

opera
north

Sewing Assistant



Opera North's purpose is to create extraordinary experiences every day, using music and opera to entertain, engage, challenge and inspire.

Our people

Working at Opera North you will be part of a company and group of people committed to fulfilling this purpose. Whatever role you take we will provide you with an induction plan that introduces you to your job and the team you'll be working in, as well as giving you the opportunity to meet colleagues across the company. Our success in delivering against our purpose will be built on the commitment, skills, diversity and well-being of the people who work at Opera North, and we will invest in training to develop our people both professionally and personally, because we believe this strengthens not only our company, but also the wider creative sector.



Simon Boccanegra 2025: James Glossop

Our communities and audiences are part of us and we are part of them.



Our award-winning work tours to theatre stages and concert halls throughout the North and beyond.



Who we are

Based in Leeds, rooted in the North of England and international in outlook, our award-winning work tours to theatre stages and concert halls throughout the North and beyond, including to London and major international festivals. Alongside touring opera, in Leeds we curate an eclectic artistic programme of gigs, concerts, spoken word and film in the Howard Assembly Room. We aim to make work that is bold, innovative and ambitious, always looking for new ways to share and create with audiences.

Music for everyone

Opera North believes opera and music is for everyone, and champions diversity in artists, repertoire and audiences. Through our Learning & Engagement team, the Company connects with communities and inspires each generation, aiming to enhance the health and well-being of people in the cities, towns and villages where we work through arts participation and performance.

Howard Opera Centre and the HAR

In 2021 we moved into the Howard Opera Centre. It is a world class rehearsal facility for our orchestra, chorus and all the artists we work with, sharing the same building as our new education studio where everyone is welcome to learn about and make music. We have also created a modern flexible working environment for our staff and given our venue, the Howard Assembly Room, a new lease of life with a dedicated entrance and public spaces, together with restaurant and bar in the heart of Leeds.

Leeds as a capital of culture

Leeds is the only city in England outside of London to have a resident full time opera company, ballet and repertoire theatre as part of a diverse, collaborative and thriving cultural scene. That rich offer has been complemented by a growing tech sector. Surrounded by the stunning Yorkshire countryside including the Dales, Moors and North Sea coastline, Leeds is a fantastic place to live and work.

Purpose of the role

This role provides a full range of costume-making and altering services within the Costume Department at Opera North to ensure that all garments are created in line with the patterns and specifications. The role helps to ensure that costumes are finished on time and ready for productions.

