

**THE
THEATRE
GREEN
BOOK**

**AT THE
OLD VIC**



PHOTO: PHILIP VILE

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INTRODUCTION

The Old Vic recognises its responsibility, in light of the ongoing climate emergency, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to assess our wider impact on the environment and to utilise our role as a catalyst for positive change in the performing arts sector.

Increased action is needed to achieve the aim of the UK Climate Change Act to reach Net-Zero emissions by 2050 (if not earlier) and we have committed to become a Net-Zero carbon organisation by that date.

THE THEATRE GREEN BOOK

The Theatre Green Book (TGB) is an industry-wide initiative to work more sustainably in response to the climate emergency.

As part of our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, we have been using TGB since its creation for all our productions. [TGB can be found here](#) and we encourage you to read the short version to get an impression of our own organisational aims.

- TGB is a free resource for anyone (theatre companies, freelancers, schools, etc.) working across the performing arts in any capacity and at any scale
- It provides best practice and shared standards guidance, as well as frameworks for planning and measuring progress based on practical expertise from theatre-makers and reliable methodology from environmental sustainability experts
- TGB is broken up into three 'books': Productions, Operations and Buildings.

BOOK 1: PRODUCTION

We track all materials used in our shows to see what proportion of these have previous and future lives. We analyse this data, using it to inform how we move forward, improve our practice and meet our goals.

We work with our scenic workshops and props and costume supervisors to gather information on the materials we use in our productions, including:

- Set, props and furniture
- Costumes
- Transport (both trucking and cast transport).

We don't track data for lighting, sound or rigging. This equipment is either hired or from stock, with some disposable consumables. However, we are currently looking at how much energy our lighting rigs use per show.

TGB has three levels: **Basic**, **Intermediate** and **Advanced**. We aim to meet the Basic standard as a minimum on all our productions. This means that 50% of all materials used on a show will have had a previous life (e.g. reused from a previous production, hired or borrowed or bought from second hand sources) and 65% of all materials will have a future life (e.g. stored for reuse on a future production, donated to a charity shop or sold on to another company).

There are two further levels, with higher commitment implications:

- **Intermediate:** 60% previous life, 75% future life
- **Advanced:** 75% previous life, 80% future life.

All levels require sustainability to be a point of conversation throughout the production process and for sustainability to be one of the frameworks through which we make decisions — it is not solely about tracking material usage.

Over the last year, The Old Vic has met the Advanced standard on three out of seven full productions and met the Basic standard on a further two. Meeting these standards isn't always easy, so we're proud of this achievement.

