



Theatre Royal Stratford East
Gerry Raffles Square, London, E15 1BN

T 020 8534 7374

F 020 8534 8381

Box Office 020 8534 0310

E theatreroyal@stratfordeast.com

W stratfordeast.com

Artistic Director Nadia Fall

Executive Director Eleanor Lang

APRIL 2025

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Assistant Director – The Harder They Come.**

This pack includes information on Theatre Royal Stratford East, the job description, person specification and details on how to apply. Please read all the information carefully before starting your application. Only relevant information will be considered when shortlisting applicants for interview. You may find it helpful to look at the Stratford East website www.stratfordeast.com for general information on the theatre's policies, current programme and history.

We would like all applicants to know that if they need additional support during the recruitment process, we are happy to make reasonable adjustments.

Access requirements for the application process

We want to make this application process as accessible as possible and supply large print application packs. We will accept covering letters and CVs in a video or audio format.

We appreciate that some candidates will have needs which mean that it is preferable for them to submit a recorded application, rather than a written one.

Recorded applications should be:

- No longer than 4 minutes, unless longer is needed to meet your access needs
- We welcome application videos in BSL

If you have any specific requirements including anything you might need should you get called for interview (e.g. interpreters, information in different formats etc.), or would like to discuss any aspect of the role in confidence, please contact recruitment@stratfordeast.com.

Please note, any information you provide around your access requirements will not form part of the shortlisting process.

To apply for the post, please send us:

- Your name, postcode, and, if you'd like to, your preferred pronouns

- A summary of your Directing credits or other relevant experience. This can be in your preferred format: CV, film or audio.
- Your answer to the question: 'Why are you interested in working on this specific project?'
 - When answering we encourage you to tell us about your experiences, skills and interests so that we can understand as much about you and your suitability for the role as possible.
 - If you're writing the answer, then please keep it to **one side of A4**. If it's filmed or recorded, then please keep it to less than four minutes.
- Let us know your access requirements (e.g. Printing on coloured paper, step-free access, BSL interpreter etc.)

Send your application to:
recruitment@stratfordeast.com

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **10:00am on Monday 28 April. Applications received after 10:00am on the deadline date will not be accepted.**

It is intended that initial interviews will take place on:
w/c 12 May and w/c 26 May

We may ask you to carry out a task as part of the interview process. We give as much notice as possible

ahead of a task. We are happy to make reasonable adjustments for applicants, if needed, to complete the task.

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you for your interest in Theatre Royal Stratford East.

TRSE is committed to a policy of equal opportunities embracing diversity in all areas of activity and positively welcomes applications from disabled people and people of all ethnicities.

Theatre Royal Stratford East

Stratford East makes theatre both for, and inspired by, our community in Newham, East London. We continue the political and revolutionary ethos of our founder Joan Littlewood as a leading London theatre and civic hub for East London. We are driven by our art, inclusive and bold. We tell stories that provoke discourse about the world we live in and our place within it.

Stratford East is a producing theatre, built in 1884, in the heart of East London, situated a short walk from Stratford station. We have a proud history and an exciting future. We represent our culturally and socially diverse community in the work we make, the people we employ and our audiences and participants. We tell stories that are current, political and representative of London.

From 1953 – 1979 the theatre was the home of Joan Littlewood's legendary Theatre Workshop Company. The Company received international recognition with their acclaimed productions such as *Oh, What a Lovely War!* and *A Taste of Honey*. Many leading actors, writers and directors have been part of the Theatre Royal Stratford East family including Meera Syal, Barbara Windsor, Don Warrington, Sheila Hancock, Indhu Rubasingham, Tanika Gupta, Roy Williams and Cynthia Erivo.

Under Lisa Spirling's Artistic direction, we present a bold programme of reimagined classics, timely revivals and ground-breaking new work. Our current 140th season includes the Olivier nominated, *AMINAL FARM*, 'conceptually brilliant' *THE WOMEN OF LLANRUMNEY*, a brand-new musical comedy, *LOVESTUCK*, a large-scale production of *ROMEO & JULIET* featuring young artists and the local community and the UK premier adapted for stage, *THE HARDER THEY COME*.

Alongside our work on stage, we run a Learning and Participation offer that is accessible and inclusive to all, with the aim to develop creative talent for people of every age. We run a range of programmes to create a lasting impact for our local community which aims to:

- provide routes into the industry, across all theatre departments, with a particular focus on diversifying those coming into the workplace, ensuring the theatre workplace of the future is a diverse and skilled one; and

- provide opportunities to people of all ages to develop their creative talents and engage with the work of the theatre, ensuring that there is a creative outlet to the widest possible constituency.

