

Theatre Production Skills Workshops

Paper Prop making with Adobe Photoshop

One or two day workshop for Stage Management Students in which participants will learn to create a range of paper props through a series of practical assignments designed to build competence and confidence with the software and sound research skills.

Main Topics:

- Period Documents and letters
- Period photographs
- Newspapers and other printed documents
- 3D period packaging
- Labels and posters

Aims:

- To develop a working set of Photoshop skills by making a range of practical paper prop items
- Use the internet to research period items
- Use the internet to source image material for paper props

Objectives:

By the end of the workshop students will be able to:

- Use a range of Photoshop tools in their work with proficiency
- Research and source visual material for Paper Props
- Chose material technically suitable for processing
- Process images
- Create a representative range of Paper Props for production

The workshops are highly practical and suitable for anyone with basic IT skills. The objects to be made are all items which Stage Management are required to produce as a normal part of day to day production work . emphasis is placed on:

- the application of Photoshop to practical tasks and learning by doing
- the process of meaningful research to gather material and to discover the period context of any prop
- to start a portfolio of useful items for future use in productions

A maximum of 10 students works best. The tutor uses a projector and screen to introduce and demonstrate the skills applicable to each assignment and then gives one to one support as students work.

The session is led as a tutor supported practical interchange where students share their learning, their difficulties and their achievements and help one another.

These workshops have been developed over several years working with Theatre production students and there is now good evidence of its success in enabling Stage Management students to produce high quality paper props for many actual productions.