

Have a look at the jobs on the next few pages and try to find the answers to the following questions:

- 1. In one sentence, what would you be doing day to day in this job**
- 2. What do you need to get that job? What qualifications (or other requirements) helped them get into that job or career?**
- 3. What do you think would be the best part of that job?**
- 4. What do you think would be the worst part of that job?**
- 5. What skills might you need to do this job well?**

Edgar - Cinema Operations Manager



Cinema Operations Manager Edgar helps bring live and recorded opera and ballet performances from The Royal Opera House, London to cinemas in over 35 countries.

What do you do?

I'm in charge of all things cinema that take place between the Royal Opera House and the external companies we work with, from cinemas to suppliers and technicians, to get our shows into cinemas around the world. My job mainly consists of handling relationships between the Opera House and cinemas in the UK and abroad.

What does a typical day or week involve?

Constantly juggling. We oversee all aspects of activity, from ticket sales to see how popular shows have been and to better understand who comes to them, to reviewing the quality of recording and post production work around each title.

There is always a show on the horizon and a show to follow up on, while constantly analysing our data to ensure it serves both us and our audiences.

What do you enjoy most and least about your work?

I like that we are constantly pushing for a goal. I like the immediate pay-off, what is on the screen, and the immediate feedback on social media. I also like the fact that you have been able to share that experience with people all around the globe.

I don't really like for things to remain static even though structure is critical to be able to bring together all the different people and organisations involved in a show.

What makes you suited to your job?

Enthusiasm, curiosity and energy. You have to be interested in the content or in the art form in general. There is something very humbling about seeing people that are the best on the planet at what they do and being able to be part of that process in a small way.

You need to be interested in people, interested in what's going on. The key is to make sure that everyone has the tools they need to do their job and then just get out of their way.

How did you get into your current line of work?

I have a strange path as there is no strict path into my job. I studied Business Law then did a Fine Art in Film masters, then started doing rewrites on screenplays and advertising. Next I worked on advertising campaigns for big brands where I learned to manage budgets and expectations. I was brought in to the Royal Opera House to work on the cinema activity well before we ever did live cinema. We now have 12 live titles a year.

What advice would you give someone starting out?

It is a really good time to be doing this, it's a new area and the model works. Alternative content, or 'event cinema' as it is called in the industry, continues to grow year on year.

I'd say start by working in a cinema. Any cinema. Work hard, get noticed, work your way up and zero in on these special events.

Stephen - Naval architect

Stephen is a Naval Architect at Carnival Shipbuilding. He was inspired by a Blue Peter story about the QEII when he was seven years old. The presenter said that there wouldn't be any more big liners in the future. Stephen designed the Queen Mary II and got a gold Blue Peter badge for proving them wrong.

What is a naval architect?

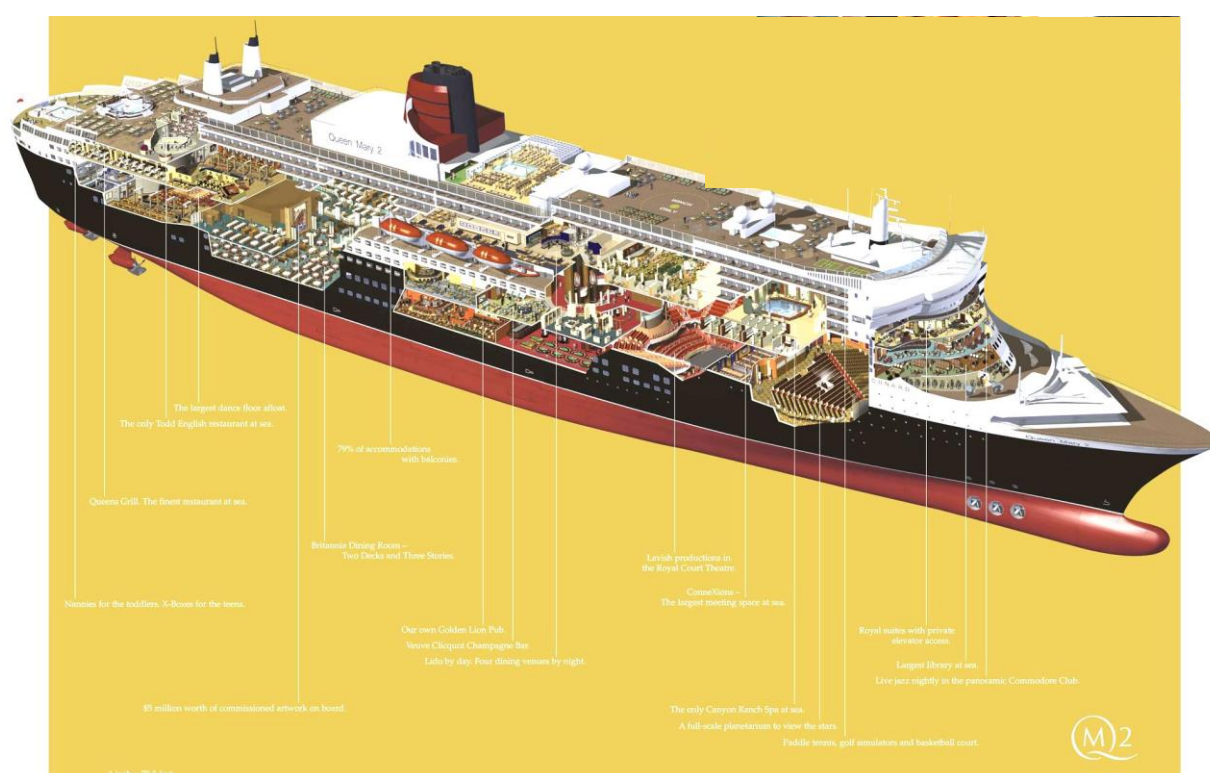
As a Naval Architect I design new ships. We start by drawing a line on a piece of paper, to represent the length of the ship, then from that line we build up the whole shape of the ship: the layout, the decks, the cabins, the public rooms, where the engines go. From that first line to the final delivery of the ship ready to sail, is about four years.

