



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY....

Saturday 31st January 1.30 – 4.30pm Newton Building, Nottingham Trent University

Over the past six months we have been tracking the good, the bad and the frankly ugly 'opportunities' being presented as jobs for designers.

In November 2015 the Society of British Theatre Designers turns 40, and you know what they say - life begins...

Where are we now?

As designers, we have been members of Equity for 39 years and the organisation is going through a period of radical change that currently makes us appear, and feel more voiceless than ever.

What is our true value to the profession?

What is the economic value of the visual?

How would 'live' from your local cinema survive without any design content?

How can young designers join the profession they have trained for and not have to 'work' for little or nothing for up to five years?

Let's monitor the situation and collect the facts – without evidence there is no case.

Where are we going?

Will the SBTD's mid-life crisis herald the dawn of a new era when we decide we are better off forging new alliances?

What can we do?

Are we happy to continue moaning and do nothing?

Let's talk about the money – openly and honestly...

Let's talk about what we can do for ourselves and what we can do collectively with others.

Let's be naively optimistic and not stagnate in the gloom of historic anecdotes.

LET'S PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT LOOK LIKE...IT MIGHT ALREADY BE HERE!

Join us in the Newton building at Nottingham Trent University

<https://maps.google.co.uk/maps?ll=52.958074,-1.153893&z=15&cid=3969239515146737744&q=Nottingham+Trent+University&output=classic&dg=ntvb>

Saturday 31st January 1.30 – 4.30pm to discuss, debate and plan the way forward with a range of guest speakers and provocateurs.

We would welcome contributions from directors, producers, lighting, sound and video designers and anyone else with an interest in this conversation, so please spread the word.

Registration from 12.30 for 1.30pm start.

The event will be followed by the opportunity to continue networking with colleagues, friends and new acquaintances at our Designer Drinks reception to mark the end of the run of *Make: Believe in Nottingham* and the launch of *World Scenography Vol.2*

Fiona Watt

Fiona is Honorary Secretary for SBTB and UK Performance Design Commissioner for OISTAT. She is co-ordinating *The View From Here*, the UK student led submission to PQ2015 in association with SBTB colleague Peter Farley and ACTD (Associated Courses in Theatre Design).

Since taking on the role of Honorary Secretary in March 2013 she has focused on building open paths of communication between the Society and its members via the website, the Facebook group and in person through establishing regular Designers Drinks gatherings. One of the most important areas of this activity has been to get designers to analyse advertised job opportunities, report them where possible and send them to us so that we can build a picture of what is going on. *The Good, the Bad and The Ugly* culminates this first phase of activity and will launch a year of consultation activity as SBTB approaches its 40th birthday. The generosity of experienced members like David in sharing their knowledge and expertise with earlier career practitioners demonstrates clearly that we can build our collective support of one another into a strong, positive Society that welcomes members at all stages of their careers.

David Cockayne

David has worked as a theatre designer since 1967, at first in repertory theatres and more recently in opera and dance. He taught at Nottingham Trent from 1980 to 1995 during which time he was one of the founders of the Association of Courses in Theatre Design. He continues to work as a freelance designer from time to time and also works in painting and photography. He has been a member of SBTB since its creation and was a member of the first designers' working party in Equity. Periods as a member of the Theatre Designers' Committee, its Chair, and Designers' Councilor from 2000 to 2014 followed during which time he was a Vice President of Equity for three years, the first time that this office had been held by a designer.