

EMPLOYMENT POSTING**Lead Scenic Artist****Seasonal**

Pacific Opera Victoria is currently accepting applications for seasonal production positions for the 2026-2027 season. These positions are seasonal contracts running from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 with the Pacific Opera shop typically operating from July to May. All Opera Shop production staff work under the jurisdiction of IATSE Local 168.

HOURS OF WORK:

The typical work week is Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. The positions require some evening and weekend work, and hours will vary depending on production schedules.

- Carpentry, 8:00am-4:30pm
- Wardrobe, 8:30am-5:00pm
- Props, 8:30am-5:00pm
- Paint, 8:00am – 4:30pm Wednesday – Sunday

JOB SUMMARY

The Lead Scenic Artist works in coordination with the Head Scenic Artist to paint and produce specialty finishes such as marble, wood grain, aging, breakdown, and other faux finishes. They must be able to execute painting of a pictorial nature on any scale including backdrops and cut-outs. They must also be able to assume all responsibilities in the absence of the Head Scenic Artist.

SKILLS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Apply advanced scenic painting techniques including wood grain, marble, aging, distressing, and other faux finishes
- Execute pictorial painting on a variety of scales, including large-scale backdrops and cut-outs, with precision and attention to detail
- Prepare surfaces, apply primers and sealers, and create textures as specified in the scenic designs
- Mix and match colours accurately; apply washes, glazes, and other finish techniques
- Use drawing, layout, scaling, and stencil creation techniques to translate designs into scenic finishes
- Work effectively with a variety of materials including canvas, wood, foam, metal, and plastics
- Use scenic paint products safely and effectively (latex, acrylic, dyes, dry pigments etc.)
- Adapt techniques and materials to align with designer intent and respond to changes in creative direction
- Organize paint shop, tools, inventory, and materials
- Ensure safe use of ladders, lifts, spray equipment, and chemicals in accordance with safety standards
- Collaborate with scenic carpentry, props, and technical departments to achieve production goals
- Attend production and company meetings and onstage note sessions as required

- Demonstrate problem-solving and adaptability in a fast-paced production environment
- Ensure a safe, clean, and organized work environment in compliance with safety standards
- Promote and uphold a respectful, inclusive, and professional workplace
- Communicate clearly, respectfully, and professionally with designers, team members and production staff

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum 3 years of professional experience in theatrical scenic art
- Post-secondary education in fine arts, theatre production, or equivalent professional experience
- Supervisory experience working in unionized and collaborative production environments an asset
- Strong working knowledge of scenic painting materials, tools, and application techniques
- Proficiency with shop and personal safety standards
- Excellent attention to detail and strong organizational skills
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively under tight deadlines
- Valid Class 5 BC driver's license (asset)
- First Aid certification (asset)
- Fall Arrest and Elevated Work Platform Certification (asset)
- Physically able to lift up to 50 lbs., work at heights, use stairs and ladders, and work with paints and solvents in various environments

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:

2025-2026 Hourly Wage: \$35.99+ benefits (2026-2027 rates subject to negotiation of 2026-2029 Collective Agreement)

Benefits include:

- 5% in employer RRSP contributions
- 5% vacation pay
- 4% in lieu of benefits
- Access to a health and welfare fund paid for by Pacific Opera and administered by IATSE Local 168
- Guaranteed Minimum Hours for the season: 700

PRODUCTION DATES:

Show 1 - (Il Trovatore)

Set Paint: August 26 – October 4, 2026 (6 wks)

Touch up day: Oct 12, 2026 (1 day)

Co-Pro Build - (La traviata)

Set Paint: Dec 16-20, 2026, Jan 6-Feb 7, 2027 (6 wks)

Show 2 - (Hansel & Gretel)

Touch up day: Feb 15, 2027 (1 day)

Show 3 - (Magic Flute)

Set Paint: Feb 24 – March 21, 2027 (4 wks)

Touch up day: March 29, 2027 (1 day)

*Subject to Change

*Holiday Shop Closure: Sat Dec 19, 2026 – Sun Jan 3, 2027

ABOUT PACIFIC OPERA VICTORIA:

Pacific Opera Victoria is one of the most influential professional opera companies in Canada. Its inspired repertoire comprises original productions of classic favourites and lesser known works, as well as new commissions, co-productions, and collaborations with other companies and arts organizations across the country. From its home in the Baumann Centre, Pacific Opera Victoria creates significant career opportunities for creative and performing artists and curates opera in surprising ways – enticing newcomers and captivating loyal opera-goers.

Pacific Opera Victoria identifies Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Reconciliation among its Core Values and encourages applications from candidates of diverse backgrounds.

APPLICATIONS:

Please submit cover letter, resume and portfolio electronically to:

Include in Subject Header: 2026-2027 Seasonal Shop Position – Lead Scenic Artist

Email to: jobs@pacificopera.ca

ATTN: Christopher Sibbald, Director of Production & Artistic Administration

Applications will be reviewed as received. The position will remain open until filled.

We thank all applicants for their interest. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.