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SPHM  
HOSPITALITY

CRUISE JOB DESCRIPTION - ENTERTAINER



**Hotel Management**

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# Cruise Job Descriptions

## CRUISE SHIP HEADLINE (GUEST) ENTERTAINER JOBS

### Headline Entertainer Job Description and Duties:

A Guest (Headline) Entertainer aboard a cruise ship is a talented performer, that provides a top-notch quality show to guests as a main act either in the ship's theater or in some of the lounges. The show can comprise of a solo, duo, trio or quartet. The engagement could be as short as two days (in many cases Guest Ents do not stay aboard during the whole cruise, but rather change ships) or as long as several months (in this cases the shows are performed two-three times a week on the same ship).

Although the Guest Entertainer is an Independent Contractor aboard the ship (not a staff member), he/she still reports to the head of the department - the Cruise Director. As an Independent Contractor the Headline Entertainer DOES NOT participate in crew and passenger safety drills or any related activities and enjoys a single cabin accommodation and full deck privileges - use of all passenger facilities - bars, lounges, restaurants, gym, disco, swimming pools etc.



The Guest Entertainer could be a performer in variety of different fields:

- ✓ Comedian
- ✓ Musical Comedy Novelty Act
- ✓ Physical Comic
- ✓ Magician / Illusionist
- ✓ Concert Performer (Vocal Headliner, Vocal Impressionist, Instrumentalist, Classically Trained Show Diva etc.)
- ✓ Piano Lounge Entertainer- Interactive (Sing A Long, Name That Tune)
- ✓ Stage Cabaret performer
- ✓ Novelty Acts (Marionettes, etc.)
- ✓ Impressionists (musical and/or comedy)
- ✓ Specialty Artists
- ✓ Hypnotists
- ✓ Mentalists
- ✓ Ventriloquists
- ✓ Acrobatic or Circus specialty Act
- ✓ Aerialist



or anything else that can instantly grab the audience's attention and engage the crowd at the highest level for a full 45 minutes.

# Cruise Job Descriptions

## Cruise Ship Guest Entertainer Job Requirements:

- ✓ Considerable professional experience as an Entertainer performing in front of large audience
- ✓ Own produced (self-contained) show that appeals to a broad audience and caters to a wide diversity of ages
- ✓ A flexible act that can be adapted to different show conditions aboard different ships
- ✓ Ability to engage and interact with the audience not only on stage, but also in different entertainment and food and beverage venues around the ship
- ✓ Musical artists must be able to provide clean charts for ship's four to seven piece house bands, in some cases having backing tracks may also be useful
- ✓ Must be able to provide promo video materials, ideally a footage from a live performance, resume and a recent headshot photo



## Guest Entertainer Salary Range:

\$1,500 to \$2,500 US PER WEEK and up depending on the cruise line, popularity of the act and negotiations.

# Cruise Job Descriptions

## CRUISE SHIP PRODUCTION SHOW VOCAL CAPTAIN JOBS

### Production Vocal Captain Job Description and Duties:

One of the Show Singers (Production Vocalists) aboard the cruise ship gets appointed and assumes the responsibilities of a Vocal Captain and acts as a liaison between management and the production cast members onboard the vessel. The duties of the Vocal Captain include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Reports to the [Cruise Director](#) and the Cast Performing Manager
- ✓ Prepares and supervises all rehearsals in conjunction with her/his dancer counterpart - the [Dance Captain](#)
- ✓ forwards the video footage taken during shows to the superiors in the cruise line's home office Production Team or the Production company producing the shows
- ✓ schedules additional vocal rehearsals with all [Singers](#) and Singer-Dancers in order to ensure that all vocal materials are kept to the shows original integrity
- ✓ Ensures that all musical (House Orchestra Musicians or pre-recorded tracks), technical (Entertainment Technicians) and video (Audio-Video Techs) support is available for rehearsals
- ✓ Reports to the Cruise Director or/and the Cast Performing Manager on any professional or/and personal situation that may arise with a cast member vocalist
- ✓ Assists in teaching vocal tracks to new cast members or understudies and may be required to perform in any of the production shows in the event a regular Show Singer is not able to perform
- ✓ Works in close cooperation with the Sound Technicians and relays all notes from Production Vocalists regarding sound needs
- ✓ Relays all shows and rehearsals schedules to all [Show Singers](#) in the cast team
- ✓ Reviews on regular basis the video footage from the shows, notes all vocal errors and distributes the notes to the vocalists during rehearsals
- ✓ Depending on the cruise line, the Vocal Captain may or may not be required to participate in emergency and safety drills or related activities
- ✓ The Production Vocal Captain enjoys full deck privileges - free access to passenger facilities such as restaurants, bars, gym, disco, swimming pools etc.



