look



sometimes hairstyles can be recreated with the actor's real hair - but often wigs, **fake beards**, **moustaches** and even **armpit hair** are needed!



to build a character, a specific era and setting



make-up artists can make actors look younger, older, healthy or ill



special effect make-up and **prosthetics** are used to create **scars**, **bruises** and **features** like noses and chins



6. Lighting & Sound



intelligent or **moving lights** change position and colour

wash lights create a beam of light in one direction



floodlights create a wide splash of light

plastic **gels** are used to change colours



a **spotlight** follows an actor on stage

profile lights can be used to project a specific shape

generic lights are fixed and focus on a specific spot



sounds effects can be bought, recorded, mixed and edited



sounds can be made live during a performance with a **Foley technique**



a packet of crisps makes the noise of fire!



sometimes **composers** write music for a play

speakers are all around the stage to make the noises more believable



live musicians can respond to what's happening on stage

to create a space, mood and atmosphere

7. Acting

Casting

Casting Directors help to find the right people for the play. Sometimes actors have to **audition** in order to get a part



Rehearsal

devising
read-through
run-through
tech rehearsal
dress rehearsal

Directing

the Director decides how to tell the play's story - they direct the cast and give **notes**



off-book means actors have learned their lines and don't need to look at the script anymore

actors use their **voices, faces** and **bodies** to express the characters' personalities, thoughts and feelings

8. Marketing



Images

rehearsal & promotional photos

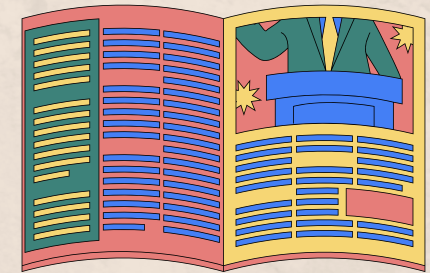
posters, programmes, brochures

Press

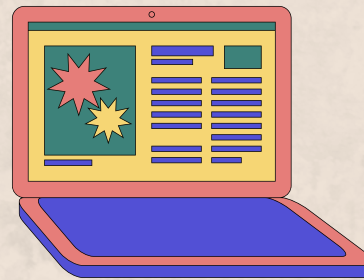
interviews, articles



radio, tv, newspapers



websites, blogs and social media



journalists and critics are invited to the opening night, also known as **press night**

each play will attract different **audiences** - it's the job of the marketing team to reach them



Tickets





9. Showtime!



10. Resources

National Theatre: All About Theatre (Walker Books)

National Theatre on YouTube:

-  [All About Theatre](#)
-  [How you can make it](#)






Watch Glorious Age's trip
to the National Theatre



Design: Gaia Bini for [Entelechy Arts](#)

Illustrations: [Canva.com](#)

Moving Day Photos: Daniel Regan

   [entelechyarts](#)