Reports to

Ladies Cutter

Key accountabilities

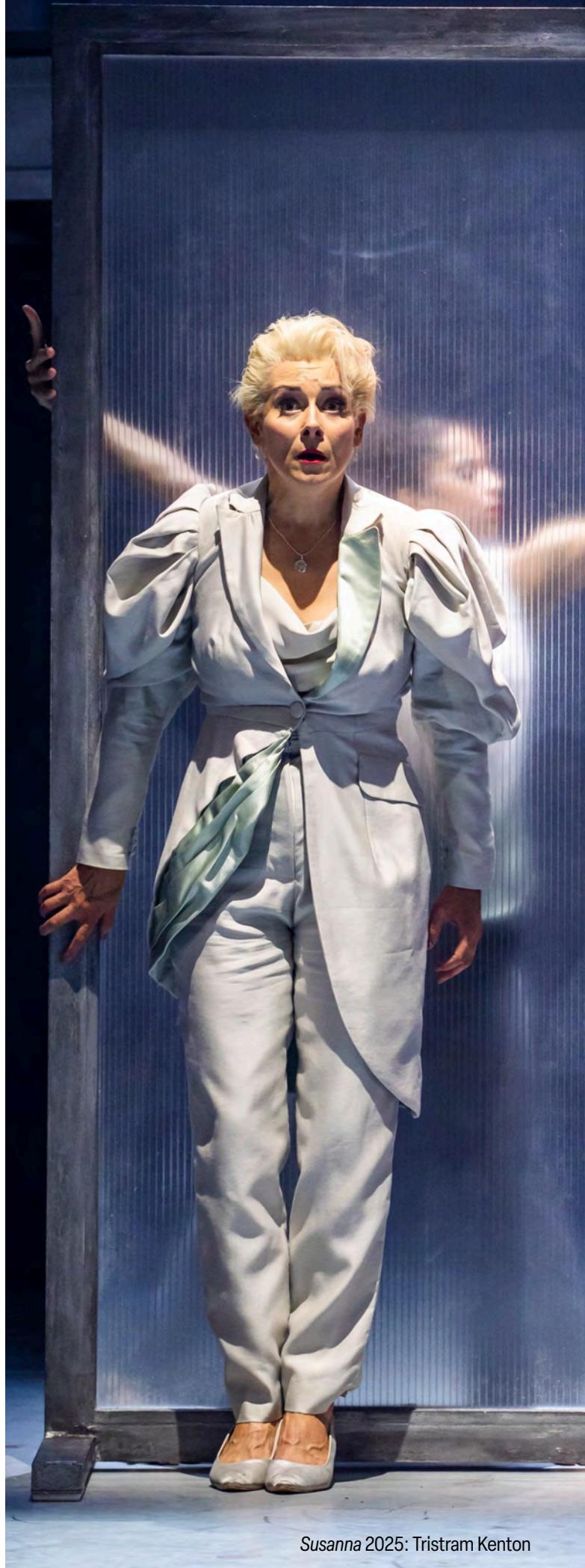
- Be familiar with sewing terminology, techniques and various machines.
- Sew costumes using various fabrics and materials, strictly adhering to the pattern to ensure the correct fit for the costume wearer and to the highest standard.
- Repair, alter, restyle or resize garments as requested ensuring changes meet design specifications.
- Inspect finished products to ensure their quality meets the standard required

Equipment Management

- Be responsible for setting up and maintaining sewing machines and equipment to ensure it is in good working condition
- Request replenishment of sewing supplies and materials in a timely manner.
- Always follow safety procedures and guidelines when using sewing machines to maintain a safe work environment.

Communication

- Communicate with team members and supervisors to ensure projects are completed on time and to specification.
- Help with costume sewing, follow instructions, maintain quality, meet deadlines, and report any issues to the Costume Cutter
- Performs related duties or projects as assigned / directed.



Susanna 2025: Tristram Kenton

Job Requirements

Experience / skills required:

- Demonstrable experience of working in a costume environment, ideally within opera/ballet or large-scale repertory theatre.
- Skills in hand sewing and using both domestic and industrial sewing machines.
- Attention to detail and a commitment to high-quality standards.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team to meet deadlines and production schedules.



Rigoletto 2022: Clive Barda



Terms and conditions

Contract type: Full-time, Fixed-term

Salary: £25,998 per annum

Hours of work: 35 hours per week plus paid overtime

Holiday entitlement: 33 days inclusive of 8 statutory holidays, per annum

Pension: Opera North will automatically enroll you into the company pension scheme upon appointment and after 3 months' service will contribute equivalent to 5.5% of your basic pay, should you meet the current legislative criteria. You will be required to make a personal contribution of 2.5% of your basic pay. We reserve the right to make future changes to our pension arrangements.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

We promote equity, diversity and inclusion in our workplace and make recruitment decisions by matching our needs with the skills and experience of the candidate. As we work to address underrepresentation in our workforce, we are particularly keen to hear from applicants from the global majority or those with other protected characteristics.

The successful candidate must have the right to work in the UK or be ready to obtain it.

General responsibilities of everyone who works for us:

- Represent the company values and purpose to create extraordinary experiences everyday
- Work collaboratively and co-operatively with all team members and take an active part in team meetings and discussions
- Be an ambassador for Opera North and follow our policies and procedures
- Play your part in ensuring that everyone who comes through our door is welcomed and treated with respect

How to apply

To apply for this role, please send a CV and covering letter via the Hireful website.

If you need any help completing your application including any adjustments to the application process please contact appointments@operanorth.co.uk to make us aware.

Good luck with your application and we look forward to hearing from you.