The ALPD Awards for Excellence – 2022!

This year, there are 3 awards being presented as part of the "ALPD Awards for Excellence" 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 2020) even if they are not currently a member, who have demonstrated strong, imaginative and creative lighting designs, detailed production documents or thorough programming files. The three 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, a Vectorworks licence for 12 months and a 6-month mentoring scheme with an industry professional 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 an industry professional to run alongside the initial stage of their career.

The WYSIWYG Programmers Award

This award is sponsored by WYSIWYG.
The winner of this award will receive a £500 voucher prize, a 12 month wysiwyg Perform lease, worth $2199 USD, and a 512 ETCnomad™ and a 6-month mentoring scheme with an industry professional 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 production 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 programming 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 ALPD's bi-monthly journal; "*FOCUS*".

Entries will open on 1st June and all submissions MUST be received before the closing date – Monday 31st October at Midnight!

What are we looking for? *(Wysiwyg Programmers Award)*

We are looking for evidence from a real show not just a virtual project please.

Process: *We're looking to see YOUR programming process. How you prepared for the show, prepared the show file, why you picked which mode, what you would do differently if you did it again, or if you had a free hand. What you think makes a good programmer. How you collaborated with your 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 needs to research as a programmer– and that's okay! But if you did; we want to know about it! Maybe manuals for bits of kit?*

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 the shows you have worked on and specifically the show you are submitting a show file for.. 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 showcases what you have done
- o

2. Research

Include any research if you did any, but don't worry if you didn't.

3. Show File

We want you to submit the show file from one show, which has to be:
Made from scratch;
On a lighting desk that has a freely available Mac/PC version so the judging panel can review it;

With everything clearly labelled and done so that an experienced programmer could walk into your show file, understand what's going on, and continue in your absence, and/or transfer the show.

4. Plans & Paperwork

So we have an idea of what the rig looked like: You should include a rig plan the 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.

5. Process Explanation,

Either

(a)   3 minute Video Self Presentation

Since your work is going to be viewed by some of the UK's best LD's we'd like you to use this opportunity to present yourself to us, as a potential candidate for a Programmer job as you feel appropriate. Please create a short three minute video presentation that's about you, and why you might be a good person to employ.

The benefits of a presentation might be:

- Proving you can do the job
- Demonstrating your verbal communication and public speaking skills
- Highlighting your written communication skills
- Showing professionalism and diligence

This doesn't need to be professional quality video it just needs to be intelligible and show you in a good light. Phone footage is fine.

Ideas you might include:

- what inspires you or motivates you
- why you chose this career path
- what you think the key skills that you need to succeed are
- what ambitions do you have
- where would you like to be in ten years' time
- what motivates you
- what's the most important thing you have learnt about the industry
- how important are compromise and collaboration.
- and anything that makes you stand out from the next person.

As much as possible use real live examples of why you are ideal, i.e. the challenges which you faced and overcame on your last show, some of which may face your prospective employers. Maybe you could describe your most complex programming scene.

Talk a little about the ways you have handled yourself and dealt with problems i.e., I handled this problem by using X, which resulted in Y. By doing this you are quoting experience, showing you understand their business, and sharing your knowledge... all good things to show in an interview.

Or

(b)   1000 word essay

- We need to know the time frames and scale of the production that you worked on
- You will also need to include a page of writing of no more than 1000 words outlining your approach to programming.
- We're looking to see YOUR programming process.
- How you prepared for the show, prepared the show file, why you picked which mode
- What you would do differently if you did it again or if you had a free hand.
- What you think makes a good programmer
- 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
- Talk a little about the ways you have handled yourself as well.
- Perhaps consider splitting up your word count in order to surround your screenshots/production images / research with the appropriate text telling us what we're looking at and why it's relevant.

6. 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)

7. On-Line Interview

If, on the evidence that we see from the above, we still cannot differentiate between candidates, the judging panel reserve the right to conduct a video interview with you, to decide on a clear winner.

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.

General tips for creating a video presentation of yourself:

- Your presentation should follow a clear structure
- with a strong opening, main body and ending

- Remain focused on one clear message throughout with facts and evidence to support it
- Your opening should clearly communicate your key message and should be kept succinct and to the point with short sentences
- The main body should be limited to three main sections. This will enable you to stay strongly focused on your core message and ensure people remember the three main points
- The ending should be memorable and reemphasize your key message.

Differentiate yourself:

- An interview presentation is a great opportunity to let your own personality come through, while still behaving with professionalism. Look for ways you can demonstrate your skills in ways that are, possibly, unexpected. For example, if you can demonstrate your skills while also showing your humour and creativity, you are far more likely to stand out.
- Your presentation should be impactful and hold the attention of your audience but should also be backed up by substance.
- A good rule is for your talk to be thought-provoking and challenging for 20% of the presentation and insightful and informative for the other 80%. This will help to keep your audience fully engaged from start to finish but also help them develop a deeper understanding of your subject.

Know your material:

- Try to learn your presentation so that you can speak more naturally and give an impression of confidence and professionalism. If you do prefer to have guidance throughout the presentation, create small cards with short bullet points or headings to prompt you throughout the presentation. You could also include bullet points within the slides, themselves and use them as a reference throughout your presentation.

Pay attention to body language:

- Stand up straight with your shoulders back and smile as you deliver your presentation. You want to appear as comfortable and confident as possible. Practice this by delivering your presentation to family or friends in advance of the interview.
- Use clear diction and adequate volume
- A benefit of standing is that it makes it easier to breathe deeply and speak with adequate volume, so you are easily understood. Speak slowly and use pace and rhythm to ensure you are easy to understand and that the audience has time to absorb the information you are sharing.
- Build rapport with your audience
- Before you begin your presentation, say hello to your audience, smile and introduce yourself.

Housekeeping…

If you are submitting a 3 minute video presentation 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.

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.

Please save all your documents with the following formats:
Documents: Your Name – Document Title – ALPD Award 2022
(e.g John Smith – Rig Plan – The Cherry Orchard – ALPD Awards 2022).
Email Subject: Your Name – ALPD Awards Submission 2022 – Chosen Award *(e.g. John Smith – ALPD Awards Submission 2022 – WYSIWYG programming award*.

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@thealpd.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@thealpd.org.uk email address.

There is also both the "Student ALPD" and "Association for Lighting Production and Design" 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, The Association for Lighting Production and Design executive and where applicable, the judging panel. This extends to all future press releases and media produced in response to the ALPD Awards for Excellence 2022.

<u>Good Luck!</u>