



Michael Northen Awards – 2018!

This year, there are 4 awards being presented as part of the “Michael Northen Award” scheme. These awards are presented to current students (not just those on vocational theatre courses), Affiliate members of the Association, and recent graduates (who graduated no earlier than 2017) even if they are not currently a member, who have demonstrated strong, imaginative and creative lighting and/or video designs. The four awards are as follows:

The Michael Northen Award

Michael Northen was the first credited Lighting Designer in the UK and his work on “The Mousetrap” can still be seen in the West End today. The winning lighting designer will be presented with a cheque for £500 and a copy of Michael’s book, “Northen Lights”.

The ETC Award

Electronic Theatre Controls are specialists in Lighting solutions, control equipment for Theatre, Film & TV studios, Architectural spaces and entertainment industries. ETC is kindly sponsoring the £350 award for excellence in lighting design.

The Francis Reid Award

Described as “a theatremaker who did lighting, rather than a lighting man who did theatre”, Francis Reid was a founding member of the Association, playing a key role in establishing the practice of stage lighting design and the role of the lighting designer in the UK. The lighting designer who receives this prize will be presented with a cheque for £250.

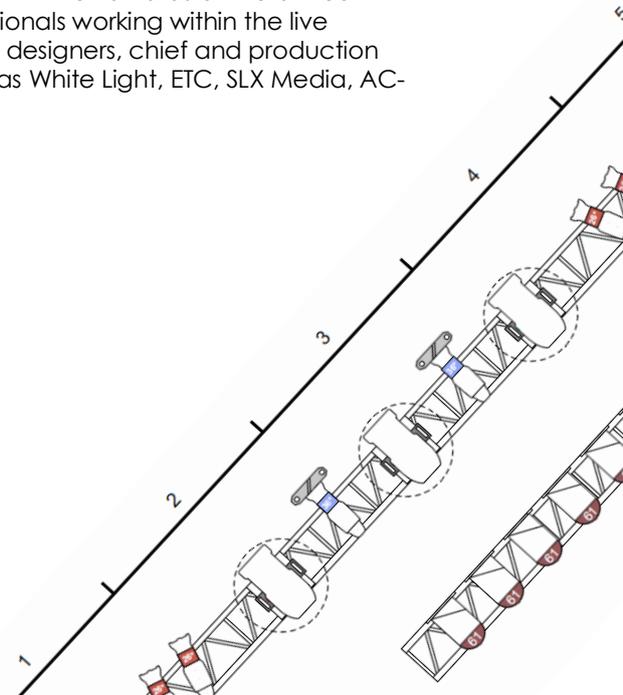
Excellence in Video Design

In addition to the above awards for lighting design, this award will be presented to a video designer working in live performance who will also receive £250.

By taking part in this year’s awards for Lighting and Video Design, you are bringing you and your work to the attention of experienced lighting and video designers, as well as other industry professionals who are all on the judging panel. By winning one of these awards, your work will be publicly showcased through a series of press releases within industry media outlets including the ALD’s bi-monthly journal; *FOCUS*.

Entries will open on Monday 6th August and all submissions MUST be received before the closing date – Monday 31st October at Midnight!

A panel of esteemed judges will deliberate over the submissions before concluding and deciding on the deserving winners. The successful applicants will be presented with their awards at the annual “Lighting Lunch” – a Christmas dinner for lighting and video professionals working within the live entertainment sector. This is a fantastic opportunity to network with designers, chief and production electricians, engineers, programmers and of course suppliers such as White Light, ETC, SLX Media, AC-Entertainment and PRG XL Video.





So, what to include?

1) High Quality Portfolio (Essential)

This should be the kind of document you'd be willing to take to a meeting with a director or producer to secure work. It should be based around two to four productions that were realised within the last 3 calendar years. You should include up to six images per production – no more! It goes without saying that this portfolio should demonstrate your imaginative and creative approach to lighting or video design. Note that all your photos should be in full colour and from an appropriate angle that the audience would have seen.

2) Visual Aides (Essential)

Alongside images of the finished work, you should include your visual inspiration: e.g. images you used to explain your design concept to the director and other collaborators, inspirational pictures and storyboards. You might also include extracts showing the development of your cue structure. Remember, we want quality over quantity.

3) Rig Plans (Essential)

You should include a rig plan – clearly labelled with a legend – for each of the productions you submit. It is important that these plans are drawn to scale and conform to standard industry drafting practices. It is acceptable to submit these as individual PDF documents out with your main portfolio document providing they are clearly labelled with the show and are referenced where appropriate. You may wish to provide additional schematics (sections, etc) or paperwork you produced during your process. All of which must be referred to where appropriate.

