MANJUSHA BALACHANDRAN-HALL

Lighting Lead
Email: mbalhall@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Lighting lead/ supervisor with 15+ years experience in the VFX industry and team management. I am a highly motivated individual who is extremely passionate about visual effects and the art of movie making. Over the years I have had the experience working in various visual effects studios and have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how all aspects of VFX pipeline works. I'm proactive and possess strong leadership skills. I am a people person and am passionate about building, supporting, managing and mentoring teams.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FROM JUL 21 – SEP 26

SCANLINE VFX/ EYELINE, LONDON

Designation: **Lighting Lead**

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Lead and supervise lighting teams of 5–15 artists, providing creative direction, technical guidance, mentoring, and day-to-day support throughout production.
- Oversee lighting from sequence turnover through to final delivery, ensuring creative quality, consistency, and continuity across shots and sequences.
- Collaborate with CG and VFX Supervisors to establish the visual direction and lighting approach, developing key shots and defining the look for sequences.
- Develop sequence lighting plans, identifying key shots and organising work based on lighting requirements, shot complexity, assets, and camera continuity.
- Build and maintain key lighting setups, rigs, templates, and workflows to establish consistent look and improve efficiency across sequences.
- Produce lighting estimates for new sequences, assessing scope, shot complexity, technical requirements, and resource needs in collaboration with Production and Supervisors.
- Partner with Production on resource planning, shot assignments, progress tracking, lookahead, targets, and delivery schedules, proactively identifying risks and dependencies.
- Manage and prioritise workloads during tight deadlines and high-pressure production periods, adjusting resources and priorities to keep the team on track for delivery.
- Lead lighting dailies and reviews, providing clear, constructive feedback aligned with CG and VFX Supervisor direction and ensuring notes are effectively communicated to artists.
- Provide one-to-one support, mentoring, and development to artists, helping resolve creative and technical challenges and supporting their progression within the department.
- Support onboarding and training of new artists, and contribute to department-wide knowledge-sharing sessions covering lighting workflows, techniques, and best practices.
- Supervise and collaborate with international teams in Vancouver and Seoul, maintaining clear communication, consistent creative direction, and quality across locations.
- Troubleshoot and resolve creative, technical, and production issues, working across Lighting, Comp, Pipeline, and other CG departments to find practical solutions.
- Work with upstream and downstream departments to ensure assets, publishes, render passes, and lighting elements are available to support an efficient lighting and compositing workflow.

- Collaborate with Pipeline to identify workflow improvements and tool requirements, helping develop solutions that improve productivity and efficiency within the lighting department.
- Contribute to render-farm forecasting and resource planning during periods of high production demand.
- Undertook CG Supervisor training to broaden my understanding of the wider CG pipeline and develop towards broader CG supervision and leadership responsibilities.

Movies worked on:

- The Witcher Season 5 (2027)
- Monarch, Legacy of Monsters Season 2 (2026)
- Manitou's Canoe (2025)
- The Witcher Season 4 (2025)
- Brick (2025)
- Back In action (2025)
- The empress (2024)
- Aquaman and the lost Kingdom (2023)
- Spy Kids: Armageddon (2023)
- The Flash (2023)
- Moonfall (2022)

FROM OCT 20 – JAN 21 **LONDON COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, LONDON**

Designation: **Associate Lecturer Maya, Part Time**

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for delivery of Maya/Arnold curriculum for BA year 1 students, covering aspects of modeling, look development, texturing, lighting, rendering and animation.
- In charge of preparing syllabus, course content, e – learning, conducting online teaching sessions, student assessment and final grades.
- Supervise and guide students in their learning and their final projects.
- Mentor, motivate and nurture students through their academic and non-academic learning journey.

FROM MAR 13 – DEC 19 **MOVING PICTURE COMPANY, LONDON**

Designation: **Lead Lighting Technical Director**

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the overall lighting supervision of 4 sequences that consisted of approximately 350 shots.
- Working closely with the CG and VFX supervisors to define the creative and technical approach for the show and also establishing the initial look of the sequences.
- Creating template workflows for teams to base their workflow from.
- Assisting and supervising a team of 20 artists in achieving the artistic goals of the production.
- Mentoring the team through creative and technical challenges.
- Working with production to manage the day to day running of the team.
- Evaluating artist schedules ensuring they are realistic and achievable.
- Attending desk rounds and dailies sessions with the team and giving them feedback/approvals on a regular basis.
- Collaborating with all the other departments and ensuring that the lighting team is working efficiently and productively and are on target to meet all milestones and deadlines.

