



Association
of Irish
Stage
Technicians

What is the AIST?

The AIST was formed by a group of Theatre Technical staff with concerns about Health & Safety practices in the Arts and Entertainment Industry. The AIST aims to promote these issues through providing training, by setting high standards of practice and providing information resources and support.

The association provides a full and varied programme of top-quality, professional training courses at subsidised prices making them accessible to all and promotes adherence to the current Health and Safety legislation within the industry and informs members of changes to that legislation.

The AIST also undertakes long term large scale projects, such as the current programs establishing a codes of practice for the industry and the replacement of the building industries "Safe Pass" with a "Stage Pass", specific to the entertainment industry.

The association's web site contains resources for members along with forums for discussion of both industry and social topics. It also contains entertainment employment advertisements.

In 2008 the AIST have presented Professional Training Courses, held throughout the year as part of our development programme with over 80

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participants successfully completing them.

The following courses have been delivered :

- Taking out a tour. (for Stage Managers)
- Height access & ladders. (For Technicians)
- Flying & manual handling. (For technicians)
- Manual handling. (For everyone)
- Sound essentials. (For Everyone)
- Production risk assessment. (For Production Managers)
- Cueing from music. (for Stage Managers)
- Rigging for the entertainment industry. (For Technicians)

The association also presents seminars to promote understanding of the technical and production aspects of events and entertainment to non technical personal involved in the industry, particularly in the management; such as the two seminars for Theatre Forum specifically for producers in an effort to inform them as to best practice and highlight the need for a combined approach to Health and Safety from all involved in the industry. Also the seminar presented for The Dublin Fringe Festival which was for all the production managers of companies taking part in the festival to inform them of their legal obligations and responsibilities under current legislation and of what the festival required from them, including relevant production documentation.

Our website address... www.aist.ie

Stage Pass

“Originally stage pass came out of the realisation that the safe pass was of little use to theatre people who generally don't die of weils disease, cement poisoning or backing forklifts into electricity wires.”
Marie Tierney - One of the Architects of the Stage Pass

The Stage Pass is an entertainment industry specific safety awareness course, and was developed to give a basic level of knowledge to workers on event sites and in entertainment venues during production phases; making them aware of the specific dangers involved.

From an initial meeting with the HSA it has taken several years of research and development to reach the pilot scheme which is currently running in conjunction with Inchicore VEC technical theatre training department. Soon the full role out of the course will be available to all AIST members.

Future Training

In 2009 the AIST will be running many more professional training courses, amongst which will be:

- Rigging for the entertainment industry. A three day course presented at Total Training's dedicated centre in Birmingham. Essential training for Riggers and Technicians
- Production risk assessment. Essential for ensuring that the relevant people have the expertise to adhere to the legal requirement for written Risk Assessments
- Risk assessment for Stage Managers. Specifically aimed at stage managers & their role in the production process. The benefits , direct & indirect, of

risk assessments in the rehearsal space & performance space are explored.

- Knots and splicing. Handling different ropes and tying knots must be done proficiently and safely in our industry.
- Height access towers & ladders. Working at height is one of the major risk factors in theatre.
- Hemp flying and manual handling. Hemp flying is common in many venues and carries major risk both to the worker and to others if not competently carried out
- MEWP Driving course. MEWP's or Mobile elevated work platforms is the generic term to describe all types of powered height access equipment. They are becoming more widely used as a preferred method of access. However it is essential that users are trained to operate MEWP's safely & correctly in accordance with safety legislation.

We want you!

Should you be interested in joining the Association of Irish Stage Technicians, or have any queries please contact us at info@aist.ie, or by post at AIST, c/o Dunamais Arts Centre, Church Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

The Aims of the association:

- Set and promote the standards of practice within the industry.
 - Facilitate further training for it's members.
 - Be a resource of information for the industry.
 - Promote standard wages, hours and working conditions.
 - Provide members with information on Professional Insurance and Pensions.
- Note that the AIST is not a union for does it wish to provide that role.