

Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme

NEW SCHEME LAUNCHED FOR FUTURE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS IN THEATRE

A company which seeks to change the face of British theatre by championing diversity in cultural leaders has announced a major new scheme for theatre and directors.

RTYDS (Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme) has launched the **RTYDS Associate Artistic Director Scheme** – a new opportunity for an experience and exceptional director to work in a leading regional theatre at a senior level. The scheme aims to provide a director with the tools to continue to develop their craft whilst learning about the role of an artistic director in cultural leadership.

Sue Emmas, Artistic Director of RTYDS said: *“The ask being made of artistic directors today is huge; they need to be entrepreneurs, fundraisers, politicians, with the ability to inspire a board and a workforce and at the same time make and facilitate exceptional art.*

“Opportunities to learn this demanding skillset first-hand are rare which is why we have created this new scheme in consultation with the network of UK producing theatres we work with.”

The RTYDS Associate Artistic Director Scheme will partner a director who has a strong professional track record with a major regional producing theatre to learn about the complexities of running a company and a building from within the Senior Management Team. During the residency the director will also stretch their artistic capabilities by making work on the mid-scale.

“As a director gets further into their career the chances to train are limited; there are few tailored, structured learning opportunities for artists wishing to learn about leadership and deepen their craft. This scheme covers it all.”

The Associate Artistic Director residency will also give the director the opportunity of working with RTYDS on its national programmes and provide an insight to theatre industry and theatre throughout the country.

“This is a really exciting opportunity for the successful director,” says Sue. “RTYDS has a unique position in the ecology of theatre across England; we have a national network of connections; we instigate and lead initiatives that make theatre more inclusive, and we contribute to the debate about representation at a national

level. Playing a part in this will benefit the successful applicant, the host organisation, and ultimately the industry."

The application deadline for theatre to host the Associate Artistic Director residency is September 30th 2019; the successful theatre will be informed on November 5th 2019.

The search for the Associate Artistic Director will open in November 2019. Interview will take place in January and February 2020 and the director will start their new role in September 2020.

For more information visit www.rtyds.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

The new Associate Assistant Director Scheme reflects RTYDS's commitment to the development of Artistic Directors as cultural leaders. It aims to combat the lack of leadership training whilst providing progression routes for talented artists and support their desire to lead, thus securing the strongest, most exciting productions, organisations, and industry.

Sue Emmas is Artistic Director of RTYDS and Associate Artistic Director at the **Young Vic** where she leads the Directors Programme running initiatives for young and emerging directors.

She is on the board of **HighTide Festival, Live Theatre Newcastle,** and **Common Theatre,** is part of the steering group of Stage Sight and a member of the University Court for London Southbank University.

RTYDS is a professional artist development programme for new and emerging theatre directors in the UK. The scheme seeks out and nurtures the most talented theatre directors and helps develop their skills and experience by placing them in the UK's leading regional theatres and providing unique training and professional development opportunities.

RTYDS can claim an impressive list of [past participants](#). Many directors have been or are now artistic directors of the UK's leading theatres.

[Introduction to Directing](#) is for potential directors from backgrounds currently under-represented in UK theatre as a result of barriers arising from social, gender, financial, ethnic, cultural, geographic or educational disadvantage or disability.

[Three Month Placement](#) works with theatres to support early career directors from under-represented backgrounds.

[18-Month Residency](#) seeks out the most talented emerging theatre directors and helps develop their skills and experience by placing them in theatres outside London. In 2019 they placed **Sameena Hussain**

at **Leeds Playhouse** and **Jay Crutchley** at **Bristol Tobacco Factory Theatres**.

[The Board](#) at RTYDS is made up of artistic directors and CEOs of major theatres, freelance directors and past alumni. It also includes theatre professional with experience in finance, development, and strategic planning in performing arts. More about the board and patrons here.

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For more information and interviews

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