

3.9.2020

## A Heads Up with Dave Whitehouse

With Covid-19 lockdowns worldwide and health authorities urging people to self-isolate and practice social distancing on a massive scale as part of an enormous effort to #FlattenTheCurve of this global pandemic ... we are reaching out to industry friends, colleagues, associates, partners, etc., and asking them to share their #StayAtHome and #QuarantineAndChill activities with us during this extraordinary time.

Dave is the 'theatre products manager' for Robe and talks to A LOT of customers and designers worldwide about theatre, technology, future developments and what can be designed and manufactured to make their theatrical lighting experience easier, better and more dynamic.

Since the pandemic and the UK lockdown, Dave has become an internet star as the anchor of Robe's highly successful and informative "The Shed" series of videos.

Robe: Where are you right now?

Dave: In my home office in the Buckinghamshire countryside, UK.

Robe: What are you doing to fill the time whilst isolating?

Dave: Designing presentations for our sales and distribution networks. These highlight what makes Robe products unique and what real benefits they give to potential customers.

Robe: What's the most creative thing you're able to do in isolation?

Dave: Well, I can't play with lights, and I make model tanks and figures! I've done it for years. It takes my mind off things!

Robe: Are you looking after anyone else during the crisis?

Dave: Directly no, as my family is far away. However, I do voluntary work for Age UK, and constantly stay in touch with residents at the local care home via technology. Please do not forget them!

Robe: Has anyone inspired you since this started?

Dave: I live in a small village where we are lucky to have a fantastic community spirit. Everyone is really looking out for everyone else, collecting food, checking on the vulnerable and making sure everyone is informed and helped if required. So, in short, my village has inspired me!

Robe: Favourite book / movie / Netflix series / viral video

Dave: It's BBC iPlayer for me!

I have been watching classic comedy series like "Porridge" (Iconic 1970's British sitcom set in a prison starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale, written by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais); "Open All Hours" (set in a small grocers shop, created and written by Roy Clarke for the BBC, it ran across four series', premiering in 1976 with the final one in 1985) and "The Vicar of Dibley" (which started in the 1990s starring Dawn French, and is among the most successful British programmes of the digital era!)

I know they reflect different times, but they are side-splittingly funny!

Robe: What's the first thing you'd like to do when we are through this?

Dave: I am under strict orders to get my postponed wedding sorted out!

Robe: Own question / answer / message of solidarity or something you'd want to say?

Dave: Our industry is in this together. Please, please follow the government guidelines, protect the vulnerable and we will all come out of this stronger and more united than ever.

