



SHOWDOWN TSM

Technical Stage Manager Role

About the role:

Upswing is looking for a proactive and experienced Technical Stage Manager to support our mid-scale circus production *Showdown* for a UK venue tour April-July 2025.

Type of Contract: Freelance

Available between: April - July 2025

Fee: £700 weekly rate

Role is paid at a weekly rate even on weeks that only have 2-3 days work

Per diem, travel and accommodation will be covered by the Company

Engagement Dates:

April 2025

Rehearsals in London over two weeks w/c 31st March & 21 April

May-July 2025

UK Tour between 2-7 Performances each week

Tour Locations include London, Manchester, Norwich, Worthing, Gloucester and Kent.

About you:

We are looking for someone who:

- Has an existing track record as a Technical Stage Manager working in live performance
- Can support the production manager in the get in/get out
- Has lighting and sound knowledge for problem solving on tour
- Enjoys being part of the stage management team
- Can work collaboratively with the director and other production team members
- Has a willingness to work across technical disciplines to support the production as a whole
- Has a good working knowledge of Qlab
- Can liaise effectively with and manage local crew
- Has a proven commitment to ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion
- Has a valid drivers licence and is over 25 years old

Desirable skills:

- Experience of working in circus is a plus but not an absolute requirement
- Experience of relighting
- Experience of setting up sound on a show



SHOWDOWN TSM

Elements of responsibility will include:

- Working with the production manager to ensure the smooth running of all production elements across the rehearsals, tech week and UK tour performances
- Working collaboratively with the creative team to deliver rehearsals, tech week and UK tour performances
- Running the show in collaboration with the stage manager during tech rehearsals and on tour. This may include operating elements of the show, or having a stage track during the show. This will be worked out once the full team are appointed.
- Safety and upkeep of all technical equipment for the production and set, carrying out repairs when appropriate
- Driving the tour vehicle in a safe and legal manner, planning routes and ensuring legal and secure parking
- Ensuring the health and safety of cast and crew on stage
- Deputising for other stage management roles in the event of absence

About Upswing

Upswing is one of the UK's leading contemporary circus companies. We use the art-form of circus to tell stories in extraordinary ways – amplifying and celebrating the skills, creative talents and stories of diverse artists and communities.

Upswing is a registered charity. We are a National Portfolio Organisation receiving support from Arts Council England.

About the show:

Framed as a good night out, Showdown is a playful exploration of power, competition, and the limits of shared experience.

The show can best be described as a mash up of a talent show, a beauty pageant and the Hunger Games. Five hopeful acrobats compete to be crowned the 'New Face of Circus' and the audience is invited to choose the winner, guided by a charismatic but slightly controlling presenter. The audience is taken on a journey through the highs and lows of competition, questioning concepts like fairness and meritocracy and the idea that the 'best' candidate will always win through.

By marrying tropes of 'game show' and 'diversity initiative' Showdown explores how identity



SHOWDOWN TSM

interacts with the unwritten rules of the social games we all play.

Show Info & Trailer: <https://upswing.org.uk/portfolio/showdown/>

How to apply:

Please send a letter and CV (no more than 2 pages A4 for both) explaining your interest and suitability for the role to recruitment@upswing.org.uk stating "Showdown Technical Stage Manager" in the subject line.

If needed, you may submit your application in another format (i.e video, audio) for accessibility reasons. Please contact us at the address below if you have any questions about the role or the application process.

Deadline: 3 February

The show will draw from the experiences of the artists and creatives involved and so we are particularly seeking people who identify as Black or from a Global Majority background. For clarity we recognise Global Majority as a term for people that includes people of Indigenous, African, Caribbean, East Asian, South Asian, South East Asian, Latin American, mixed heritage and other ethnic groups who are often racialised as 'ethnic minorities'.