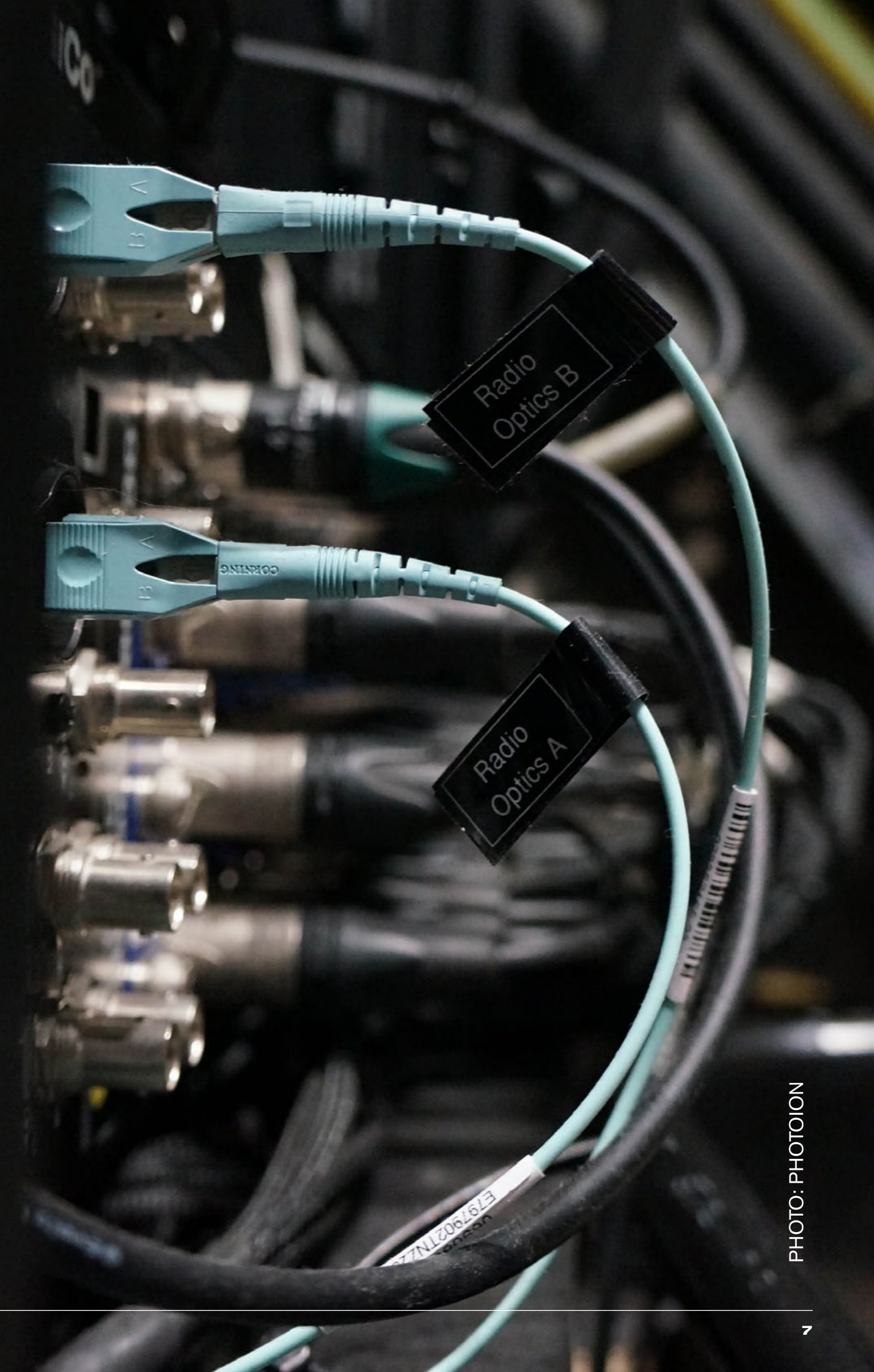




PHOTO: JONNY RUFF

BOOK 2: OPERATIONS

The Operations part of TGB covers all activities both front and back of house, including Box Office, Catering, Marketing & Commercial and Facilities.

The Operations book uses the same standards as Productions.

At The Old Vic we are pushing towards achieving Basic in Operations by early 2026. Some of our achievements so far have included transitioning entirely to a green energy tariff, which includes switching to green gas and switching to reusable cups instead of single use for all our FOH bars.

BOOK 3: BUILDINGS

The Buildings section has been developed by bringing together sustainability and building environments experts, design professionals and theatre managers and owners, to develop holistic guidance in the challenge of making theatre buildings sustainable.

Similar to Operations, we aim to reach Basic for Buildings in early 2026. We are currently focussing on reducing our energy use and water consumption and ensuring any waste we are not able to eliminate is recycled responsibly. We are already on a green energy contract for all our electricity and gas.

WHO'S WHO



Katy DiGravio

Operations Administration Manager

Katy is The Old Vic Sustainability Lead and chair of our own Sustainability Working Group.

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Madeleine Young

Deputy Production Manager

Madeleine leads on Book 1: Productions. She is responsible for sustainability data tracking for our productions and supports show teams on making their work as sustainable as possible.

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Christian Wallace

Technical Services Director

Christian has been involved in the creation of TGB from the beginning and chairs the TGB Buildings Committee.

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Jess Johnson

Head of Estates and Services

Katy, Jess and Christian lead on both Books 2 & 3 (Operations and Buildings) at The Old Vic.

