

Romeo and Juliet

Shakespeare and Rap. A love story.

The original play, originally scored – with rap and R&B.

Some aspects of this new, innovative co-production of Romeo and Juliet aren't new at all.

Everything that makes Shakespeare's play so well loved is here. The rich, feuding families. The intense, forbidden passion. And the flash of violence that tears the young lovers apart, sending them spiraling towards tragedy.

This is unmistakably Shakespeare's love story, unaltered in its original text. But it's not just Shakespeare's play. There is an important Plus One: rap.

Our story shines with new, original elements of rap – as well as soul and R&B. Think everyday English as well as the Elizabethan variety. And the poetry of rap rhythms as well as perfect pentameters.

Romeo and Juliet is a co-production with Bristol Old Vic and Hackney Empire. Directed by Corey Campbell, creative director of the Belgrade, the play springs from our communities. The music elements reflect a collaboration with new company, That's a Rap. And we've worked with local young people who have been taken out of mainstream education, on the production.

Together, we've created something unique. A Shakespearean lyrical love story – for people who love the music of the spoken word of every generation.

Key Dates

Submissions of interest close on 10th December

Selected applicants will be invited to meet with the Associate Director on

- Thursday 12th December
- Friday 13th December
- Tuesday 17th December

Belgrade Theatre Rehearsals

13th January – 26th February

Bristol Old Vic Run

- 12th March – 6th April

Hackney Empire Run

- 23rd-26th April

The fee for this post will be a set fee of £3,200. Any out of pocket expenses connected to travel to Bristol and Hackney will be agreed with the Associate Director

Role description

The Belgrade Theatre is looking for an early career local Director from Coventry or the surrounding areas (we ask that you live within easy commuting distance of the Belgrade Theatre) to take up a paid Trainee Assistant Director opportunity from January – April 2025. Through this opportunity we hope to provide valuable experience for a local Director, which will enable them to secure other work within the theatre industry.

We welcome candidates from all walks of life and backgrounds to join us, and we encourage applications from those who continue to be marginalised in the theatre industry and face barriers that arise from inequalities due to gender, social, cultural, financial, racial, geographic inequality, educational disadvantage or disability.

We anticipate the post may attract candidates with a wide range of practical directing experience. Therefore, the role itself will be tailored to match the level of experience of the director, the opportunity is aimed at being a good “on the job” training position for candidates. In any event it is also expected that the Trainee Assistant Director will provide effective and efficient support to the Director and Associate Director and the rest of the company as is reasonable for their level of experience, during rehearsals and previews for the production. As well as noting the show once in each of its tour locations (Bristol and London – travel and accommodation will be provided).

As outlined above, the relevant tasks of the Trainee Assistant Director will vary depending on their own experience and the specific needs of the production. The

information below is intended as an outline of what can be expected from this role but is not a definitive or exhaustive list of duties.

Rehearsals and performances

- Undertaking research tasks for the Director as required, in advance of or during the rehearsal period.
- Supporting the work of the Director and Associate Director during rehearsals.
- Supporting the work of the actors and creative team as required.
- Taking notes during rehearsals, technical/dress rehearsals and performances.
- Attending production meetings and note sessions following preview performances.
- Staying alert to the overall creative process and any changes that are made.
- Assisting with rehearsing specific sections or scenes from the play, with members of the company and reporting back to the Director.
- Assisting the Associate Director with running rehearsals for the ensemble and or youth hubs cast members.
- Assisting actors with learning lines and line runs.
- Acting as a 'prompt' during rehearsals if needed by stage management.
- Where necessary provide support to the education, and Digital wrap around programme.

General

- To undertake any other duties which are consistent with the function of the job including attending meetings.
- Remaining open to new processes and ways of working.
- To develop an understanding of the Belgrade Theatre brand.
- To always work within the Theatre's Equal Opportunities Policy, and especially to create and maintain equality of access for local people to appropriate activities for self-expression within an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.
- To work within the Theatre's policies, in particular within its Health and Safety policies, and ensure adherence to these policies by freelance workers.

Person Specification

Essential:

- A passion for theatre.
- Full-time availability during the period outlined below.
- Local to Coventry and/or North Warwickshire.
- A willingness to embrace the Belgrade Brand Values.
- Some experience of making theatre, whether as a performer, deviser, writer or director and whether amateur or professional.
- A real interest in pursuing a career in directing theatre.
- Flexibility and willingness to embrace and respond to changes in the production process.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Skills in time management, and the ability to manage a varied programme of work.
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to liaise effectively with cast and creative team members, and internal Belgrade Theatre departments; an excellent team worker, supporting the work of colleagues as well as inviting support and input in return.
- Energy, flair and enthusiasm.
- A keen eye for detail.

Desirable:

- To be at the early stages of a career as a Director or assistant director.
- To have not assistant directed on a professional production.
- To have not worked on a professional production.
- An interest in Shakespeare.
- An interest in Rap musicality.
- An interest in working with young people and community.
- CV Postcode.

Terms & Conditions

- This is a freelance trainee post.

The post shall run for between 5.5 weeks, from the first day of rehearsals to Press Night, with two nights of attendance required during the run of the production. In addition, one show watch in Bristol and one show watch in London (dates TBC with Associate Director).

Usual days of work are expected to be 10am-6pm Monday to Saturday, with evening work, likely to be Tuesdays, Wednesdays.

Exact days and hours of work are to be agreed between the Trainee Assistant Director and Associate Director.

The post-holder will be expected to offer reasonable flexibility in their working arrangements where it is considered necessary to undertake the duties they are learning to perform, and in the interest of the service.

If eligible, subsistence is payable at the UK Theatre / Equity prevailing rate.

The notice period is one week.

Staff / Workers are entitled to tickets for shows at the Belgrade Theatre, subject to particular conditions and 10% discount at the Theatre's Café Bar, Restaurant and Bars.

On appointment the successful candidate must be able to provide the correct documents as proof of their right to work in the UK.

TRAINEE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR APPLICATION PROCESS

We are looking for a Trainee Assistant Director who has a passion for theatre, an enthusiasm to learn and a commitment to a career in directing. Please send us a CV and covering letter including the following

Please note that CVs need to include

- Full name:
- Date of Birth:
- Address:
- Current Postcode:
- Email Address:
- Telephone :

Please answer the following questions in your Cover letter (max 2 sides of A4 1000 words)

- Tell us about yourself, your theatre experience and why you are interested in becoming a director.
- Tell us why you are interested in working on *Romeo and Juliet* here at the Belgrade Theatre.
- Please tell us about your artistic aspirations and goals as a director.

Please send Applications to Communityadmin@Belgrade.co.uk

With the subject Heading: R&J TRAINEE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR