



Position: Play Director
Title: Director
Term: Temporary, Paid 1099 Contractor

The director is responsible for bringing together the many complex pieces of a production—the script, actors, set, costuming, lighting, and sound and music—into a unified whole. To accomplish this task, a director needs to:

- Interpret the script
- Cast the production (two-day audition event)
- Plan and manage the rehearsals
- Guide the actors in their work during rehearsals
- Guide the actors with continuing education information and techniques
- Provide the actors with daily rehearsal feedback and guidance
- Collaborate with, oversee, and schedule deadlines as needed with various designers
- Follow a provided budget of expenditures within the financial policies of NTA
- Execute and/or delegate costume, prop, set purchasing as required
- Offer suggestions and ideas to promote/market the production
- Communicate and coordinate with NTA management

The director's work should be based on a detailed study and analysis of the script to be produced. Carefully read the script in order to develop an individual vision of the playwright's intentions, which will form the core of your interpretation. Develop and understanding of "what the play is really about" to shape your thinking about every other aspect of the production, and communicate and manage that vision throughout.

Study the characters in the script, to gather as much information as you can about their physical and psychological traits. This is vital preparation for casting, when the actors who are best able to bring the characters to life in performance need to be chosen. Once the actors are chosen, use various techniques to guide them towards the vision you have for their characters.

Position: Production Director

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Schedule initial and follow up meetings as needed, with the assistant director, stage manager, costume designer, set designer, and technical/lighting designer to communicate your vision and direction. Throughout the production, share any technical needs in the script. This helps with a free flow of ideas as the production develops and will further refine your vision of the production as a whole.

Details in the script about the specific locale(s) in which the action takes place need to be attended to early in the production process, because they will determine both the basic requirements of the set and the possible movement of the actors on stage. Acting areas, entrances and exits, and furniture and props called for in the script or desired by the director will need to be a part of the set design.

The floor plan can then be sketched out. The floor plan is a basic outline drawing of the stage setting as it would look from above. It is an essential rehearsal planning tool because it allows a director to work out the blocking of the play (the precise moment-by-moment movement and grouping of actors on stage).

The director's creative collaboration continues during your work with the actors in rehearsals. The actors will bring their own interpretations to the project and perhaps inspire the director to rethink his or her interpretation. You'll work closely together to breathe life into the lines and develop a deeper understanding of the characters' motivations and relationships, fleshing out the subtext of the play. Later the focus of your work in rehearsals will broaden to the overall look and feel of the whole production as transitions between scenes are smoothed out, effective pacing is achieved and all the design and technical aspects of the production are integrated.

To help you be successful in your role with NTA, directors will be provided with the following: a key to enter the facility, access to the office computer and printer, an expense budget (NTA board approved), spending policies and procedures, a business expense reconcile form, house rules document, audition form, audition supporting details form with roles placeholder, and an actor/volunteer contract.

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