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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Royal Opera House Apprentice Cruze Foggo lands dream job

**22 year old Cruze Foggo from Grays has landed his dream job after completing a Royal Opera House apprenticeship.**

Cruze will be working for Delstar Tait, a world leader in designing, constructing and delivering live event equipment. The job will entail lots of time in America, somewhere Cruze has always wanted to work.

Having always had an interest in live events and theatre, Cruze began studying a technical theatre course and working part time in his family's business, Lakeside Containers Services, where he, in his own words, 'stumbled into metalwork', helping convert and repair shipping containers.

After college, he was able to combine his love of theatre and metalwork by doing an apprenticeship as a scenic metalworker at the Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop in Purfleet.

*'The apprenticeship has taught me how to take a drawing from a designer for a piece of scenery and turn it into a reality. I've learnt the specialist techniques for theatre set construction and how to use the tools such as welders, grinders and band saws. These tools, coupled with some engineering, maths, precision and patience, all come together to create and finish the scenery to the highest standard. The Royal Opera House apprenticeship was a perfect opportunity for me as it fused my love of metalwork and theatre together and opened up a door into this industry. It's been incredibly satisfying to see something on stage at the Royal Opera House that I built,' he says.*

**Mark Pursey** is the **Head of Construction** at the **Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop**. He values the role apprenticeships play in the work of the production teams: *'Apprentices really do add something to the team, there is no doubt about that. The guys really enjoy having someone around they can pass their knowledge on to.'*

**Bendy Ashfield, Apprenticeships Manager** at the **Royal Opera House** said: *'We are thrilled that Cruze is moving to Delstar, though very sad to see him go. He has made the absolute most of every opportunity his apprenticeship has offered him which is evidenced by his move to Delstar. He is leaving with a Level 3 Welding and Fabrication Apprenticeship qualification and three years, wide experience in our workshop as well as at Delstar and Opera Holland Park where he went on placements. Whilst at the ROH he has also worked on our productions in several other venues including the national tour of Sukanya where he learnt an awful lot in a very short space of time. I have no doubt that Cruze will go on to brilliant things in the industry.'*

**To find out more about apprenticeships at the Royal Opera House, please go to [www.roh.org.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.roh.org.uk/apprenticeships)**

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### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock**

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools' projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: [www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus](http://www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus). Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing [getinvolved@roh.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@roh.org.uk) or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built, and the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre, which opened in October 2015, are now available. Please go to [www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours](http://www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours) for further details.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: [www.hhpp.org.uk](http://www.hhpp.org.uk)