Governance and Finances

Theatre Royal Stratford East is a registered charity (Charity Name: Pioneer Theatres Ltd) and a company limited by guarantee. Stratford East Trading Limited is a subsidiary of the charity and operates the bar and catering provision. We are overseen by a non-executive Board of Directors who delegate day-to-day management of the theatre to its Executive Team.

We have an annual turnover of approximately £3.5m and our work is funded through four main sources: grant income from Arts Council England and the London Borough of Newham; box office income; fundraising income from trusts, businesses and individuals; and other earned income which includes commercial hires, catering and front of house sales.

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Practises

Stratford East is committed to safeguarding and embedding safeguarding in all its working practices.

As part of our recruitment process, we ask applicants to agree to undertake a DBS check and complete a self-disclosure form, if applicable to the role.

If required, applicants will need to complete a self-disclosure form if invited to an interview. The completed form should be brought to the interview in a sealed envelope, marked 'confidential'. The envelope will only be opened, and the contents reviewed, as part of our referencing process, if the candidate is successful. All unopened disclosure forms will be shredded.

References are only sought for successful candidates, when referees are approached, we will ask them to assess the candidate's suitability for the role if it involves working with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

JOB DESCRIPTION

We are looking for an Assistant Director for our production of THE HARDER THEY COME – Book by Suzan-Lori Parks, including songs by Jimmy Cliff, based upon the film by Perry Henzell and directed by Matthew Xia. This is a Stratford East production in association with Washington Square Films, Joshua Blum and Bruce Miller.

About The Harder They Come

Based on the cult classic film that brought reggae to the world, THE HARDER THEY COME tells the story of Ivan, an aspiring singer who arrives in Kingston, Jamaica, determined to live out his dreams on his own terms and make it as a music superstar.

After cutting a record deal with a manipulative music mogul, Ivan learns that the game is rigged and becomes increasingly defiant. As his star rises, he finds himself topping the charts and the most-wanted list of criminals.

This unmissable show transports audiences to 1970s Jamaica and asks us the question: "What is the personal cost of fighting against systemic injustice?"

This staging of the seminal film features a sensational soundtrack with brand new songs plus many of Jimmy Cliff's hits including "You Can Get It If You Really Want" and "Many Rivers to Cross".

A UK premiere adapted for the stage by Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks and directed by Olivier Award-winner Matthew Xia (*Tambo & Bones*, *Skeleton Crew*).

Duties and responsibilities include:

- Working in collaboration with the Director and Creative Team to realise the artistic aims of the production
- Attending, supporting and participating in production and creative team meetings, rehearsals, technical rehearsals and preview performances of the Production up to and including the Press Night Performance, as required

- Supporting the director and stage-management team with scheduling and overseeing rehearsals.
- Attending and facilitating pre- and post-show question and answer sessions and outreach events in the absence of the Director
- Research, preparation and support during the pre-production period, as required
- Overseeing understudy/cover rehearsals including the regular understudy/cover rehearsal call during the run and ensuring that the understudies/covers are ready to perform to a professional standard throughout the run of the Production
- Checking and noting the Production on a weekly basis following the Press Night Performance

Person Specification:

	Essential	Desirable
Experience and Knowledge		
Experience working on a professional production (can be of any scale as a director, associate director, assistant director or similar)	X	
Knowledge of production process and practices	X	
Experience of working on a professional musical production		x

Personal Attributes		
Team player who enjoys collaborative working	X	
Demonstrable alignment with Theatre Royal Stratford East's core culture and values	X	
Enthusiasm for theatre and the arts	X	
Someone who is excited by the creative process and interested in working with people of different experiences	x	

Dates and Time Commitment:

The Assistant Director will be required on a full-time basis throughout the rehearsal process, technical rehearsals and previews up to and including Press Night. They will be required to attend at least once a week for noting and supporting the production during the run, on a schedule to be agreed, as well as leading understudy rehearsals and supporting the understudy/cover process throughout the run.

Schedule:

Rehearsals from 4 August 2025 (Toynbee Studios)
Fit up w/c 1 September
Technical rehearsals w/c 8 September
Preview performances from 13 September
Technical lock off 19 September
Press Night 23 September
Close 25 October or 1 November 2025

Contract type: Full time, Freelance, Fixed Term

Fee:

£5,000

- Please note that you will be contracted as self-employed and responsible for your own tax and National Insurance contributions.

INFORMATION

Stratford East is committed to a policy of equal opportunities embracing diversity in all areas of activity and positively welcomes applications from disabled people and people of all ethnicities.

End of document.