



The ALD Awards for Excellence – 2019!

This year, there are 3 awards being presented as part of the “ALD Awards for Excellence in Lighting and Video” 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

This award is sponsored by the Mousetrap Foundation.

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 winner of this award will receive a £500 cash prize, a 512 ETCnomad™ Package and a 6-month mentoring scheme with a team of industry professionals to run alongside the initial stage of their career.

The winner will also receive a copy of Michael's book – “Northen Lights”.

The Fred Foster Production Electrician Award

This Award is sponsored by ETC and dedicated to the late ETC CEO, Fred Foster.

The winner of this award will receive a £500 cash prize, a 512 ETCnomad™ package, a 1 year subscription to the Association's PLI insurance and a 6-month mentoring scheme with a team of industry professionals to run alongside the initial stage of their career.

The Blue-I Media Award for Excellence in Video

This award is sponsored by Blue-I Media.

The winner of this award will receive a £500 prize, a £1,250 hire credit towards their first commercial venture, and a 6-month mentoring scheme with a team of industry professionals to run alongside the initial stage of their career.*

All winners will be invited to the annual “Lighting Lunch” – a Christmas dinner for lighting and video professionals within the live entertainment sector, where they will be presented with their awards. This is a fantastic opportunity to network with designers, chief and production electricians, engineers, programmers and of course suppliers such as Hawthorn, White-Light, Blue-I Media, AC-Entertainment and PRG XL Video.

By taking part in this year's awards, you are bringing you and your work to the attention of experienced lighting and video practitioners, 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 19th August and all submissions MUST be received before the closing date – Monday 31st October at Midnight!

*subject to inventory availability-equipment and required connectivity. This does not include any “direct out-of-pocket costs” (e.g. Transportation, labour, consumables, insurance cover, etc.)



So, what are we looking for? (Blue-I Media, Award for Excellence in Video)

- **Process:** We're looking to see YOUR process from initial conception of ideas and how that did or didn't materialise in the final product. How you collaborated with your director / designer / rest of the team. How you communicated your ideas to them. Did you encounter any problems along the way? If so, how did you discuss them / solve them / get rid of them.
- **Research:** We understand not everybody researches their shows in the same way – and that's okay! Whether you do purely visual research or you like to visit a location; we want to know about it!
- **Originality:** Whilst we appreciate that it's hard to find ideas that haven't been done before (knowingly or otherwise!), we are looking to see that what you use is appropriate to the piece and demonstrates your particular style and approach to work – not somebody else's from years gone by!
- **Overall Visual:** The best way to judge a video design is by the overall look! We're looking for high quality, appropriate choices of colour, angle, shot, layers, mapping, aesthetic, animation, equipment, choice, speed, dynamics, contrast and texture! Is the video integrated well into the production? Is it woven into the look of the show as a whole?

What should you include?

1) High Quality Portfolio

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 video design. Note that all your photos should be in full colour and from an appropriate angle that the audience would have seen. Ideally, you would have somebody else taking production shots for you – however, we understand this isn't always possible. Just make sure that the photos you submit accurately represent your work!

Some points of advice:

- o Make sure your photos aren't all close-ups
- o Be sure to make your portfolio easy to read
- o Clear and concise is the best way!
- o Remember to afford everyone the proper credits where appropriate
- o Think of this in the way you would a website – show us the work that you think best defines your style and process!

2) Research

Alongside images of the finished work, you should include your visual inspiration: e.g. images, mood boards, clips, excerpts from poems & novels, story boards, art and/or any web links you found useful.

These are the kind of things you used to explain your design concept to the director and other collaborators.



3) Content Synopsis

We're looking for a clear, well laid out content structure that depicts your thoughts and ideas which you would use to plot your show from.

You might also include extracts showing the development of this. Remember, we want quality over quantity. We're particularly interested in the progression and development from your initial pre-plot ideas to the finished sheet at the end of the production period.

4) Plans & Paperwork

You should include a rig plan for each production – clearly labelled with a legend. 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. Consider providing additional schematics (sections, front elevations, cable runs etc).

5) Process Explanation

You will also need to include a page of writing or audio commentary, of no more than 1000 words or no longer than 2 minutes, outlining your approach to design decisions.

This summarise the main challenges from each production. However, you should aim to let your pictures do most of the work – video design is, of course, a visual art form.

Perhaps consider splitting up your word count in order to surround your production images / research with the appropriate text telling us what we're looking at and why it's relevant.

6) Additional Footage (Optional)

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. Please consider file size when submitting – these will be viewed on personal computers, not through professional systems: we're not looking for cinema-quality!

This is a good opportunity to show us an audience point of view; how they interact / see your content and the way in which it is displayed.

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)

THINGS TO NOTE:

- It's about ease of reading. Please remember that we receive a high level of submissions every year and you want your judges to enjoy looking at your



work – not spend hours clicking on lots of different documents. Perhaps consider your portfolio and research as one document, plans as another, etc.

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 Dropbox, WeTransfer, etc), 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 2019

(e.g John Smith – Rig Plan – The Cherry Orchard – ALD Awards 2019).

Email Subject: Your Name – ALD Awards Submission 2019 – Chosen Award *(e.g. John Smith – ALD Awards Submission 2019 – Production Electrician).*

Within your email, please include your name and contact details as well as the above link to your items. This should be sent to: awards@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).

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 awards@ald.org.uk email address.

There is also both the "Student ALD" and "Association of Lighting Designers" Facebook pages which are filled with both young and long-established professionals 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 2019.

Good Luck!