



# DES MOINES METRO OPERA

**Job Title:** Head Electrician  
**Reports To:** Lighting Supervisor and Director of Production  
**Supervises:** The electricians team (4 staff, 2 interns + overhire)  
**Works closely with:** All stage departments and Lighting Design Associate.

## 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 54<sup>th</sup> 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 **Head Electrician** to join us for the 2026 Festival Season. As the Head Electrician you will advance, monitor, solve, communicate and do all things lighting department related. You will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating the needs of the electricians department. You will lead and supervise four staff crew and two interns who you will help in finding! As the head of this department, you are responsible for overseeing compliance to safety policy and procedures of your crew and to develop safe working plans.

**This is a critical leadership position in the Production Department.**

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 no means a complete list of tasks/responsibilities.

- Working with the lighting supervisor, hiring of all the electricians crew positions.
- Assist in the creation of the lighting rental package, including organizing the return of the equipment.
- Utilization of the company owned equipment and maintenance.
- Assess the feasibility of lighting rig including rigging, power, and logistical concerns.
- Create and maintain the lighting system.
- Responsible for prep and install and load-out of the show lighting system.
- Coordinate logistics and power with other departments.
- Schedule and direct the lighting crew for all load in, focus, notes, changeover, and load-outs.
- Schedule, in conjunction with the Director of Production, and direct any necessary overhire lighting crew.
- Prepare Assistant Head electrician to direct the crew and the room on their own.
- Work with the Lighting Design Associate to accomplish notes.
- Attend production meetings as needed and provide updates on the lighting system and install.
- Source and construct practicals or special effects as needed.
- Attend technical rehearsals.
- Plan and direct changeovers to accomplish rep performances.
- Plan and execute load-out from the theater and coordinate the return of the rental gear.
- Restore venue and venue gear at the end of the festival.
- Strive for a work place that is; team-focused, creative, positive, professional and solution based – encouraging all members of the team.
- Other such typical duties normally associated with the roles of a Head Electrician.



## Dates of in Person Employment:

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Arrival Date:       | Thursday May 7, 2026           |
| First Work Day:     | Friday May 8, 2026 (shop prep) |
| First Day In Venue: | Monday, May 11, 2026           |
| Last Work Day:      | Thursday July 24, 2026         |
| Departure Date:     | Friday, July 25, 2026 by noon. |

Some, paid, advance work will be required prior to in-person employment.  
Some flexibility for the right candidate can be accommodated.

## Compensation:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Base pay rate, per hour:                | \$25.00-\$27.00      |
| Overtime pay rate, per hour (after 40): | 1.5x the hourly rate |

Pre-production work paid at the base rate

\$350 travel stipend to be paid upon arrival.

DMMO will provide single occupancy air-conditioned room in shared 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:

- **Previous experience as a Head or Assistant Head Electrician**
- 2+ years experience (after school) working in a theatre environment is needed.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to tailor to the needs of the listener/reader.
- Proven leadership ability with-in a diverse, multi-generation workforce.
- Experience working in a repertory production format is an asset.
- Experience working in a fly house is an asset.
- Valid Driver's License and ability to drive a 26' box truck

## Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

- Ability to sit, stand, and traverse a working stage/shop environment.
- Work includes periods of standing, working in low light, climbing stairs/ladders, and may include working in a personnel lift.
- Ability to wear: a Type 2 hardhat, fall arrest harness, eye protection, hearing protection.

## Application Process:

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

Please include "**Head Electrician**" as the subject line.

For more information on this position, contact [crodney@dmmo.org](mailto:crodney@dmmo.org)

## Deadline:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Pre-production (remote) work may begin shortly after engagement, pending successful candidate.

Ideally, this position will participate in the hiring of the Assistant Head Electrician and the Electric's crew members.