

LIVE YOUR PASSION

to health and safety standards and teamwork. I've attended several courses over the years, both locally and outside of Namibia', he notes.

FAMILY MAN

Away from the demands of work, Gerrie appreciates the company of his close-knit family. His wife, Giovanna and two-year old daughter, Keziah keep him grounded as he continues to reach for the stars. "They are what is most important to me. I mean, what more could a man ask for? A loving wife, a beautiful daughter, a supporting family and his dream job. I'm happy", he concludes.



Gerhardus Engelbrecht - passionate, driven and humble. Through hard work, self-belief, dedication, and the loving support of his family, he has transformed his disability into ability. His story teaches us that with persistence, it's possible to defy the odds. He is living his dream. He is living his passion!

When everything works from a smaller theatre system to a big outdoor concert setup; when you connect everything and it works 100%, that is the fun factor about my job



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What does it take to become a **SOUND TECHNICIAN**?

The different sounds used in TV shows and films and in events such as concerts staged in halls and stadiums need to be clear, crisp and emphatic. Consequently, the practical and technical skills of sound and staging technicians are absolutely essential for providing the audience with a satisfying multi-sensory experience. Generally, technicians who work on the sound production side of things are responsible for checking and preparing all the sound equipment for shoots, carrying out additional practical tasks to minimise unwanted sounds on set, evaluating the acoustics of a particular studio or location, and positioning recording equipment in the right place. Technicians on the staging side, in turn, interpret stage layout specifications and blueprints, install and rig lighting and sound equipment and scenery for theatrical, musical, and other entertainment events in arenas, stadiums, theaters, studios, and other amusement places.

Skills & Knowledge

Understandably, technicians need a certain amount of technical ability and a detailed knowledge of the science of sound. Consequently, courses in areas such as sound technology, sound engineering, electrical engineering or media production, will be particularly valuable. Spatial and mathematical skills are also important in interpreting stage layout specifications and blueprints to set up the props, scenery, lighting, and sound equipment required for a specific event.



Training

Training is mostly done 'on-the-job' under the supervision of senior technicians. The next best thing to have is a portfolio of work that demonstrates your talent. Work experience is everything. It can be a great way to get your foot in the door and a fantastic opportunity for building up a network of industry contacts.



Working Conditions

Sound and staging technicians work in a variety of different areas, from TV advertisements and panel shows to feature films and sporting and concert events that are covered on live TV. If you become a sound and stage technician, it's likely that you'll find yourself working long, irregular and unsociable hours. The nature of film, television and event production means that your expertise could be required at any time of the day. You may even be required to work at the weekend from time to time.

You will also usually find yourself working in a variety of different places, i.e. in studios and on-set in remote locations. Physical fitness and dexterity are very important for technicians as they often climb ladders or scaffolding, crawling and balancing on beams,

inserting ends of cables or ropes through grids, and attaching cables to scenery, equipment, support pipes, and counterbalance weights.

From starting out as a trainee or assistant sound and stage technician, you will gradually progress up the ranks into senior positions. Eventually, technicians tend to specialise in one particular area. For instance, you might become a sound supervisor during the production process, or you might become a sound and music editor during post-production. Many sound technicians eventually go freelance, working on a variety of different projects with a range of different film, television and staging companies. However, freelance work understandably lacks the job security of a full-time salaried position.

Job Prospects

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You too can live your passion and qualify as a Sound and Staging Technician. If you are detail-oriented, physically fit and strong and possess strong problem solving skills, you are a good candidate.

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