

# I AM SMA

## The SMA Introduces:

### I am SMA



**Name:** Sharon Calcutt

**Member Since:** 2002

**Training and first job:** My first job was Stage Manager on a musical, When Harry Met Barry, Upstairs at the Gatehouse. It was going to be my work placement at the end of my course at ALRA... I ended up staying (and getting paid) for the whole run.

**Best job so far?** It's hard to narrow it down to just one job. I'm proud to have been on the team of Into the Hoods~really different and electrifying dance. I enjoy preparing new stage managers for a life in the industry, so working with drama schools in London has been brilliant. I also had an amazing time on an outdoor tour of Twelfth Night. I've been very lucky to work with such excellent teams.

**Favourite SMA moment:** During the second Company Manager Skills Workshop there was a point in conversation when we all realised that each of us faces the same adversities, and a palpable wave of relief went around the room. There are always folk that have dealt with the same, or similar, and they form a huge network of experience and support that's just on the end of the phone. It's quite a comfort.

**Favourite part of the SMA:** Knowing there are other people out there doing the same as me, caring about it just as much as I do.

**SMA helps me ...** keep in touch with what's going on, keep my feet on the ground and understand what's important and what isn't.

**SMA lets me ...** help other stage managers, and stand up for the rights of myself and my colleagues.

**I joined because...** I wanted the support of an organisation to see me through the first few years of my career.

**I continue to be a member because...** it's amazing to have such a large network of skills and experience at your finger tips.

**Your hot tip of the month?** Whilst cable ties are very useful, in the wrong hands they can create chaos. Always keep a pair of snips nearby! (Recently discovered on panto when the dame and a smoke machine got rather attached to each other).

**Famous last words** Put the head back on the baby Jesus and step away from the chicken run...

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**Name:** Lyndsey Holmes

**Member Since:** 2007

**Training and first job:** My first job was ASM on The Caretaker at The Crucible in Sheffield. I have since trained at Mountview and recently graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Technical Theatre. My first job after graduation was on tour with Out of Joint on a show called Bang Bang Bang.

**Best job so far?** I've loved every job I've done so far but my favourite type of job is touring. It's really exciting visiting lots of different venues and keeps the job interesting.

**Favourite SMA moment:** Becoming student and graduate rep! I am enjoying working with the SMA to improve the services they provide to students and graduates. We have some exciting things planned so watch this space.

**Favourite part of the SMA:** Knowing there is always someone at the end of the phone if you need help or advice.

**SMA helps me ...** find work, both through the brilliant freelist and through networking events.

**SMA lets me ...** meet others in the industry

**I joined because...** being a member gives me access to a great support network

**I continue to be a member because...** the SMA is going from strength to strength and it is brilliant to be a part of that.

**Your hot tip of the month?** Copydex will temporarily fix anything!!

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**Name:** Rebecca Emery

**Member Since:** 2005

**Training and first job:** BA (Hons) Degree in Technical Theatre from Rose Bruford College.

**1<sup>st</sup> job after college was:** ASM with book cover at Norwich Playhouse

**Best job so far?**

I can't say best job as I have always been a resident staff member who has worked on many shows at the same venue. My best show would have to be Sweeney Todd which I SM'd at The Watermill and on National Tour. John Doyle and I had a terrific time propping the show and I never got bored of seeing the show from the wings every night. I would still be doing it today if I could have!

**Favourite SMA moment:**

I love phoning new members to see how they are getting on. Last month I had a lovely response from a graduate who couldn't stop enthusing about how lovely it was to feel that they mattered! It gave me a glow inside

**Favourite part of the SMA:**

Being a part of such a diverse yet like minded group of people and knowing we can make it work.

**SMA helps me ...** Keep grounded and in touch with my profession

**SMA lets me ...** Continue to meet new people who understand what I do

**SMA compels me ...**to get other people involved

**I joined because...** I wanted to help Stage managers to step out of the dark and be counted

**I continue to be a member because...** we continue to matter

**My hot tip of the month?** Baby wipes remove almost anything!