What has been your biggest achievement, and what do you like about your job?

I designed a transatlantic liner, the only one of its kind built in forty years, the Queen Mary II. Stronger, much bigger and more powerful ship than the normal cruise ships.

Well my interest in ships began by watching Blue Peter when I was 7 years old. The presenter went on board the old Queen Elizabeth, a cruise ship that was nearing the end of her life. They showed the public rooms, and the various aspects of the ship, that really captured my imagination. I thought then wouldn't it be great to grow up and design another ship, that would one day be bigger and better than the Queen Elizabeth. They actually said that there would never be another big liner, and so I wrote to Blue Peter to tell them that they were wrong, and that one day I was hoping to design and build a new ship.

Blue Peter originally wrote back to me and said they applauded my ideas and what I wanted to do, but that I shouldn't be disappointed if I didn't achieve it. And the whole twist to the tale, is that when the Queen Mary II was delivered, they actually came back on board and interviewed me, then gave me my gold Blue Peter badge, to recognise that I'd actually done what I'd hoped to do all those years before.



How did you get into your career and what skills do you need for it?

I studied Chemistry, Maths and Physics at A level. I was always good at science. At university I initially applied to study Chemistry, but I changed last minute to do Naval Architecture. It was a difficult decision. I knew that it was something I really wanted to do, but there was a certain element of risk there. And as with most things in life, you have to weigh up the risk and take the decision. Throughout my career, various things have happened, especially with the Queen Mary project – in fact the project was put on hold two or three times, and it looked as though it was going to be cancelled, because it was becoming more and more expensive. And so it was a challenge to convince the management that the ship that I was proposing was the right one, and that some of the cheaper options wouldn't be the correct ones. That was a challenge, but when you have challenges such as that, and you solve them, or overcome them, it's a very good feeling. Those challenges and solving them is what I enjoy about my job. That persuasion, problem solving, analytical thinking and IT skills are all important as a naval architect.

Justine - RSPCA inspector



Justine joined the RSPCA fifteen years ago as an animal collection officer and later became an animal welfare officer. Now she is proud to be an RSPCA inspector.

Is being an RSPCA inspector something you had always wanted to do?

It's always been one of those jobs that I wanted to do as a kid. I wanted to be a police officer or become an RSPCA inspector.

Is the job what you expected?

If you'd have asked me that before I started then no, but having come up through the ranks in different roles within the RSPCA, I knew exactly what to expect. The job is so much better than I ever imagined it would be. I've dealt with everything from caterpillars to whales and there is never a day when I don't want to go to work. The job is a lot harder than people realise and a lot harder than I gave it credit for. But it's as rewarding as people think.

What did you need to get into the job?

- The emphasis of the job involves working with people as well as animals. Strong people skills are essential and the ability to cope with pressure and some extremely emotional and stressful situations.
- You work at heights, on ladders and roofs. You might also work in confined areas, e.g. cramped loft or roof spaces, to perform animal rescues and other duties.
- You will be required to lift, carry and move equipment and animals. You should consider that dogs, for example, may weigh 30-40 kg, and sheep more than 70kg, so you need to be fit and strong!
- You need to be a strong swimmer, in case you have to do a rescue in or around water. You can't complete training if you can't complete the RSPCA swimming assessment.
- You must be able to drive to be a RSPCA inspector. There will be a driving assessment at the start of the course which you will need to pass.
- You will also work weekends and evenings – helping animals is not just Monday to Friday like lots of other jobs.
- Qualifications are less important than the other points here, but as a minimum you need 5 GCSEs grade 4+.

How often do you give advice?

Most of the time! An annoying amount of the time there's nothing wrong and the call we've received is a hoax or there's been a misunderstanding. That happens too often. But for the most part its people needing advice, we don't often come across people who are deliberately cruel, usually it's ignorance or neglect.

With the cases of deliberate cruelty, where an animal has been dumped, stabbed, kicked or poisoned, it can be challenging to find the people responsible.

