

### **Set Design:**

Graduate would need to get work experience with amateur dramatics group/jobbridge internship

For film need to be on art directors' register.

### **Useful websites:**

[www.stage.co.uk](http://www.stage.co.uk)

[www.angels.uk.com](http://www.angels.uk.com)

## **Introduction**

An Assistant Art Director in the film and television industry assists and supports the Art Director and the work of the art department.

## **Work Activities**

The Assistant Art Director works on the instructions of the Art Director and under his/her supervision. Generally, the work involves researching the period the production is set in to determine the styles of the period (such as colors and paint styles in use and types of furniture, fabrics, buildings and lettering used in signs at that time).

An Assistant Art Director would do drawing and draughting of sets and surveying of locations being used. Technical drawing skills are required. The Assistant Art Director sometimes makes models of sets, according to the Production Designers' vision of how they should look.

An Assistant Art Director might be given responsibility for overseeing the preparation of a location and whatever changes must be made to it to suit the production style. During production, an Assistant Art Director works "on stand-by", i.e., working on the set/shoot with the Director and crew. He/she is there as the art department representative, dealing with any problems and new requirements that may arise. Another Assistant Art Director would be working ahead with the Art Director ensuring that the next set or location is in order.

An Assistant works with the Director, Construction Manager and craftsperson in the construction of the sets and then liaises with the props department and set dresser in the completion of the sets.

The work of an Assistant Art Director varies according to the size and resources of the production. Lower budget productions would require Assistant Art Directors to do the work that would be undertaken by Model Makers and Draughts persons on larger scale productions.

## **Personal Qualities and Skills**

An Assistant Art Director is required to have Technical drawing skills and a knowledge of architectural styles and periods is expected. It is also important to have the ability to work as part of a team.

## **Pay and Opportunities**

Pay rates vary depending on the media of the work and the size/status of the production. On average assistant art directors earn in the range of EUR20k to EUR25k a year. Senior designers earn around EUR35k a year. Higher earners may make EUR55k a year or more.

## **Entry Routes and Training**

Many trainees in art direction are recruited from art colleges and architecture courses. Others working in the field have come from a theatre background or working on student/short films.

The starting position in the art department is as a Trainee Art Director. This is governed by the art department in the film and video section of The Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU).

As is the case with most careers in the industry, on-the-job training and experience are most valuable but there are a number of courses available that train students in some relevant skills.

## **Qualifications**

To join SIPTU as a Trainee, applications must be accompanied by a detailed CV and a portfolio of work showing the applicants abilities.

Trainees must then work under the supervision of an Art Director and can apply for upgrading to Assistant Art Director when they have fulfilled the requirements. Qualifications required to upgrade include experience of working on at least three films and two television commercials, or on ten commercials and two films, as well as written recommendations from at least three Art Directors the Trainee has worked with.

Those intending to enter any of the courses are recommended to consult the prospectuses from the individual institutions for course details and specific entry requirements.

LIR MFA in Fine Art –Stage design

This is purely for theatre

No full time set designers in Ireland

Placement:

First placement Lir Theatre has 10 shows a year one of the placements is to work with the director

Second placement is to work with a director of an outside show and this takes up to 10 weeks'

Throughout year directors and theatre personnel are coming in to teach etc.

Go to contemporary shows and meet directors

Theatre festival –Q&A sessions and meet directors

To work in film production you must be registered with SIPTU

Phone Aileen in Service in SIPTU 8588216 and ask for form to be added on to register at entry level/trainee. Four signatures are required on the form from people working in the industry. If you have at least two signatures SIPTU will help you with other two. To progress to next level another form is available from SIPTU which needs to be signed by the Head of Department who you are currently working with.

[www.irishtheatreonline.com](http://www.irishtheatreonline.com)