4) 500 Words (Essential)

You will also need to include a page of writing or audio commentary outlining your approach to design decisions. This should be no more than 500 words and could be a summary of the main challenges of each production, however, you should aim to let your pictures do most of the work – lighting design is, of course, a visual art form.

5) Video Footage (Optional)

Video footage of the productions submitted, specific moments within the production, or inspirational footage may also be submitted, to refer to and discuss in order to support your entry.

6) Video Content (Video Submissions Only – Essential)

To help the judges get a sense of what you envisaged for the production, you may submit original video content produced for the productions you are displaying. This may be the original content or the end result onstage (preferable, where possible). It is imperative you reference everything you choose to display in your portfolio in-order to put your design decisions into context.

7) CV (Essential)

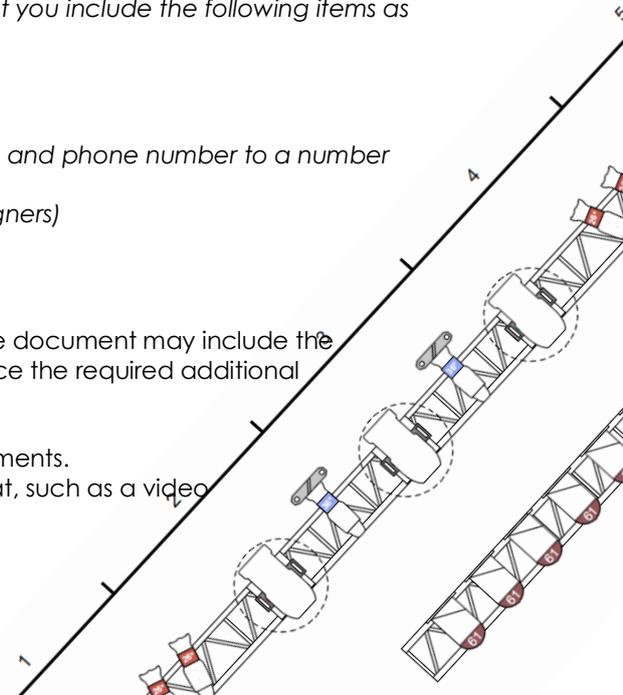
Please include an up-to-date copy of your CV. Be sure that you include the following items as part of the document:

- Your full name
- Your education establishment (current or past)
- The date you graduated (if applicable)
- Your contact details (including personal email address and phone number to a number with a voicemail service)
- Appropriate credits (producers/venues/directors/designers)

Housekeeping...

We suggest submitting your portfolio as a PDF document. This single document may include the required supporting documents within the portfolio or may reference the required additional documents which have been submitted as separate files.

Only PDF, JPEG, MPEG Files will be considered for supporting documents. Alternatively, you may wish to submit your entry in a different format, such as a video





portfolio with a voice over discussing your work. Your entry can be compressed into any recognised file format, but must be stored online utilising your own storage (via Drop Box, Google, etc), must not exceed 500 megabytes, and must be made accessible via an email link which will not expire.

Please save all your documents with the following formats.
Documents: Your Name – Document Title – ALD Award 2018 (e.g John Smith – LX Plan – The Cherry Orchard – ALD Awards 2018).
Email Subject: Your Name – ALD Awards Submission 2018 – Design Category (e.g. John Smith – ALD Awards Submission 2018 – Video Design).

You must also, within your email, include your name and contact details as well as the above link to your items. This should be sent to: mnb@ald.org.uk
Confirmation of your submission will be made when all the documents have been accessed and downloaded successfully prior to the deadline.

Finally, remember to credit the appropriate members of the team on the shows within your documents (Production Photographer, Director, Designers, Choreographers, Sound Designers, Etc).

CHECKLIST:

- o Portfolio
- o Visual Aides
- o Rig Plans
- o 500 Word Supporting Document
- o Additional Material (Video footage, etc)
- o Original Video Content (Video Design Submissions ONLY)
- o Fully up-to-date CV

Final Advice

If you have any further questions or require any help and/or advice creating your digital portfolio, please don't hesitate to get in contact via the mnb@ald.org.uk email address. There is also both the "Student ALD" and "Association of Lighting Designers" Facebook pages which are filled with professionals and possibly further competitors who will all be able to help with ideas and/or suggestions for your entry. It is imperative that all submissions strictly conform to the regulations set out above. The judging panel aim to provide feedback on all submissions where possible with a view for unsuccessful applicants to develop your portfolios for future professional use, as well as re-submitting the following year.

Please note that by submitting to the competition, you accept that all relevant personal and contact information may be made accessible to the organisers, Association of Lighting Designers executive and where applicable, the judging panel. This extends to all future press releases and media produced in response to the Michael Northen Awards 2018..

Good Luck!

