

Name: Sarah McGillick

Age: 20 years old

**Arts and Festivals Management Student at London South
Bank University**

Work Experience Duration: 1 month

My placement at The Core Corby ran for 4 weeks, with the first 2 weeks spent experiencing all aspects of Front of House and Operational duties, and the second 2 weeks working with the Creative Projects Team and Director of The Core on various projects, in particular the Launchpad event.

To get a full overview of all the daily tasks surrounding Front of House duties, I shadowed the Duty Manager for the main part as well as spending a morning with the Box Office which allowed me to view the show from all operational angles. As I completed my placement was over the Christmas period, I experienced the last few shows of a Children's play followed by a 3-day run of 6 CATS pantomime shows, Rapunzel. I was given the opportunity to first watch the show from an audience members' point of view, to then observing the technicians during a run of the show, and finally the volunteers role point of view so working the doors, selling merchandise and meeting-and-greeting the audience as they enter the building.

By experiencing two different types of show, I was able to see how the audience behaviours change depending on the show and their expectations. The size of the audience increased hugely during the panto run compared to the pre-Christmas show, and I was able to experience the various needs and issues that can arise when dealing with such a large and wide range of audience members. I found this really interesting as I have only ever experienced shows from an audience member point of view or as a performer, so I was keen to see how a show impacts all areas and the requirements each team must fulfil.

I spent the second two weeks of my work experience working alongside the Creative Projects Team completing various different tasks such as research, creating children's crafts ideas for Cine-Mini's, however I was primarily involved in helping with the organisation of a scratch-night called Launchpad. Launchpad is a night where local artists can try out new material in front of an audience and other artists in order to gain feedback on their progressing work. I had to liaise with all of the performers ensuring that they had provided us with the Technical Requirements, arranged rehearsals, and just overall management ensuring that all performers were happy and making sure that any questions were answered as fully as possible. I really enjoyed being involved in this project as it is something that I've never done before and I got to be very involved with how the event progressed.

I got to work with some really interesting and lovely people, and I would definitely recommend The Core as a really helpful and valuable way of gaining work experience - regardless of whether you're interested in theatre! I have gained so many transferrable skills and I have been provided with a really valuable insight into an industry I have never experienced before. I was also given the opportunity

to choose an area of interest or to 'specialise' in during my placement which I found really helpful as it allowed me to narrow down the fields and to focus on a specific aspect of theatre management and functionality.

