



Job Description: **Scenic Carpenter / Welder**
Supervised by: **Head Scenic Carpenter**

Summary

Des Moines Metro Opera is a major summer opera festival located in Indianola, Iowa. The company produces productions each season in a summer repertory schedule, presented within the intimate 467-seat theatre at the Blank Performing Arts Center. In addition to the season festival production staff, Des Moines Metro Opera operates a year-round scenic shop and is seeking a **Scenic Carpenter / Welder** to join the full-time production team in Indianola, Iowa. This position will participate year-round in scenic-building and as needed scenic installations for the festival. This position will be part of the advanced planning process for the festival and may participate in the hiring of the festival production staff.

Working year-round this position will build, maintain, repair, and improve the scenery, warehouse and shop spaces. The Scenic Carpenter will be critical for the smooth install of all scenery & fly goods at the Blank Performing Arts Center and is not expected to run the shows or expected to participate in repertory changes.

This position is supervised by the head scenic carpenter and will work closely with seasonal scenic and stage carpenters.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, Des Moines Metro Opera celebrates diversity and inclusion in our workspaces. 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. If you are concerned that you don't meet every requirement listed below, we still encourage you to still apply. You may have the skills and experience that compliment others in the department and you could be the perfect addition to our team! We are open to adjustments to best fit people that are interested in being a part of Des Moines Metro Opera!

Engagement & Compensation

Ideally starting in December 2026, this is an on-site position with no ability to remote-work.

Starting at \$20/hour, up to \$24/hour + overtime at 1.5x after 40 hours in a week, paid bi-weekly.

Participation in the employer matched 401K

Generous health benefit package.

Paid time off (including sick leave)

Paid holidays (as per the employee handbook)

Candidates can expect a regular 40-hour work week, with some overtime in addition for festival operations in the summer months.

Work Environment

Des Moines Metro Opera owns the scenic shop, warehouses and administration buildings. The performance space is located on the campus of Simpson College. The nature of this position requires candidates to be able to move around a scenic shop and theater space safely. This position will require the candidate to work from ladders, lifts, near stage edges and to be able to lift at-least 50lbs unassisted. This position will require lots of standing, sitting, kneeling, and bending.

This position will need some basic computer skills; we use the Microsoft Suite of office tools. While the Candidate does not need to be an expert, they should be able to use computers with ease.

The Candidate must be able to communicate effectively: spoken and written.

Qualifications, Responsibilities, Essential Abilities & Mindsets

Des Moines Metro Opera encourages applications from people without formal education in theater – the substitution of experience for traditional educational is perfectly acceptable.

- 2 or more years of experience working in a scenic shop or as a scenic/stage carpenter with a theatre company.
- Experience as a builder on several projects of various types and scales.
- Experienced in the accepted practices of theatre construction methods and with a variety of materials.
- Experience working with a variety of tools, but especially knowledgeable in the safe operation of standard shop tools/equipment, including equipment like forklifts, personnel lifts, ladders, box/panel trucks with lift gates, etc..
- Experience in steel and aluminum welding and fabrication. Additional training can be provided.
- A high attention to detail is essential; an understanding and willingness to adapt to the needs of the head scenic carpenter and the scenic artist's requests to produce the designed best outcomes.
- Experience in working on, communicating with and an ability to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the team. This person should have excellent relationship building skills. This position will likely be working closely with the festival interns in the scenic shop and should be prepared to work with people of all skill sets.
- We need someone passionate about making the install go smoothly and someone who shares the belief that the beautifully finished front side of scenery should also have a beautiful backside – clean, labeled, without any fasters that poke through – **someone who takes great pride in the scenery they construct.**
- Comfortable driving a 26' box truck and with some experience loading trailers/trucks with scenery.
- Willingness to help with the odd projects, events, installs, displays and other activities for the company when help is needed.
- This person needs to always behave like a professional and be compassionate and team-focused. The best candidate will have a good sense of humor and a good way of showing pride in the team's work. This person should have a mindset of 'how can I help' and 'how can I improve this for others'.
- This position will receive (if they don't have) first-aid training, OSHA workplace safety training, fall arrest (as needed) training, forklift operation certification and any other safety training deemed necessary. All workplace training will all be provided to the successful candidate at no-charge. Des Moines Metro Opera will make other various professional development available to the successful candidate.

Application Process

Applicants should submit a resume, cover letter and should include 3 references, via email, with the subject line 'FT Scenic Carpenter' to: jobsinproduction@dmmo.org

Any links to a portfolio should be included in the attachments and not in the body of the email.

For additional information, please contact Clayton Rodney, crodney@dmmo.org

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Applicant screening process to begin immediately, early application is best.