

2026 Season

Head Fly System Operator Job Description

Palm Beach Opera is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all facets of the organization, and is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, sex, age, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, military service and veteran status, or genetic information.

Term: (3) production weeks – (January 19-25, February 16-22, March 13-22) 2026

Salary: Position is governed by the collective bargaining agreement between PBO and IATSE local 500

The Head Fly System Operator, a key leadership position, will work with the Director of Production (DP), Technical Director (TD), Head Electrician, Head Carpenter (HC), and Stage Management in overseeing all Counterweight (Fly) System operations for all Palm Beach Opera productions. This encompasses change-overs, load-ins, rehearsals, performances and load outs at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts-Dreyfoos Stage. Ensuring the safe and efficient operation of all rigging, fly equipment, scenic/lighting/audio elements that are raised, lowered, or moved through the air, as well as maintaining the highest safety standards in accordance with industry best practices. Position responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following duties:

Responsibilities:

- Supervise the rigging and operation of all flown scenery, drops, electrics, and masking.
- Advance PBO's "Hang Plot" placements with the Kravis Center Head Carpenter ahead of the scheduled pre-hang and restore operations.
- Coordinating with the overnight flyman for PBO's lighting pre-hang & soft goods change-over.
- Review with weight loaders on safe practices, effective communication, and proper procedures for adding and removing counterweights on arbors.
- Provide support during load-ins and load-outs, coordinating the handling of all fly equipment.
- Ensure proper weights, line-sets, and cue sequences are implemented for each production.
- Lead and manage the fly crew operators during load-ins, technical rehearsals, performances, and load-outs.
- Conduct safety checks on all flown elements before each performance or rehearsal.
- Maintain clear communication with the Stage Manager, Head Carpenter, and Head Electrician as well as other departments to ensure the seamless integration of fly system operations within the overall design of the production.
- Assist with the installation and de-installation of scenic elements, ensuring their proper rigging and placement on stage.
- Provide feedback and suggest improvements for ease of use, efficiency, and safety for the PBO Productions.
- Be available for all technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances, ensuring the fly system operates smoothly.
- Troubleshoot and resolve any technical issues that arise during rehearsals or performances, ensuring minimal disruption to the show.
- Maintain accurate records of weight changes to flown scenery and soft goods.

Qualifications:

- **Experience:**
 - Minimum of 5 years of experience working with fly systems and rigging in a live performance environment, preferably in opera, theater, or similar venues.
 - Proven experience in supervising and leading a technical crew, with a focus on safety, communication and efficiency.
 - Familiarity with opera and theater production processes, terminology, and workflow.
- **Skills & Knowledge:**
 - In-depth knowledge of fly systems, rigging hardware, and safety protocols.
 - Strong problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot fly system issues quickly and effectively.
 - Excellent communication skills, with the ability to work collaboratively with a diverse team.
 - Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
 - Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines with grace and collaboration.
- **Physical Requirements:**
 - Ability to lift heavy objects (up to 50 pounds) and work in high places.
 - Must be able to wrap, hold and slip 500lbs on a counterweight system.
 - Fly scenic pieces of 1000lbs or more.
 - Ability to work in a fast-paced, physically demanding environment.
 - Comfort working with heights, ropes, and rigging systems.
 - Stand for long periods of time. Work long (12+ hour) days while in production.

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to jbruckerhoff@pbopera.org

Reports to: Director of Production