

CREW CHIEF SERIES...



**HARRY SMITH,
CREW CHIEF**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU FREELANCED WITH NEG?

I have worked with Neg Earth for 8 years.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO NEG EARTH?

What attracted me to Neg Earth was the size and **scale** of the shows they deliver. Plus, the high standard to which each show is delivered, whether it's an academy tour or massive stadium show.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE SHOW?

I crewed on The War on Drugs first tour in Europe, this was an exciting time for the band and therefore it was very exciting for the touring crew to be part of it.

I worked on the Blackpink show, this was a huge show with a huge system, a massive sense of achievement.

WHAT HAS YOUR JOURNEY BEEN SO FAR?

I went to drama school and started as a theatre lighting programmer.

I then started working with Neg, doing one job a year and 8 years on I am doing a lot more work with them.

In fact, the first job I did for Neg Earth was the Cirque Du Soleil, as a junior lighting technician, and now, 8 years later I did the same job in 2024 but as a Crew chief!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION WANTING TO GET INTO TOURING?

- My advice is to be humble, there is a lot that you don't know, and it takes a lot longer to learn than you think. Your experience builds from doing hundreds and hundreds of load ins. You are not a great tour technician after 10 tours, you are a great tour technician after 100 Tours. It takes that long...
- Be useful, don't pigeonhole yourself, build your networks, be willing to be on the floor, work long hours, be a good team player and be cheerful and friendly. Crew chiefs always remember the crew that are fun to be with.

One of the hardest things for a crew chief and crew is asking yourself "Can we put this person on a bus with 15 other adults and are they going to be OK and get on with people". It can be a very challenging environment, and not everyone is well suited to that. So sometimes a person with great knowledge doesn't mean they will be a great member of the crew.

WHAT ARE YOUR HIGHLIGHTS/FAVOURITE MOMENTS BEING A NEG FREELANCER

When we did the Women's Euros final, after the game, we all played a game of football on the pitch at Wembley, it was such a memorable moment. A real surreal moment. We often forget that people would do anything to be backstage at their favourite gig or band, and I get to do that every day, despite the long days, the tiring and stressful work we do.

SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE

It's a very special opportunity to work at Neg, and I don't think I would have got that experience anywhere else.