### Cruise Ship Production Show Vocal Captain Job Requirements:

- The Vocal Captain must have been already selected as a Show Singer (Production Vocalist) by the production company producing the show before getting appointed for the current position



# Cruise Job Descriptions

- Minimum one contract previous experience aboard a cruise ship in the role of Production Vocalist (Show Singer)
- Conflict resolution, coaching, decision making and team building skills required in addition to the vocal and acting abilities
- Very good verbal and written command of the English language

## Production Vocal Captain Salary Range:

\$3,600 to \$4,200 US per month depending on the cruise line and time served with the company.

## CRUISE SHIP SHOW SINGER / PRODUCTION VOCALIST JOBS

### Production Lead Vocalist Job Description and Duties:

The duties and responsibilities of the Production Lead Vocalist / Show Singer aboard a cruise ship include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Reports to the [Cruise Director](#) and the Cast Performing Manager
- ✓ Performs the required shows as approved by the Director of Entertainment in cruise line's home office or by the company producing the show (in case the show is not in-house production)
- ✓ Performs the Lead Vocalist roles in Production Shows specifically created by or for the cruise line as stated in the contract
- ✓ Arrive backstage minimum 15 minutes prior to rehearsals and 30 minutes prior to shows, providing sufficient time for getting dressed and warming up and getting fully prepared to perform on stage
- ✓ Attends regular rehearsals as scheduled by the Cast Performing Manager or the Vocal Captain including any additional rehearsals required for restaging of shows due to weather conditions, illness or replacement of a cast member
- ✓ Attends additional rehearsals with the Cast Performing Manager and/or the [Vocal Captain](#) each week to ensure all vocal material is kept up to the show's original integrity
- ✓ Responsible for the proper care of all Production Shows costumes, wigs, hats etc. ensuring that they are stored immediately after a performance
- ✓ Responsible for maintenance and organizing the cast members dressing rooms and backstage area
- ✓ Due to the nature of the profession the Show Singer must maintain weight restrictions according to her/his contract
- ✓ Assist in teaching choreography or/and songs to new Show Singers
- ✓ May be required to perform as a understudy in any Production Show in the event a cast member is not able to participate.
- ✓ Depending on the cruise line and/or on the particular ship, the Show Singer may or may not be required to participate in emergency and safety drills and related activities
- ✓ Show Singers enjoy full deck privileges - free access to passenger facilities such as restaurants, bars, gym, disco, swimming pools etc.





# Cruise Job Descriptions

## Cruise Ship Show Singer Job Requirements:

- Excellent, attractive and versatile singers with exceptional vocal abilities and qualities with the ability to sing Musical Theatre, Jazz, contemporary pop/rock and R&B styles. Training in classical opera singing is a plus, but not mandatory
- Excellent acting skills and basic dancing abilities
- Female Singers: Altos and Sopranos with strong legit (head) and Broadway/Pop Belt voices  
Male Singers: Baritones and Tenors with developed falsettos and a strong Broadway/Pop belt
- Height requirements slightly vary between the different cruise lines and production show companies, but in general are:
  - Female Singers must be 5'3"-5'9" (162 cm - 180cm) in height
  - Male Singers must be 5'8"-6'4" (177 cm - 195 cm) in height
  - Some show production companies and cruise lines do not have a particular height requirements
- Age requirements - between 18 and 40 (just one show production company requires minimum age of 23 and has an upper age limit of 35). Candidates can audition at age of 17, but can not start work before reaching 18.
- There are two types of auditions - live auditions and video auditions. In most cases candidates should submit video materials in order to be selected for a live audition, in some cases candidates may be hired via video audition only
- Video submissions:
  - Female Vocalists - please, record variety of vocal styles (at least one ballad and one up-tempo pieces from musical theater or opera, 50's - 60's, Pop, Pop/Rock) showing your belt and head voice. Please, show also some dance movement and a full body shot at some point in the talent footage.
  - Male vocalists - please, provide variety of vocal styles (at least one ballad and one up-tempo from musical theater or opera, 50's - 60's, Pop, Pop/Rock) showing your falsetto
  - Please, show also some dance movement and a full body shot at some point in the talent footage
  - Show group footage can be accepted, however it should be known who you are very clearly
  - Along with the video candidates will need to supply a headshot, an updated resume that includes your performances, your height and present contact information including an email address
- Some cruise lines and production show companies will accept YouTube or email video submissions, others will insist on hard copy (DVD) video, photograph and resume submissions mailed to their postal addresses.

