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SET DESIGNER

Information provided by CHOICES Career & Education Advice

WHO IS A SET DESIGNER?

Ever been to a movie, stage show, a play or watched a TV show and been so impressed by the way things are set up? Well, this was the creative work of a set designer. A set designer establishes an overall visual concept for production design and stage environment. As a set designer you usually design sets and scenery that aim to support the overall artistic goals of a production.

A set designer is responsible for designing and creating sets for films, television and theatre. These sets are the physical surroundings in which all the action will take place during the production. Rough drawings and ideas from the production team are taken and turned into realistic scenes which include furniture and props.

A set designer's main goal is to figure out everything that may be needed based on the dialogue in the script.

Set designers work with directors, producers, costume designers and other crew members. Other productions runway shows or photo shoots also require the expertise of a set designer.



WHAT THE WORK INVOLVES

A typical day for a set designer might include:

- reading scripts
- producing plans, drawings and models of sets
- preparing estimates of set costs
- managing budget
- viewing possible outside locations

- attending rehearsals/film takes
- meeting with set construction companies

A set designer can find work wherever sets need to be designed for theatre, film and video production companies. Some set designers are self-employed and work on a freelance basis.

WHO IS THIS CAREER FOR?

This career is for someone who can work well under pressure, has great spatial awareness, technical skills, creativity, imagination, adaptability and stamina.

WHAT CAN I EARN?

As a set designer you can earn a median level salary. Earnings may be sporadic if you free lance so you may need another source of income.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Although there are routes into this profession for both university graduates and school leavers, employers will prefer candidates with a degree in theatre studies, creative arts, performing arts, drama, fine arts, visual arts, graphic design, 3d design, illustration, architecture or landscape architecture and of course some work experience.

WHO OFFERS TRAINING IN JAMAICA?

The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts
The University of Technology
The University of the West Indies

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