



**Theatre Department**

**My first two months as a Music Assistant Trainee;  
August, September and early October 2014**

**By Aleksandra Giersz**



**Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation**

The first two months at the Shakespeare's Globe have been really enjoyable, but at the same time challenging and educative. The first week or two I was getting used to living and working in a new place - the office, all the new faces, the new job and of course the city itself.

The first week I think I was shown around the Globe around four times - each a little bit different. The first day I was showed around by Sarah Murray, who is working in the office with me. She introduced me to everyone and showed me the main rooms I will need to use to get around the Globe. Meeting everyone was a bit intimidating and scary, as I've never worked in such environment before and have never worked with people a good few years older than me. However, everyone in the office is very welcoming, helpful and this healthy atmosphere in the office made me feel right at home. After a couple of weeks I began feeling much more confident in the office and in the job that I am in.

During those first few weeks, I also got the chance to discover and learn a little bit more about Shakespeare, the Shakespeare's Globe and the work done here. I took the public tour of the theatre and spend a good bit of time in the exhibition reading about different musical instruments commonly used in the Globe. The tour made me understand the place and the work that is done here much better and I formed a special connection with it. I've always enjoyed the work of Shakespeare; however, working in this place and on Shakespeare's plays has taught me so much about working in theatre, helping me understand Shakespeare's plays and what people need as resources to put on an amazing show.

I am mainly responsible for the Music Department areas, liaising with the musicians, composers and music shops, the changeovers between the shows, musicians' finance, editing of the music scores and making the rehearsal and depping schedules for each show. I also have a very big input into the decisions that are being made on the small recording studio that is being built in the Globe. So far, consulting with Bill Barclay and James Maloney, I have made a list of suggested equipment which we would like to buy for the studio. Therefore, thanks to the work that I have done on this project so far, I am learning and understanding much more about studio recording, music technology and sound engineering.

To keep track of all of those new things I am learning, I have set up a folder where I include all the different techniques commonly used by music technicians and also different information that will help to apply everything I learn into practice. I have also set up a list of suggested courses I could participate in the upcoming year to develop further in this area. We will be using the grant from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation to fund these courses.

I am also continually encouraged to read and learn about the early music instruments that are often used in the Globe, therefore I decided to do some research on each one of the instruments that I found in the Music Storage Room in the Under Globe and add them into my folder so I could go back to them whenever I feel the need to. The reorganisation of the Music Storage Room also brought me a little bit closer to the instruments here at the Globe, and made me understand their qualities. This, I realise, gives me not only a greater understand of the music that is written for this place, but also gives me the understanding of each the instrument to allow me to experiment a little bit with music composition.

The Globe theatre season has just ended for 2014. Now we are working on the autumn and winter season in the new indoor theatre, the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. Very soon is the first night of the Jacobean tragedy *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* and we will be working in the evenings as well as daytime on technical and dress rehearsals.

Alongside this, we are working on our *Winter by Candlelight* series of concerts and events in the Playhouse. It is very busy indeed. I am also really looking forward to starting my training next year and will continue educating myself in that and other areas.



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Jo Matthews, Trusts & Foundations Officer, October 2014