

John Botteley

Teitl Swydd: Cyfarwyddwr Theatr, Grand Opera House (Belfast)
Cymwysterau: Tyst Add mewn Celfyddydau a Dyluniad
(Coleg Westminster, Rhydychen), Lefel-A Mathemateg ar gyfer Gwyddoniaeth

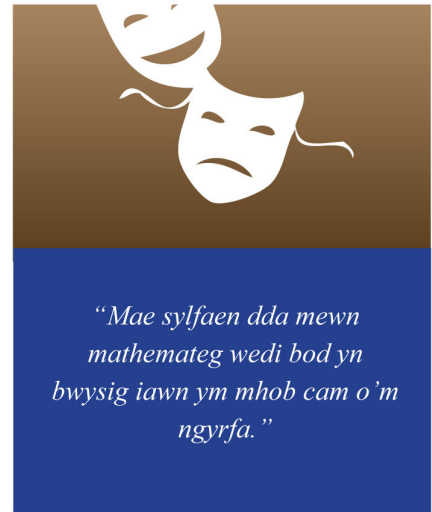
Mae sylfaen dda mewn mathemateg wedi bod yn bwysig iawn ym mhob cam o'm gyrfa. Rwyf wedi ei defnyddio o'm dyddiau cynnar mewn dylunio ac adeiladu golygfa, i'm gyrfa ddiweddarach mewn gosod a monitro cyllidebau, gwneud cytundebau ariannol gyda chwmnïau theatr sy'n ymweld, cyfrifiadau treth a dadansoddiad ystadegol o werthiannau ticedi.

Cefais fy hyfforddi fel athro ysgol iau, a dysgu am flyddyn, ond yna euthum ymlaen i weithio yn y theatr. Dechreuais fel saer coed llwyfan a rheolwr llwyfan cynorthwyol, a gweithio fy ffordd i fyny i'm lefel bresennol fel prif weithredwr theatr. Rwyf wedi rheoli'r Grand Theatre yn Wolverhampton, yr Alhambra Theatre yn Bradford, ac yn awr rwyf yn gyfarwyddwr y Grand Opera House 1000-sedd yn Belfast.

Yn fuan ar ôl gadael yr ysgol, roeddwn yn saer coed llwyfan a gofynnwyd i ni

adeiladu darn o olygfa o bren haenog fyddai'n gorwedd ar ganol y llwyfan. Y darn hwn oedd y man ble'r oedd y cymeriadau'n casglu o'i amgylch. Roedd dylunydd y ddrama wedi dylunio popeth ar y set mewn persbectif, felly roedd adeiladu'r gwrthrych yn cynnwys geometreg gymhleth iawn a dehongliad manwl gywir o gynlluniau. Drwy ddefnyddio'r sgiliau mathemategol yr oeddwn wedi'u hennill roeddwn yn gallu dehongli'r cynlluniau a'i adeiladu. Yn ddiweddarach, cafodd y ddrama ei ffilmio gan y BBC a bu iddynt ofyn am gael defnyddio ein darn o'r olygfa, gan nad oedd seiri coed y BBC yn gallu ei ail-greu eu hunain.

Yn fy swydd bresennol, rwyf yn rheoli cyllidebau o dros £5 miliwn yn flynyddol ac rwyf yn defnyddio mathemateg i gyfrifo incwm posib o werthiannau, gan gynnwys cyfrifiadau manwl o sut bydd gostwng neu gynyddu prisiau seddi unigol yn effeithio ar enillion posib. Mae angen i mi allu deall adroddiadau



ariannol cymhleth sy'n cael eu cynhyrchu gan fy nghyfarwyddwr masnachol, a chyflwyno'r rhain i'n bwrdd. Fodd bynnag, teimlaf mai'r sgiliau mwyaf defnyddiol a ddatblygodd drwy astudio lefel-A mathemateg oedd y gallu i ddatrys problemau a dull meddwl dadansodol.

John Botteley

Job Title: Theatre Director, Grand Opera House (Belfast)
Qualifications: A level Maths for Science

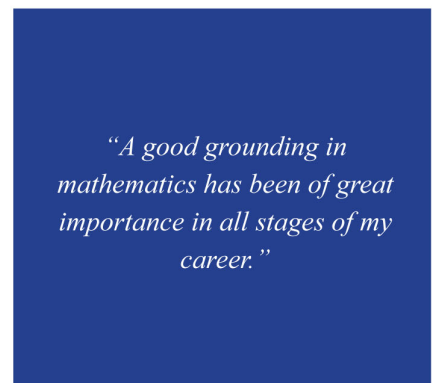
A good grounding in mathematics has been of great importance in all stages of my career.

I have used it from my early days in scenery design and construction, to my later career in budget setting and monitoring, doing financial deals with visiting theatre companies, tax calculations and statistical analysis of ticket sales.

I trained as a junior school teacher, and taught for a year, but then went on to work in theatre. I started as a stage carpenter and assistant stage manager, and worked my way up to my current level as a theatre chief executive. I have managed the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton, the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford and I am now theatre director of the 1000-seat Grand Opera House in Belfast.

Shortly after leaving school, I was a stage carpenter and we were asked to build a piece of scenery out of plywood which would sit in the centre of the stage. The piece was to be the place around which the characters congregated during their breaks. The designer of the play had designed everything on the set in perspective, so building the object in perspective involved very complicated geometry and the accurate interpretation of plans. Using my mathematical skills I was able to interpret the plans and build it. Later, the play was filmed by the BBC and they asked to use our piece of scenery as the BBC carpenters were unable to recreate it themselves.

In my current job, I manage budgets in excess of £5 million annually and I use maths to calculate potential income from sales, including detailed



calculations of how decreasing or increasing individual seat prices will affect potential earnings. I need to be able to understand complex financial reports produced by my commercial director, and present these to our board. However, I think the most useful skills that developed out of studying maths at A level were an ability to solve problems and an analytical way of thinking.