## Production Vocalist Salary Range:

\$3,200 to \$3,800 US per month depending on the cruise line and time served with the company. Possibilities for promotion to Production Vocal Captain position.

## CRUISE SHIP DANCE CAPTAIN JOBS

### Production Dance Captain Job Description and Duties:

One of the Show Dancers aboard the cruise ship gets appointed and assumes the responsibilities of a Dance Captain acting as a liaison between management and the production cast members (Dancers) onboard the vessel. The duties and responsibilities of the Dance Captain include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Reports to the Cast Performing Manager and to the [Cruise Director](#)
- ✓ All administrative duties of the Dance Captain are IN ADDITION to the responsibilities for Production (Show) Dancer position
- ✓ Assist the Cast Performing Manager and the production company Choreographer during rehearsal periods
- ✓ Coordinates and schedules weekly rehearsals including full technical runs, cleaning rehearsals and all as required by the Production Company Manager
- ✓ Addresses any problems that may arise amongst Production Cast Dancers to the Cruise Director or/and to the Production Manager
- ✓ Prepares and supervises all rehearsals in conjunction with the Cast Performing Manager (for "in-house" produced shows) or Production Company Manager
- ✓ Teaches choreography to new cast members or understudies and may be required to perform as an understudy in any of the Production Shows in the event a cast member is absent for some reason
- ✓ Reviews the video footage from all production shows on regular basis, notes all errors made by the Show Dancers and distributes the notes to the cast members during the rehearsals
- ✓ In conjunction with the Vocal Captain composes the Production Shows Report at the end of each cruise
- ✓ Depending on the cruise line or even on the particular ship, the Dance Captain may or may not be required to participate in Safety and Emergency drills and related activities
- ✓ This position enjoys full deck privileges - free access to passenger facilities such as restaurants, bars, gym, disco, swimming pools etc.



# Cruise Job Descriptions

## Cruise Ship Dance Captain Job Requirements:

- The Dance Captain must have been already selected as a Production Dancer by the company producing the show before getting appointed for the current position
- Minimum one contract previous experience aboard a cruise ship in the role of Show Dancer
- Very good verbal and written command of the English language
- Conflict resolution, coaching, decision making and team building skills required in addition to the professional dancing abilities



## Production Dance Captain Salary Range:

\$3,200 to \$3,800 US per month depending on the cruise line and time served with the company.

## CRUISE SHIP PRODUCTION SHOW DANCER JOBS

### Show Dancer Job Description and Duties:

The duties and responsibilities of a Production Show Dancer aboard a cruise ship include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Reports to the Cast Performance Manager and to the [Cruise Director](#)
- ✓ Perform the required shows approved by the Director of Entertainment of the cruise line or by the Production Company Manager (in case the show is not produced "in-house")
- ✓ Due to the nature of the job the Show Dancer must maintain weight restrictions according to his/her contract
- ✓ Performs in Production Shows specifically created by or for the cruise line
- ✓ Perform any of the production segments during a cruise as scheduled by the Cruise Director
- ✓ Responsible for cleaning and maintaining all company's production shows costumes
- ✓ Maintains a cleaned and organized dressing room and backstage area
- ✓ Meets and greets guests at the ship's theater entrance during non-production show evenings
- ✓ Have photographs taken with the guests when requested by the [Photo Manager](#) and approved by the [Cruise Director](#)
- ✓ Leading and escorting passenger tours of the Bridge and ship's theater backstage area
- ✓ Must arrive backstage 15 minutes prior to all rehearsals and 30 minutes prior to all shows in order to allow sufficient time for dressing and warm-up
- ✓ Some cruise lines require Show Dancers to perform [Guest Activities \(Cruise Staff\)](#) duties during the day or non-production show evenings as well as meeting and greeting passengers during embarkation, Show Dancers aboard ships of other cruise lines do not perform any additional duties, except professional dancing
- ✓ Depending on the cruise line Production Show Dancers may or may not be required to participate in Safety and Emergency Drills and related activities
- ✓ Show Dancers enjoy full deck privileges - free access to passenger facilities such as restaurants, bars, gym, disco, swimming pools etc.