When you've been dealing with cases of deliberate cruelty, how do you manage to unwind?

I guess over the years I've learnt to switch off to some degree, but that said the job always comes home with you. Every inspector ends up bringing work home, and we probably always will - it's the nature of the job.

Shaun - Hair Stylist / Salon Owner



Shaun owns his own hair salon. It was his brother who told him to 'go for the best company' which led to him getting his first job at Vidal Sassoon. Hairdressing wasn't considered 'macho' by his friends but he loves his job and says there are many highlights, one of which was "buying yourself a brand new Porsche and putting the keys in the ignition and driving away".

My name's Shaun and I'm a hairdresser and owner of a hair salon. As well as actually doing hair day to day, I also do the day to day running of the salon. For example, making sure we have the right amount of products, the right professionalism with the

clients that we have and employing new members of staff.

When I was young, probably six, my father passed away. At that point I was quite distracted by everything that was going on around me. I think that's where I fell off the education ladder. I started working in a hairdressers at 13 years old on a Saturday, just helping my brother out really. It wasn't something I ever really imagined that I'd be doing for a career or for the rest of my life. I suppose like many things, when you get into something, it's not quite what you imagine it to be once you're actually on your way.

When friends of mine understood that I wanted to be a hairdresser for my career, actually they thought it was funny. It's not particularly seen as a macho job. I suppose generally did more macho things so it was a surprise for them.

At the time, my hero was my brother. He said, 'if you go for an apprenticeship with the best hairdressing company at least it shows Mum you tried. Go for the interview. You probably won't get in because really, you know nothing about hairdressing'. So off I went to Vidal Sassoon for an interview. There I met lots of people that I'd never have come across unless I went to that interview, and now I realise that I'd found my career, which was meeting people. I love meeting people. In this world you can meet so many different kinds of people that really you'd normally never meet.

I got a letter through from Vidal Sassoon's saying, 'we've accepted you. We think you're great. We hope you have a long, successful career at our company'. The apprenticeship studies were fun as far as I was concerned, I was loving what I was doing. The challenges were challenges that I loved doing.

What skills do you need to do your job?

I love working with people, which you need to be a hairdresser. I also love the creativity, but understanding it's what the customer wants is important, or they won't be happy. For managing my hair salon, I need to lead my team, communicate what I want and be organised to make sure everything runs smoothly for our customers.

What has been your highlight of your career?

There are so many. It's very difficult to put your finger on one particular highlight. I mean, when you go and buy yourself a brand new Porsche and put the keys in the ignition and drive away, that can be classified as a highlight, but really it's not. That kind of highlight is short-lived. The highlight is when you actually tuck into bed at night, put your hands behind your head and say, 'that was a great day I had today'.

Lexine – Chief Outdoor Instructor



What do you do day to day in your job?

I work at PGL, an outdoor education provider. I'm the Chief Instructor there - I help with running the outdoor activities we offer to children and young people. In my own leisure time I take part in a lot of the activities that I do at work. I'll always make an effort to go out and practice my own skills so I'll do some canoeing, climbing, walking, and a lot of socialising as well.

When I left school I stumbled into working in a big hotel and did some waitressing there for a while. When I turned 18 I realised that wasn't really the path that I wanted to follow. Quite a big turning point in my life was I'd just finished a really busy shift in the hotel, I think it was about half eleven at night and everybody was so exhausted. I knew I didn't want to work at all hours, so I started looking at what else I could do.

I started applying for different jobs online and I was chatting to a friend about it and that's when they mentioned PGL. That was something they'd done when they were younger and they thought that it'd be right for me. I'm outgoing, like speaking to people and working with children, I like being outside and I'd say I'm quite adventurous, I always want to try new things.

What was the training like?

The first day I arrived it was on a massive training course, so there were loads of people there and then we got accommodated in tents. It was a five day Group Leader training course so over the next five days we did our first aid qualification, learning how to be loud and singing lots of songs and doing different classroom sessions. My biggest memory has probably been really exhausted but really excited as well. By the end of the five days we all felt like we'd known each other for years, never mind just five days.

What do you need to be a Chief Outdoor Instructor at PGL?

You don't need specific qualifications to do this job, but you do need to be good at working in a team, organised and being enthusiastic. A big part of our job is keeping everyone safe and working together to create a safe but fun environment, as well as dealing with whatever problems come up.

Everybody who works here lives on site so you've got all of your friends around you and all of your work colleagues around you who are always up for a day out in town or a trip to the cinema. I had a moment of realisation when I was working in the South of France on the Ardeche River, everyday we'd take groups of kids out on river trips and the most amazing scenery and the best weather that I've ever experienced and it got to a point just after lunch everybody was heading out down the river, it was just our group, there was nobody else around for miles. Big cliff faces up either side and you could just hear all of the wildlife and I remember just thinking 'somebody's paying me to do this'. I couldn't believe it. In five years' time I hope to still be as happy as I am now and still getting a lot out of life and learning from my job.