



THE ONE AND ONLY SHADOW-A-DSM SCHEME

There are a **number** of reasons why you might want to see a Stage Manager or Deputy Stage Manager in action. A few classic cases are:

1. You love theatre, and want to get involved somehow, but the limelight definitely isn't for you – so you want to know how backstage works.
2. You've been appointed as SM or DSM on a show for the first time in Cambridge, and have had your ADC training, but you still lack some confidence and would like to see it done.
3. You're looking to get into directing, but you don't feel you have enough of an idea of the technical workings of a show and therefore think it would be beneficial to see it 'from the other side' first.
4. You're already a director, actor or techie experienced in another field, and are interested in emigrating to Stage Management, or simply in gaining a better appreciation of your current role and how it 'fits in' more broadly.
5. You just fancy it.

Each term the SM/Producers' Rep will pick out the shows that seem most suitable, representative and exciting for people to shadow, and will approach SMs and DSMs on those shows to see if they would be prepared to take on shadows. Shows are selected with one of **three** types of shadowing experience in mind:

1. **SHADOW-A-DSM: THE MONSTER** One large-scale show will be selected, normally ideal for people in most of the circumstances described above.
2. **SHADOW-A-DSM: THE MOUSE** One small-scale show will be selected, ideal for those appointed SM for the first time on a relatively small show, who don't necessarily need to know about all the complications of running a busy show.
3. **SHADOW-A-DSM: THE FULL PACKAGE** One show will be selected that will give a real flavour of the broader *process* involved in the staging of a production, rather than the night-to-night running and maintenance of an already working show. Ideal especially for those looking to get into directing but want to know how the technical side works once production week kicks in.

The Monster and Mouse experiences last for one night. We will put you in touch with the SM or DSM for the show in question, and they will give you a full list of instructions, such as to when and where to turn up and what to wear (usually full blacks). Before the show starts,

they will give you a full backstage tour and will take you through all their set-up procedures. During the performance, you will be able to follow them around and they will do their best to explain everything as they work and answer any questions you might have. Please note that some SMs or DSMs may ask you to restrict questions to before and after the show (and during the interval) – this is particularly common if the show is relatively complex.

The Full Package is an ongoing experience, the specifics of which are arranged between you and the individual SM/DSM, according to your availability and preferences; the SM/DSM will help you plan your experience by suggesting specific 'key events' that would be valuable for you to see in action. This will usually include a rehearsal towards the end of the rehearsal period, a 'Paper Tech', a Technical Rehearsal, a Dress Rehearsal, a first night and a last night. It can also include earlier rehearsals, production meetings and mid-run performances – you decide.

If you have a special reason, we can also tailor-make packages to suit your needs. For instance, you might fancy shadowing a particular show that isn't on offer under any of the suggested packages for that term. Or you might like to experience the Monster show as a Full Package (or vice versa). All you have to do is ask.

The three standard packages will be advertised on the ADC Techie List, the ADC website and in the ADC Clubroom as early on in the term as possible. For each package, you are able to shadow an SM, DSM or both (one per act, swapping over at the interval). If you're not sure which package to apply for, or if you're unsure as to whether to shadow an SM or DSM, you can **always** seek the advice of the SM/Producers' Rep, or indeed that of anyone else on the ADC Committee. For more information on the distinction between SM and DSM, see the information available in the Stage Managing section of the club's website (www.cuadc.org).

Once all requests are in, we will then assess whether or not it is possible to match all requests to shows – normally it is. Do remember, though, that the more **background information** and reasons you'd like to get involved that you can provide, and the more **enthusiastic** you sound, the more likely it is that your application will be approved in the event that we receive more requests than places available. If you can try and isolate which of the six categories at the top you might fall into, for instance, that would give us a relatively good idea of what will be most helpful.

Lent Term 08 offers the following standard packages:

<u>Package</u>	<u>Show</u>	<u>Dates</u>
THE MONSTER	<i>Into the Woods</i>	11-22 Mar from 7.15pm OR 15/22 Mar from 2pm
THE MOUSE	<i>Follies</i>	6-9 Feb from 10.30pm OR 9 Feb from 2pm
THE FULL PACKAGE	<i>Into the Woods</i>	n/a (ongoing experience)

E-mail Joe Hytner on sm@cuadc.org with any questions or to apply. If you are applying, be sure to include the following FIVE pieces of information: (1) a proposed package and show, (2) whether you'd like to shadow an SM, DSM or both, (3) three dates, in order of preference, that you're available for shadowing, (4) your mobile number, and (5) the reason(s) why you'd like to be a shadow in the first place.