How do I apply?
Applications for The Old Vic 12 can be made through The Old Vic’s website. In the second round of applications we are looking to select three directors, three producers, one designer, one movement director and one sound designer or composer to form The Old Vic 12 team.

Do I have enough experience to apply?
We’re not looking for polished artists; we’re looking for individuals who have the desire to create daring work and will readily embrace new challenges.

Suitable applicants will have had at least two plays professionally produced for a minimum run of three weeks or had one professional production alongside a significant number of assisting or development opportunities.

Have these entry requirements been raised from last year?
Yes. This is so our selected artists will have experienced each stage of creating new plays from seed idea, through development and into production and are ready to work towards a repertory production run at Shoreditch Town Hall. This is an indicator of what experience we are looking for but we are aware that there are other routes to gaining experience. If you feel you have gained that through other means and are ready for this opportunity then please do apply.

I’m a Playwright. How do I get involved?
We recruited the playwrights for this project in 2019. We are hoping to continue to run The Old Vic 12 and will recruit for playwrights again later this year if that is the case.

I’ve previously worked with The Old Vic – can I apply?
Yes. The scheme is open to everyone including those who have and have not worked with us before.

I’ve previously applied to The Old Vic 12 and was unsuccessful – should I reapply?
Yes. If you still feel the project could help you achieve the next step in your career then we want to hear from you. It’s a difficult process balancing 12 individual artists within each cohort, so there’s every chance you will be successful this year. We appreciate applying takes time, so we have aimed to keep the application as simple as possible. It’s also a useful way for us to keep updated with what you have been up to.

Is there a certain style of work that The Old Vic 12 is looking for?
We want to hear from artists who are passionate about creating outstanding new writing which explores engaging contemporary subjects in a way that will catalyse, entice and entertain the largest audiences possible. The Old Vic 12 asks: how do we make the popular artistic and the artistic popular? How do we take your voice, amplify it and attract a broad audience to hear it, so you can have a sustainable, prolific career?

What does the application process consist of?
All applications will be read by a number of readers and given a score on a variety of points. From this process a shortlist will be formed and invited for an interview.

Who will interview me?
Interviews will be held by Old Vic staff, Associates and previous participants in The Old Vic 12.

What is the timeline of The Old Vic 12?
The Old Vic 12 will be on attachment for one year. Throughout the year they will have scheduled meetings and workshops that they will be expected to attend, as well as opportunities for further engagement with The Old Vic.

A draft of the schedule can be found at the bottom of this document.
Do I have to attend all of the activity?
You must be available for the majority of the activity and have capacity to develop new work and deliver the project at Shoreditch Town Hall. Please don’t apply if you can foresee this being a problem. However, we do expect you to have other employment and projects alongside this opportunity and will endeavour to make it work for you.

Will I get to stage a show on The Old Vic main stage?
For the first time we will be presenting each of the three brand new plays at leading cultural venue, Shoreditch Town Hall, in a three week repertory season in March 2021. The work will not be performed publically at The Old Vic but we will be actively involved in the production at Shoreditch Town Hall.

Will I have a desk at The Old Vic?
As you are on attachment, interacting as a freelancer would, we cannot offer you a permanent desk space but there will be opportunities to use our rehearsal space.

Will I get to assist the main Season shows?
You will be on attachment to The Old Vic Season as a whole, rather than a particular show. There may be opportunities where you will have access to the production process and you will be invited to a number of main Season events and press nights. If you are interested in becoming an assistant director then applications for our Baylis Assistant Director scheme will open later in the year and information added to our website.

Do I get to have one to one sessions with the Artistic Director, Matthew Warchus?
Throughout your time with us you will be led by brilliant members of The Old Vic staff. You will have regular contact with our Associate Artists and Production team. Matthew will be involved where his schedule allows but one on one sessions are currently not built into the programme.

Can I bring my own creative teams to work on the showcase?
Through The Old Vic 12 we want to encourage you to engage with the other 11 emerging artists, strengthening your individual skills and creating a collaborative environment. It won’t be possible to bring in your own creative teams.

Will the same scheme happen next year?
We would love to continue running this scheme, but the ability to do so will depend on fundraising efforts.

Can I apply to more than one discipline?
There is no restriction on how many disciplines you can apply to. Please remember that we’re looking for individuals who are focussed and have clear aspirations about what they want to achieve.

Do I have to live in London to take part in the scheme?
We encourage applications from all areas across the UK for this scheme, and even beyond that. However, the attachment will require that you have a certain amount of contact time with the team and there will be required meetings and events that you will be asked to attend in London. Successful applicants from outside the Greater London area will be offered a contribution towards travel costs.
Schedule of Key Dates*

First Draft Date: 02 Mar 2020
Second Draft Date: 01 Jun 2020
Rehearsal Draft Date: 18 Jan 2021

Old Vic Induction: 03 Apr 2020
Masterclass Weekend: 04–5 Apr 2020
Facilitator Training: 16 Apr 2020
4000 Miles Press Night: 16 Apr 2020

The Old Vic 12’s Twelve: 25 Sep 2020

Masterclass (You will be needed for one of these options to be decided in collaboration):
27 May 2020
19 Jun 2020
15 Jul 2020

Table Reading (You will be needed for one of these options to be decided in collaboration):
05 Jun 2020
09 Jun 2020
10 Jun 2020

Development Days (You will be needed for one of these options to be decided in collaboration):
02–04 Sep 2020
09–11 Sep 2020
16–18 Sep 2020

Rehearsal Period STH: 01 Feb–06 Mar 2021
Production Period STH: 08 Mar–27 Mar 2021

*All dates are subject to change

Other dates include press nights, development events, shadowing, mentoring, meetings, casting and additional opportunities which may occur throughout the year.