Movies worked on:

- Cats (2019)

Designation: **Key Artist/ Senior Lighting Technical Director**

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Defining the look of the sequence based on the CG/VFX supervisor's brief.
- Working on the key shots in the sequence.
- Responsible for a small team of artists who work on the sequence.
- Delivering consistency in lighting, color balance and mood across the entire sequence.
- Defining the workflow and setting up the Katana templates and light rigs for the sequence.
- Analysing lighting on the sets, building HDRIs, creating photorealistic CGI to match live action.
- Working on high volume of shots, which involve fast turnaround with daily deliveries to meet the production schedule deadlines.
- Troubleshooting render issues and optimizing shots for rendering.
- Work with minimum supervision and also as part of a team.
- Familiarity with VFX pipeline issues.

Movies worked on:

- The Lion King (2019)
- Alien: Covenant (2017)
- Transformers: The Last Knight (2017)
- Passengers (2016)
- The Shallows (2016)
- The Legend of Tarzan (2016)
- The Jungle Book (2016)
- Fantastic Four (2015)
- Terminator Genisys (2015)
- Monsters Truck (2017)
- Exodus: Gods and Kings (2014)
- Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)
- Maleficent (2014)
- 300: Rise of an Empire (2014)
- The Lone Ranger (2013)

Additional Roles and Responsibilities:

- From 2017 onwards I was also involved in developing inhouse lighting department training tutorials for Katana and Nuke.
- Mentoring recent hires and artists to get them accustomed to the company pipeline/ tools and workflow.

NOV 11 – FEB 13 **FRAMESTORE, LONDON**

Designation: **Lighting Technical Director**

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Setting up, lighting and rendering assigned shots.
- Creating efficient light rigs for characters and environment, manipulating lights, tweaking material properties, rendering multipass elements and creating a pre composite of rendered elements for further refinement.
- Lighting shots using Maya, Renderman, Nuke, Photoshop with Framestore customized macros.
- Solving technical problems occurring during lighting or rendering and optimizing the shots for rendering.
- Keeping the production and supervisors updated on the progress of the shots.

Movies worked on:

- 47 Ronin (2013)
- Lincoln (2012)
- The Dictator (2012)
- Wrath of the Titans (2012)

JAN 11 – OCT 11 **CINESITE, LONDON**

Designation: **Lighting Technical Director**

Movies worked on:

- John Carter (2012)

NOV 09 – DEC 10 **FRAMESTORE, LONDON**

Designation: **Lighting Technical Director**

Movies worked on:

- Gravity (2013)
- The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010)
- Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010)

JAN 08 – OCT 09 **FRAMESTORE, LONDON**

Designation: **Render Technician**

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Understanding productions render pipeline.
- Monitoring and managing the render farm to keep it running at full capacity. Tasks involve troubleshooting and correcting failed tasks, image quality control, resource allocations among different shows, technical advice/support and interfacing with artists, systems administrators and production management to ensure production deadlines are met.
- Monitoring infrastructure servers and escalating problems.
- Worked on movies: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010), Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2010), Clash of the Titans (2010), Sherlock Holmes (2009), Avatar (2009), Where the Wild Things Are (2009), Triangle (2009), The Tale of Despereaux (2008), Australia (2008), Wanted (2008), The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SEP 2018 **Moving Picture Company Employee of the Month**

Awarded Employee of the Month for my work on The Lion King.

EDUCATIONAL OVERVIEW

SEP 06 – OCT 07 **BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY, BOURNEMOUTH**

Master of Science, Computer Animation
One-year full time course from the UK's only Centre for Excellence in Media Practice, National Centre for Computer Animation.
Core Subjects: Computer Graphics Fundamentals, Programming for Graphics, Computer Animation Principles & Practice, Film-Making Techniques, Visual Theory & Practice, and several Animation Projects.

SEP 01 – JUN 05	**CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BANGALORE**

Bachelor of Engineering in Information Science
A four-year full time course from Visvesvaraya Technological University, one of South India's leading universities.
Core Subjects: Computer Systems Design & Architecture, Mathematics, Data Structures & Programming, Software Engineering, OOPS, Computer Networks and Distributed Computing.

IT SKILLS & STRENGTHS

Applications	Katana, Nuke, Photoshop, Renderman, 3ds Max, Vray, Houdini, Maya, Arnold, Flow Production Tracking, Office, Excel, Dreamweaver, After Effects

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name	Manjusha Balachandran-Hall
Citizenship	British
Email	mbalhall@gmail.com
IMDB profile	https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4024376/
VES Member	Since 2024
Key areas of interest	Movie making, VFX supervision, VFX Production, Art Direction, Lighting and Compositing.
Hobbies	Art, Photography, Interior design, Yoga