# Cruise Job Descriptions

## Cruise Ship Show Dancer Job Requirements:

- Advanced dancers that have technical training along with strong jazz, ballet, tap and Musical Theatre techniques
- Additional skills of gymnastics, flying/web, ballroom, partnering and acting would be a plus
- Height requirements slightly vary between the different cruise lines and production show companies, but in general are:
- Height requirements slightly vary between the different cruise lines and production show companies, but in general are:
- Female Dancers must be 5'3"-5'9" (1.62 m - 1.80 m) in height  
Male Dancers must be 5'8"-6'3" (1.77 m - 1.92 m) in height
- Some show production companies and cruise lines do not have a particular height requirements
- There are two types of auditions - live auditions and video auditions. In most cases candidates should submit video materials in order to be selected for a live audition, in some cases candidates may be hired via video audition only
- Video submissions:
- Record a combination across the floor showing what you can do as a dancer. Be sure to display as much technique and extension as possible. The best idea is to include different routines, as many, as you can - Lyrical Jazz, Broadway Jazz, Contemporary Pop, Tap, kicks, Russians, leaps, turns, pirouettes.
- Males can also show switch or scissors, switch seconds, tumbling and tap (triple time step or combo), females - pointe work if comfortable on pointe and tap (triple time step or combo).
- Any additional abilities shown on the video footage would be a plus - pointework, tumbling, acrobatics, Ballroom and Latin dance.
- Show group footage can be accepted, however it should be known who you are very clearly
- Along with the video candidates will need to supply a full body photograph, an updated resume that includes your performances, your height and present contact information including an email address
- Some cruise lines and production show companies will accept YouTube or email video submissions, others will insist on hard copy (DVD) video, photograph and resume submissions mailed to their postal addresses.



## Production Dancer Salary Range:

\$2,400 to \$3,200 US per month depending on the cruise line and time served with the company. Possibilities for promotion to Production Dance Captain position.

## CRUISE SHIP BANDMASTER (MUSICAL DIRECTOR) JOBS

### Bandmaster Job Description and Duties:

The Bandmaster is an excellent musician who usually performs in one of the house orchestras (showbands) aboard the cruise ship (some of the big-size ships have two showbands). He/she has the most senior status amongst all musicians and enjoys a single cabin accommodation. The duties and responsibilities of the Bandmaster (also called Musical Director within some cruise lines) include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Reports to the [Cruise Director](#)
- ✓ He/she is in charge of the entire music department, acting as a liaison between the Cruise Director and each musician within the department
- ✓ In conjunction with the Cruise Director oversees scheduling of all onboard musical activities, each group and solo musician
- ✓ Writes performance evaluation at the end of each musician's contract and either recommends re-hiring for another contract or not
- ✓ Makes sure that all musicians are dressed up according to the evenings dress code (formal, semi-formal or casual) and wear a name tag at all times when in passenger area
- ✓ Reports to the Cruise Director on any professional or/and personal situation that may arise with a member of the music department
- ✓ Relays all performances and rehearsals schedules to all musicians and monitors the quality of performance of the groups and the individual musicians
- ✓ All administrative duties of the Bandmaster are IN ADDITION to his/her responsibilities as a performing Musician
- ✓ In conjunction with the [Guest Services Department](#) appoints musicians to perform at various special events throughout the ship - weddings, private parties etc.
- ✓ Ensures that all musicians (who are required to do so) attend safety and emergency drills as well as department meetings held by the Cruise Director, safety and security meetings held respectively by the Safety Officer and Security Officer, crew inductions etc.
- ✓ The Bandmaster enjoys full deck privileges - free access to passenger facilities such as restaurants, bars, gym, disco, swimming pools etc.



### Cruise Ship Musical Director (Bandmaster) Job Requirements:

- Candidates must have at least one previous contract in the role of Bandmaster or Musician aboard a cruise ship



# Cruise Job Descriptions

- Must be an excellent performer and high-quality professional musician
- College degree is highly preferable, but not mandatory
- Conflict resolution, decision making and team building skills are required in addition to the professional musical qualities
- Must have an outgoing personality and must be well organized
- Very good verbal and written command of the English language, knowledge of another language is a plus

## Bandmaster Salary Range:

\$2,400 to \$3,500 US per month depending on the cruise line and time served with the company.