

**Job roles and responsibilities within the performing arts industry**

The performing arts industry contains a wide variety of roles across music, dance and drama. To create a successful performance, a director or choreographer must build a team with the right skills to meet the demands of the commission. Understanding each role and how they work together is vital for success.

Stage roles

Actor	A person who acts on stage, TV or film. Works with the director and choreographer.
Dancer	Performs dance routines. Works with a choreographer or director to learn or create repertoire.
Singer	Sings to an audience, either solo or as part of an ensemble. Works with directors and a musical director.
Session musician	Plays an instrument, either solo or as part of an ensemble.
Stand-up comedian	Entertains a live audience using humour or comedy.
Circus artist	Entertains an audience with circus skills and acts.

Behind-the-scenes roles

Director	Responsible for the overall creative vision of a production. They lead the team so that all elements of the show come together to produce the final outcome.	Lighting designer	Designs the lighting to create a specific atmosphere to fit the narrative and ensure performer safety.
Producer	Finds funding and investment for a production. They also supervise the creation and performance of the show.	Sound designer	Creates sound effects and atmosphere for a film or live performance.
Stage manager	Manages all technical aspects of the show and is in charge of the stage during performances.	Theatre technician	Works backstage managing the stage crew and technical equipment.
Choreographer	Creates, teaches and develops dance routines for a performance. They must follow the brief to create routines appropriate for the type of performance.	Stage crew	Works backstage to move scenery and props during a show.
Set designer	Designs and creates the set for a show or scene.		

Music roles and venues

Busker	Performs music in a public place for donations.	Agent / contractors (fixers)	Finds work and negotiates contracts for musicians.
Music residencies	A regular performance engagement, often in a venue such as a bar, club or hotel, where musicians perform live over a set period.	Arranger	Rewrites or reimagines existing pieces of music for a different style or instrumentation.
Music studies	The study of music, including theory, history, composition and performance, to understand how music works and its cultural context.	Orchestrator	Writes out the individual parts for musicians in an orchestra, based on a composer's or arranger's ideas.
Composer	Creates new, original music, often for a film, game or advert.	Conductor	Directs a musical ensemble, guiding performers on timing, dynamics and interpretation.
Function bands	A group of musicians who perform at private events, such as weddings, usually playing cover songs.	Songwriter	Creates the melody and harmonic structure for a song. May write their own lyrics, have lyrics provided, or work alongside a lyricist.
Featured artist	A musician who performs on a track and is credited, entitling them to royalties.	Lyricist	Writes the words (lyrics) for a song.
Music publisher	Represents composers by managing catalogues, collecting royalties, and promoting works to film, TV, and advertisers. In return for these services, composers share royalties.	Producer (music)	Oversees a recording session, making creative decisions to shape the final sound of a track.
Grass roots venues and pubs	Smaller venues that provide opportunities for musicians to perform live, often at the start of their careers.	Recording engineer	Operates the equipment to record and mix music in a studio.
Mastering engineer	Prepares the final mixed recording for distribution, ensuring consistent sound quality.		