Survey on Rigging in the live entertainment & events industry - How did you start?

July 2023

Respondents: 220
Q1. How long have you been working as a rigger?
Q2. How did you first find out that rigging in entertainment & events existed?

- Worked in other tech dept: 96
- Job advert online: 1
- Job ad in my local press: 1
- Job ad in industry mag: 1
- Local job centre: 6
- School/college (under 18): 11
- School/college (over 18): 38
- Local crew provider: 6
- A friend in the industry: 36
- Other: 31
Q2. How did you first find out that rigging in entertainment & events existed?

OTHER:

- Met a rigger when runner on pop videos in the 80's
- Drama School
- Started as stagehand
- Newspaper ad
- I started off as a stage hand/local crew and gradually worked through the ranks. I had taken roles as truss spot op forklift driver the I combined electrical studies with an interest for stage lighting which then led to fulfilling roles as touting lighting technician then all led to an interest in Rigging.
- Starlive
- Family
- University
- Doing staging (1985)
- Rigging 40 years + developed rigging
- Sheer chance that I met someone who told me about Unusual rigging and what they did.
Q3. Where did you first commence work as a rigging trainee?

- Rigging company: 80
- Venue: 42
- Tech services provider: 22
- Local crew company: 12
- With a freelancer: 32
- Other: 32
Q3. Where did you first commence work as a rigging trainee?

OTHER:

- drama school
- I eventually got on a shift, as a freelancer, asked questions, listened, asked more questions, absorbed every nugget of knowledge, used those skills/knowledge, respected the experience of coworkers and aimed to be better tomorrow than I had been today.
- I was thrown in at the deep end working from day one as a ground rigger at Manchester Arena
- on my own back through training and experience as a freelancer
- Picked it up through lighting dept initially. Never a trainee.
- Lighting Company
- Never - I was just told I was a Rigger - in 1983
- when I started there were no trainee rigging courses
- Staging starlive
- I haven't started yet. I am still waiting to be picked by a rigger.
- A staging company
- I got taken on in the stores at unusual
- I had done 5 years as local crew & then I did the total fabs 3 day rigging course.
- I came into industry with few years of rigging experience already
- I was always freelance and came from a theatre background
- In the British armed forces
- On the job
- Devonport Naval Dockyard
- Education Establishment
- In a theatre
- Lighting company
- Drape company
- Whilst studying for a degree in Stage Management
- Osmosis
- At University as part of the technical staff of the Students' Union
- Lighting companies
- Learnt on the job
- Lighting and sound hire company
- On a show
- Lighting company rigger
- Production
- UK rigging (Project X)
Q4. How did you develop your skills as a rigger?

- In house training with an employer: 91
- Alongside other freelancers: 145
- Rigging training course: 90
- Formal government apprenticeship: 1
- Other: 20
Q4. How did you develop your skills as a rigger?

OTHER:

- Complimentary Skills/training. IRATA, etc.
- Unusual Rigging Trainee Venue scheme
- In the days before there were riggers except at the big shows. ie: what was known as a "lampy rigger" where lighting crew with a little knowledge rigged their own points (4-6 normally).
- Deep end - just got on with - with abit of thinking
- Gallowglass via outback rigging
- worked with a lot of US riggers (disney) who came to UK
- Starlive
- On the job but not formally trained
- From your booklet, good understanding of Newtonian physics and a lot of youtube.
- working as tech employer alongside freelancers hired for carry the gigs
- REME

- Learnt from otgervtiggers
- As I went along - self trained
- Self study. Calculations
- Worked alongside experienced riggers on the job
- On site experience
- No real such training, I was shown on the job
- I found simply watching POV videos on YouTube helped me greatly at the start. Filling in the blanks that I'd not been subjected to or shown.
- I had previously worked in the North Sea for 6 years as a roughneck on an oil rig.
- UK rigging (Project X)
Q5. Where have you worked since?

- Arena: 196
- Theatre: 186
- Conference / Hotel Events: 180
- Festivals: 174
- Trade Shows: 149
- Film: 111
- TV: 138
- Museums / Installations: 118
- Permanent Installations: 114
- Annual Large Events: 132
- Other: 26
Q5. Where have you worked since?

OTHER

- Adventure centres Ziplines etc; industrial rigging, specialised lifts and access.
- International tour rigging tech
- Unusual Installations
- Tours
- Inspections and maintenance
- Aerial and circus schools and shows.
- Staging
- None. Despite promises from a few riggers, they have yet to pick to join them for a job.
- Stage building
- Concert tours
- Sport

- Touring
- Industrial rigging
- Ships
- Industry
- Tall ship rigging
- Engineering
- Sport events
- Rigging trainer
- Stadiums
- Touring
- Annual events but not on the scale of Eurovision etc.
- Steeplejack
- Circus and performer flying
- Shipyard and offshore
- Satellites
Q6. Do you have any of the following qualifications or skills?

- NRC L2
- NRC L3
- IPAF
- IRATA
- UK Gov Live Event Rigger Apprenticeship
- Automation
- CAD
- Planning jobs
- Crew boss
- Other
Q6. Do you have any of the following qualifications or skills?

**OTHER**

- Rigging for the entertainment industry
- Scaffolding, commercial diver
- Rope Access and Rescue, PPE inspector
- Engineering Btec level 3
- Project Manager
- LEEA
- Planning and crew boss when lighting crew
- Metal work and installation
- Site Coordinator & Prod Manager
- Stage Building
- 40 years Head rigger for live production tours
- SQQ2 LEVEL 1
- B End (Hons)
- Trainee Rigger, but I am a 2nd years engineer student
- Tour head Rigger
- Ground support
- I Would have the NRC L3 if I could get an onsite assessment.
- Production management
- Tube and fitting
- ETCP

- CSCS Slinger/signaller. NPORS Rigging and Fleeting Loads.
- IOSH Working Safely at Events
- Engineering
- Appointed person
- Irata now expired - also BS7909 temp power install and Jet2377 electrical test and inspection
- Coded welder, machinist
- Custom fabrication
- Our company is a has LEEA full membership status
- Rescue
- Project management
- Merchant Navy 1st off deep sea.
- Now a Stage Manager/Production Manager/Project Manager
- I’m now a Production Manager
- Now director of a rigging company
- Supervisor
- Tele handler, counterbalance, tele 360 slew,
- Australian advanced rigger license
- An engineering degree
- Scaffolding