

STAGE DOOR KEEPER

Stage Door Keepers (SDKs) open and close the theatre building, and maintain a constant presence throughout the day.

The day shift can be busy with various maintenance and upkeep issues. Cleaners will be the first to come into the building, next will be Box Office staff. The cellar person will be in early to restock bars for the evening show.

We connect contractors who have been called in for building or stage maintenance to the right department. There are also frequent inspections for the building that concern all departments, in areas such as health and safety, and compliance with legal requirements. This is all to ensure patron safety. One area that needs maintaining is actually outside the building, above the Box Office itself. There are lots of lights advertising the show, and every now and then this will be cleaned and checked by people who come in via stage door, go to the roof, and abseil down the front! Always fun for the tourists outside!

There will be deliveries for the very many departments too, in-house and for the show including stock for the bars, programmes and merchandise. It's always important to check that delivery people have got the correct theatre!

With time the Stage Door keeper will encounter many different companies involved with theatres. Show departments arrive a few hours before the cast and will include sound, stage electrics (which can be a separate department to the theatre electrics, although often these departments will work together), stage management, wardrobe, and wigs. The SDK will know everyone from every department, and the deputies who will cover for holidays and sickness.

Stage Door Keepers are very much a part of the theatre team, they will help with an emergency and help co-ordinate the evacuation of the building if necessary. As you can imagine, this part of the job is taken very seriously and there are regular checks and drills. Sometimes a fire drill will include cast, they have to by law. This can be interesting for passers-by if there hasn't been time to change out of costume!

We enjoy our jobs and have to prepare for quiet times or very busy times when everything happens at once and you can rest assured that will definitely happen at some point in the day!