



DIRECTOR INFO PACK

Directors are responsible for artistic integrity of the production — the overall practical and creative interpretation of the work. This takes into account the budgetary and physical constraints of production.

Directors are involved in all stages of the process—they are expert collaborators! From the design and pre-production stages, rehearsal, right through to the final performance.

Directors work closely with their creative and production teams, the performers and the producer to create a performance which connects with the audience. They therefore need to be able to coordinate effectively across a wide range of disciplines and with artistic vision.

SOME OF THE TASKS OF A DIRECTOR INCLUDE:

- Involvement with programming and budgeting
- Adapting a script and, working with the writer or collaborators
- Breaking down a script, analysing and exploring the content and researching
- Translating and interpreting a script or musical score
- Holding auditions for productions, selecting designers, musicians, etc.
- Managing time and organising people and space
- Attending production meetings with set designers
- Organising rehearsals; as a rough guide, in most plays, a single page translates into approximately one minute of stage time. Of course for a devised work this is expanded (as you are essentially the playwright as well)
- Communicate and liaise with everyone; actors, creatives, the production team and producer
- Attending previews and preparing notes
- Helping to publicise the production by giving interviews and leading discussions
- And of course - rehearsing the show!

FIRST UP

The director's initial meetings with the production manager, costume designer, set designer and lighting designer typify the creative collaboration vital to theatre. Any notes the director has made on the technical and creative needs in the script are shared with the designers.

WORKING WITH DESIGNERS

- Sitting down with your set and lighting designers and talking through the visual needs of the work. What is your aesthetic vision, what is going to help you realise your vision, what is creatively interesting—what can you do in the space you have with your limited budget.
 - Your designers job is to come up with drawings and/or models for the design, both front-on and birds-eye view. This drawing or model becomes a way to have creative and technical conversations about how to best realise the Director's vision. It's also a good way to discover limitations.
 - 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/choreography.
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WORKING WITH ACTORS

- Actors draw out character motivations and relationships under the watchful eye of the director, who strives to develop these expressions.
 - A director's job is also to make sure that transitions (or the segue from scene to scene) feels effortless.
 - Directors finish their work when they determine the final pacing of the play reverberates with the life of an artistic vision that is satisfying and complete.
 - One of the most subtle and important jobs for a director is herding the cast toward opening night.
 - Most often plays are best rehearsed out of sequence. This maximises rehearsal hours.
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REHEARSALS

The actors will bring their own interpretations to the project and perhaps inspire the director to rethink their interpretation. They will 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 the director's 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.

Once the show opens, the director's work is essentially complete. Now it's the stage manager's job to make sure that every aspect of the production runs just as the director intended time after time, until the production closes.