



Nine Night Assistant Director PAID directing opportunity

Leeds Playhouse is a large organisation that produces theatre, supports artists and engages with communities across West Yorkshire. You can find out more by watching this film: <https://youtu.be/AT98G3fWhvQ> or on our website www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk.

At Leeds Playhouse, through our Furnace Programme, we develop locally rooted Theatre Directors across three career stages:

Entry level: Someone new to directing and at the very beginning of their directing career. They might have taken part in an Introduction to Directing course or similar, but they won't yet have any professional experience in this role, or perhaps in a rehearsal room.

Early Career: Someone who has started their career as a director and has a little bit of professional experience. They might have made some of their own work, undertaken some director training, and/or worked as an assistant director on other show.

Established: Someone who has been working as a Director for some time and is now looking for support to expand the scale on which they work, and to become a future artistic leader.

Each year we provide lots of paid placements for directors to work on our shows as Assistant Directors and Trainee Assistant Directors.

We have one **paid** opportunity for a director in Summer 2022.

Assistant Director role

What's the opportunity?

- We are looking for an Assistant Director to work on NINE NIGHT written by Natasha Gordon and directed by Amanda Huxtable.
- An Assistant Director works alongside the director. They support the creation of the production. Opportunities can arise to feed in ideas and suggestions for how the play should develop, depending on how the Director works. The Assistant Director runs warm-ups and sometimes even invited to lead rehearsals. They visit the show during performances on the director's behalf, checking how the play is doing and giving notes to the actors.
- This is an **early career** position.
- NINE NIGHT is a play for seven actors and will be performed in our mid scale theatre, the Courtyard. When Gloria's time comes, her family celebrate their revered mother with the traditional Jamaican Nine Night Wake – a touching yet testing multi-generational gathering packed with music, food, laughter and tears.

- Natasha Gordon's remarkable award-winning debut play, which was originally commissioned by and played at the National Theatre ahead of a successful West End run, holds a mirror up to family life – and loss – reflecting the heartfelt comedy and deep sorrow that occurs when they gather together to share memories, good food and grievances older than Gloria's well-loved dining table.
- This role will also include ten days working as part of the Artistic Planning team at Leeds Playhouse, gaining access to other rehearsal processes as well as an insight into artistic leadership and the running of our Furnace programme.

What's the deal?

- You will receive a fee of £4,000 plus up to £500 towards your expenses, including accommodation for the dates in Nottingham.
- You will be contracted as self-employed and be responsible for paying your own tax and National Insurance contributions.
- We can provide access support such as BSL interpreters if required.
- You need to be available for all (or the majority) of the dates:
 - 22nd August – 28th September (rehearsals – press night)
 - 10 days between 29th September and 15th October (time in the Artistic Planning team at Leeds Playhouse)
 - 17th – 20th October (transfer to Nottingham Playhouse)
- You must be based in West Yorkshire. This is because we are committed to fostering our local ecology, so even if you are happy to commute from further afield, you are not eligible to apply for this role.
- You must either be able to commute into Leeds Playhouse or, if you are shielding due to Covid-19, we can explore this opportunity being made available via Zoom.

Who we're looking for?

- Someone who is in the earlier stages of their career as a director and is looking for more experience.
- Someone who has some experience of the creative process of bringing stories to life and sharing these with a live audience.
- At Leeds Playhouse, we believe that telling stories is part of being human, how we describe the world as it is and how we would like it to be. How we change things. Make difference. We love theatre because it creates a space where we make and listen to our stories; they become real, enabling us to have a conversation with ourselves, to reflect on and transform our view of the world and each other. We're looking for someone who understands and shares these beliefs.
- Someone who is supportive, engaged, interested, playful, passionate and open.
- Someone who is willing to learn.
- Someone who is a good team player.
- As we work to reflect the diversity of the UK theatre industry today, we are very keen to receive applications for this role from the widest of backgrounds. Because of the artistic enquiry of this piece, we are particularly interested in meeting artists from the African and Caribbean diaspora.

NEXT STEPS

How to apply for the role?

You can send us your application either written or as an audio or video recording in English or BSL. We're interested in what you say rather than how you say it.

We'd like you to tell us the following things:

1. We want to hear about you. Tell us a short amount about yourself and what you have been doing to date.
2. Explain why you think you might be the right person for the opportunity. Think about the 'Who we're looking for?' section above when answering this question.
3. Tell us why this opportunity would be exciting or useful for you. We want to understand how this opportunity could help you develop your career as a director.

Please either write your answers (no more than one A4 side of writing) or make an audio or video recording no longer than 3 minutes.

Along with your application, please:

- Include the following information:
 - Name
 - Pronouns (eg: she/her, he/him, they/them)
 - Address
 - Email
 - Phone Number
 - Please confirm that you live within West Yorkshire.
 - Do you have the legal right to work in the UK?
 - Please share any access requirements you have. Information you provide will not form part of the decision-making process.
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- Complete our inclusion and diversity form by clicking this link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/uFLkF1wpTg>

Send your application to rio.matchett@leedsplayhouse.org.uk. In the subject line put "Application for Assistant Director". Rio can also help you with any questions you might have about the application process or the roles.

The deadline for this application is Friday 10th June at 6pm.

What happens next?

- We will create a shortlists from everyone who has submitted an application.
- If you are shortlisted, you will hear from us by email or phone. You will be invited to an informal interview over Zoom. The interviews will be held in the week commencing 30th May. If you are not able to use Zoom, let us know and we can arrange an alternative way to interview you.
- If you are not shortlisted, we will let you know soon after the application deadline.
- After the interviews we will let all candidates know whether they have been successful or not.
- The successful Assistant Director starts on 22nd August 2022

What support is in place if you are successful with one of these roles?

- You will be supported by the Director and Stage Management team of the play you are working on. You will also have the opportunity to check in with the wider Artistic Planning team at Leeds Playhouse.
- We can support you with any access requirements you might have and have lots of experience in Access to Work applications.
- You will have access to the same support that we provide to employees, including our Care First package and our micro-aggressions reporting form.
- As Leeds Playhouse works to diversify our staff, we acknowledge that our organisation can still be dominated by people who identify and/or present as white, cis gendered, non-disabled and so on, and that being in this space can take extra energy and navigation for those from different protected characteristic¹ groups. Therefore, you will have the option of having a buddy or pastoral mentor who shares similar protected characteristics as you.

Covid-19

Leeds Playhouse is working within government guidelines to protect the safety of our staff and audiences. Please note that all of the information in this call out is correct at time of publication but is subject to change due to the ever-changing Covid restrictions.

¹ Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined and protected by the Equality Act 2010. They relate to age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion & belief, marriage & civil partnership, and disability. At the Playhouse, we also include socio-economic status and care-leavers within this list.