



DES MOINES METRO OPERA

Job Title: Assistant Head Stage Carpenter
Reports To: Head Stage Carpenter, Head Fly Operator
Supervises: Stage Carpenters
Works closely with: All stage and scenic shop departments.

Summary:

Located in Indianola, Iowa the company will produce three exciting new productions in a summer repertory schedule, within the intimate 467-seat theatre at the Blank Performing Arts Center. Our 54th season consists of 3 mainstage productions with 2 new productions being built specific for DMMO's stage and the third built as a major co-production. DMMO is one of America's boldest Opera Companies (as reported by the New York Times) and was nominated for its 2024 season for an International Opera Award. Join our team in this a critical role to work on some of the most challenging, bold, intense, visually stunning, complex and rewarding productions of your career!

Des Moines Metro Opera is looking for a leader to join our stage carpentry team. The stage carpentry team are split into two teams: a morning shift and evening shift. The evening team (run team) will start most of their day by running the show, take a meal break and then begin the repertory change out of that production and into the next. The morning team (AM team) will start their day by installing the next production and after a meal break perform notes and prepare the space for the performance.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, Des Moines Metro Opera celebrates diversity and inclusion. We do not discriminate against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, age, veteran status, political affiliation or philosophy. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities:

The below responsibilities are in no means a complete list of tasks/responsibilities.

- Work with-in and lead the stage carpentry team on stage for the set-up, take-down, repertory changeovers, running of the scenery on the stage.
- Participate in and inspire safe working practices in others. Accept no corners cut.
- Provide all necessary information to the run crew leads / Head Stage Carpenter for the safe and successful running of all shows.
- Be a problem-solver and be solutions oriented – working with the team to make our goals.
- Assistant in warehouse / scenic shop organization of the scenery.
- Load weights and assist in operation of the fly system, if willing.
- Comply and enforce safe working techniques, safety policies and procedures and all rules.
- Strive for a workplace that is; team-focused, creative, positive, professional and solution based – encouraging all members of the team.

Dates of In-Person Employment:

Arrival Date:	Sunday, May 10, 2026 by 5:00pm
First Work Day:	Monday, May 11, 2026
Last Work Day:	Thursday, July 23, 2026
Departure Date:	Friday, July 24, 2026 by Noon

*Some flexibility can be afforded to the right candidates

Compensation:

Base pay rate, per hour:	\$17-\$20 based on experience
Overtime pay rate, per hour (after 40):	1.5x the hourly rate

\$350 travel stipend to be paid upon arrival.

DMMO will provide single occupancy air-conditioned room in dorm-style housing during the festival season.



Skills and Knowledge:

Any combination of education and experience providing the required skill and knowledge for successful performance would be qualifying.

Typical qualifications would be equivalent to:

- Experience working onstage, with ideally at least 2+ year working onstage after completing a technical theatre training.
- Experience leading teams.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to tailor to the needs of the listener/reader.
- Proven ability working with-in a diverse, multi-generation workforce.
- Ideally some basic experience working with/in a scenic shop is an asset.
- Experience working in a repertory production format is helpful.
- Experience working in a fly house is an asset.
- Experience loading/unloading trucks.
- Experience assembling/disassembling scenery onstage.
- Experience with basic hand tools and power tools is important.
- Experience running shows is important.
- Willingness to try new things and learn.
- Driver's License and ability to drive a 26' box truck.
- OSHA 10 or greater qualifications.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

- Ability to sit, stand, traverse a working stage/shop environment which includes ladders, uneven floors and workspaces associated with assembling scenery.
- Work includes extended periods of standing, working in low light, climbing stairs/ladders, and may include working in a personnel lift.
- Ability to lift 50lbs / ability to lift heavy objects/scenery properly/safely
- Ability to wear a Type 2 hardhat, eye protection, hearing protection, respirator and any other safety equipment that may be needed.

Application Process:

Submit resume, with three (3) references and a cover letter via email to production@dmmo.org.

Please include “**Assistant Head Stage Carpenter**” as the subject line.

For more information on this position, contact crodney@dmmo.org

Deadline:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Applicant screening process expected to begin in mid-January of 2026