

Jill Transcript

Theatre Royal, Working in Theatre, Shows, Ballet

My name's Jill and I was born in 1974

I work at the Theatre Royal in Brighton. I've been here, this is gonna be by 9th year, I work Front of House, so ushering, working on the bars. I also do cashiering and I work on the stage door.

I would have to say (most memorable experience working here) there was a show called '*Slava's Snow Show*' which is like old traditional Russian clowning, but it was the spectacle they used the entire auditorium so at the end of it the whole place was covered in snow and there was this huge great big balloon thing, just an incredible show, the whole audience was loving it.

(Any unusual experiences with cast members from any shows?)

Not that I can really tell!

(Audience members?)

You always get the strange ones. Boy George was doing a one night show here and I was ushering, being a bouncer in the stalls and there was this girl who obviously was known to him and she kept shouting abuse at him, one minute and then was hugging people, she was obviously off her face on something, but it ended up I had to pin her in the corner for the entire show, just to keep her out the way!

Oh, I love it. Just the whole atmosphere of the place, getting to see so many different shows, it's just a beautiful building. The history of the whole building and everything. It's just magical. I feel lucky to work here.

(Do you remember any shows where there were big crowds?)

Oh yeah, we get all sorts. When we used to have pantomimes, that was always crowds and crowds of kids so that was craziness. Things like '*Rocky Horror*' which we've got for Christmas again is always really busy, and everybody's dressed up and everybody's drinking so that's quite a crazy, crazy crowd. And other things where it's been really popular, we had '*Waiting for Godot*' with Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart and it was the premier in Brighton and literally not a seat for the entire week, it was just crazy. But good crazy.

(Have you noticed a change in Theatre or in Brighton in general?)

I think we get more one night shows now. Lot's of tribute things. They are popular but there's not so much real plays, which is a shame in a way but at the same time we need to get people coming to see things and if that's what they

wanna see then what can you do. Although we do have things like Agatha Christie as well so it balances out but there's definitely a shift towards the sort of 'hen night brigade' and things like that

(Anything else you'd like to tell people about your experience of theatre or ballet?)

Just come to the theatre because it's an amazing place. People don't come that often and then when they do... You can get the same priced ticket as the cinema nowadays and yet you get this whole live experience and the atmosphere. I managed to get some free tickets for a show and knew it was something a couple of friends of mine would really like, and he'd never been to the theatre before and he got here, and he's welsh and really funny. And he sat there and went "It's not on the telly!" and he thought it was gonna be a big screen! And he was absolutely gobsmacked that it was live and that just shows how much people don't come to the theatre anymore but when they do they love it.