

# Meet the Flock

## An interview with... Derek Tallent

The Ops Nest

### Please tell me about your experience within the industry thus far?

I've been working in the AV, Sound and Lighting hire industry since I left college in 1984. I think the first exhibition I worked on would have been the Motor Show at the NEC in Birmingham in 1984. Although the hire company I worked for through most of the 80's and 90's did bits of exhibition work, I would say that it's only been since 2003 that I've been properly "full time" in the industry.

### Thinking about your knowledge and expertise, what would your superpower be?

I wouldn't say it was as superpower, but logistics is what I do best these days. I'm still the best truck packer at our place and I'm still the only one that can work out how long it takes to get from A to B.

### What event are you most proud of and why?

A difficult one. We've done so many shows over the years, each one seems to be bigger and better than the last one. I think the events to be proud of are the ones where crew and client end up in the bar after show and the clients paying....!

### What could you not do without onsite?

Tea and coffee making facilities. And my team of crack AV technicians.

### What piece of advice would you give to someone starting out in our industry?

Don't! Unless you're prepared to work hard, with anti-social hours, lack of sleep and a terrible diet!!! Get a comfy pair of shoes and be nice to everyone. You'll never know when you'll need them to be nice back to you.

### What skills can you bring to The Ops Nest?

I joined the Ops Nest to learn from others. I suppose I bring 30+ years of AV experience although now it's mainly theoretical skills rather than practical skills I have....

### What are the top 5 things you have learnt since joining The Ops Nest?

1. Men are outnumbered in Opsland
2. The Supreme Leader is omni-present. There is no escape
3. Karl Dukes is shorter in real life than he looks on Zoom
4. Laura Cole is taller in real life than she looks on Zoom
5. Ops Nest is a great community. It's really nice to see friendly faces on a Tuesday, even if I am a grumpy old git

### If people would like to connect, where can they find you?

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