

# THE OLD VIC

## Baylis Assistant Director Season 5: Role Brief

### Introduction

The Baylis Assistant Director is a short term (3-5 month) residency at The Old Vic, providing unique opportunities each season for aspiring directors to work with and learn from seasoned professionals in the industry. We are excited to launch applications for the next Baylis Assistant Director position on one of our productions in our fifth season. The production dates will be from July 2019 – October 2019 with some preparation and attendance at auditions expected. This production will be a piece of new writing.

### The Old Vic

The Old Vic is London's independent not-for-profit theatre, a world leader in creativity and entertainment.

The Old Vic is mercurial: it can be transformed into a theatre in the round, a space for music and comedy, has played host to opera, dance, cinema, music hall, classical dramas, variety, clowns, big spectacles and novelty acts. It was the original home of the English National Opera, the Sadler's Wells dance company and the National Theatre. It's also been a tavern, a college, a coffee house, a lecture hall and a meeting place.

All of this is now in the bones of the building and is as important a part of its open-armed, inclusive, welcoming personality as its grand historic decor and the iconic performances and famous productions it has housed.

Today, Artistic Director Matthew Warchus is building on 200 years of creative adventure, with The Old Vic recently being hailed as London's most eclectic and frequently electrifying theatre. Under his leadership, we aim to be a surprising, unpredictable, ground-breaking, rule-breaking, independent beacon of accessible, uplifting and unintimidating art.

We hold the belief that theatre needs to be cherished, supported and shared with as many people as possible. Our 1000 seats are yours from £10 a ticket. Our productions are diverse, adventurous, new, exciting. Our education and talent programmes allow students to explore and artists of tomorrow to create. Our building is open and alive, day and night. Our theatre is yours.

So, whether you're looking for a comedy or new musical, a dramatic work or dance performance, a £10 preview, a late-night cocktail or a show you can watch together as a family, there is always something new to entertain at The Old Vic.

### The Role

The position will span approximately five months, and during this time the Baylis Assistant Director will:

- **Act as an Assistant Director** on one production on The Old Vic main stage within the Season in which they are appointed.
- **Spend time with other departments** in the building, becoming part of The Old Vic family, networking with staff and learning from creatives.
- **Act as an ambassador** and attend Development events where appropriate, learning about how the funding model works for an unsubsidised not-for-profit theatre.
- **Record experiences of their time at The Old Vic**, some elements of which may become part of our online digital content to help animate the experience for other potential candidates and for those interested in a career in theatre directing.

- The Baylis Assistant Director might also be called upon to assist with casting the production, contribute to our script reading process and collaborate with our education and community outreach work.

### How will it work?

The term of appointment will be approximately five months, which may include a six week rehearsal period, a four–eight week run of the show and two weeks post production.

### Fees

Fees will be in line with the Society of London Theatre and UK Equity rates at the time for Assistant Directors.

### Person specification

Ideal candidates for this role will:

- Have directed one professional production (not rehearsed readings or runs of less than 3 weeks), and/or assisted on a number of professional productions
- Demonstrate a genuine commitment to becoming a professional theatre director
- Be able to articulate their experience thus far in defining their approach, style and taste and how this fits with The Old Vic's daring programming
- Candidates must also have the independent right to work in the UK to be eligible

### How to apply

Please complete the online application form and upload a CV and a one page cover letter detailing your relevant experience (and highlighting from within this a previous project which you feel has particular relevance to this scheme). If you have any questions about the position please contact **Laura Blackley**, Production Coordinator on [artists@oldvictheatre.com](mailto:artists@oldvictheatre.com).

### Interview dates

First round interviews: Friday 26 April and Monday 29 April 2019

Second round interviews: Tuesday 30 April and Wednesday 1 May 2019

We welcome emerging talent from all backgrounds to apply.

### The Florence Kleiner Bursary

As part of our commitment to attracting female talent from outside of London and to remove the financial obstacles that often prevent candidates from applying, The Old Vic are delighted to have The Florence Kleiner Bursary available for a second year. If the successful Baylis Assistant Director candidate is an emerging female director, currently based outside of London, the Bursary will provide a year-long attachment to the theatre, as well as offering additional financial support of £12,000 across the 12 month residency to supplement living expenses, relocation costs, rent, food and travel. They will also receive:

- Mentoring throughout the placement:
  - setting needs out at the outset
  - checking in throughout the year and
  - preparing for next step after residency comes to an end
- Press Night invites so that she remains connected to the theatre's productions throughout the year
- Invitations via the Connect network to build connections with like-minded theatre makers

- Opportunities to take part in production workshops
- Facilitator roles on Old Vic Education programmes
- Opportunities to assist on Old Vic Voices Off and One Voice programmes subject to the needs of the theatre

If you are eligible for The Florence Kleiner Bursary please note this in your application for the Baylis Assistant Director role.