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If you would like to discuss sustainability, have any questions, feedback, or learning from other projects/venues, you can email us at the addresses above. Alternatively, the whole Old Vic Sustainability Working Group can be contacted at SWG@oldvictheatre.com.

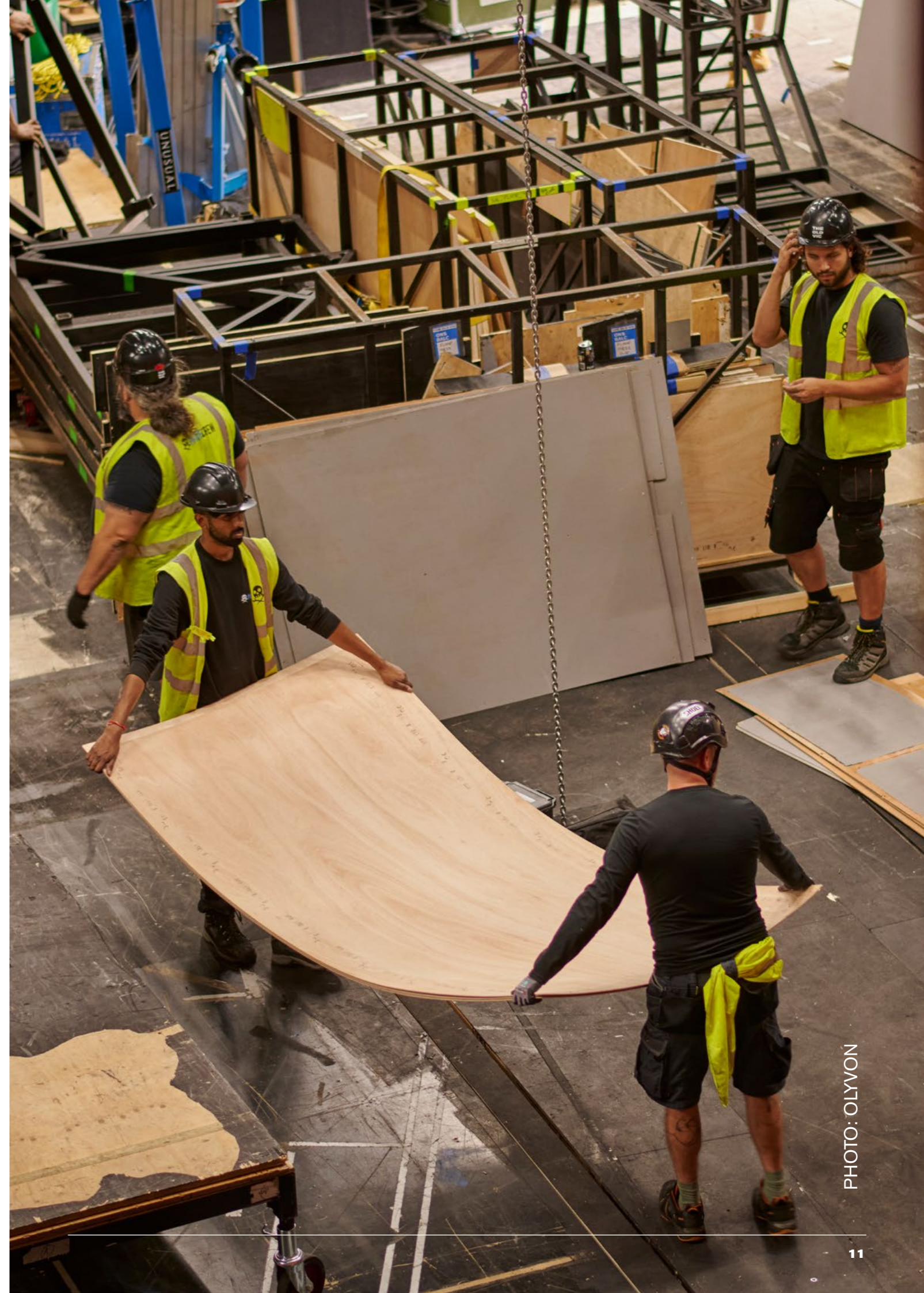


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