

Applicant Information



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Laboratory Associate Director with Nuffield Southampton Theatres (NST).

To apply you need to complete an application form and equal opportunities monitoring form which can be found and downloaded from the NST website. When doing so please follow these instructions:

- Please ensure you complete all sections of the application form as fully as possible.
- In the supporting information section of the application form, please include why you are interested in this post and what skills and experience you will bring to the role from present and previous experience.
- Your application must be emailed to NST by **12pm on Friday 13th July 2018**.
- Your application should be emailed to Alison Thurley Alison.thurley@nsttheatres.co.uk
- We are happy to accept applications in alternative formats from applicants who, for reasons of disability, may find it difficult to fill in our standard forms. If you wish to submit such an application please make sure you provide answers to all the questions asked in the application form. We are also happy to supply these in an alternative format if required.

Please note that interviews are likely to take place on w/c 16th July 2018, however this is not a confirmed date.

Many thanks for your interest in NST.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Routh
Executive Director
Nuffield Southampton Theatres

Information about Nuffield Southampton Theatres (NST)

Set up as an independent trust in 1982, NST is a producing theatre company based in Southampton. It is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and is also funded by Southampton City Council and the University of Southampton.

NST is one of the UK's leading professional theatre companies, producing and presenting work in a range of spaces alongside developing professional talent and offering a comprehensive range of educational and participatory activities. The company is led by Samuel Hodges, supported by a team of associates: directors Blanche McIntyre, Natalie Abrahami and Michael Longhurst, designer Tom Scutt, playwright Adam Brace, choreographer Drew McOnie and poet Inua Ellams.

NST develops and produces work with some of the UK's most exciting and dynamic regional theatres and companies – a practice which has established a vibrant artistic network and body of work for audiences. In 2017 NST co-produced with Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Headlong, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Nottingham Playhouse and Royal & Derngate, and future productions include *Women in Power*, *Don Carlos* and *Billionaire Boy*. High quality touring work (recent companies include Graeae, Frantic Assembly and Bristol Old Vic) make up a programme which also includes a regular comedy strand, a growing emphasis on work for children, and a commitment to festivals to celebrate particular themes and art-forms.

NST is a multi-award winning company, including Best Director UK Theatre Awards 2014 (*The Seagull*), Regional Theatre of the Year at The Stage Awards 2015, Best Design UK Theatre Awards 2015 (*The Hudsucker Proxy*), and the 2017 Renee Stepham UK Theatre Award for Best Presentation of Touring Theatre (*Fantastic Mr Fox*). And in 2017 NST took on the running of NST City – the north building within Southampton's new city centre arts venue known as Studio 144 – whilst continuing to run NST Campus, its existing 490 seater theatre based at the University of Southampton. NST City houses a 447 seat main house theatre, a 138 seat studio, screening facilities, rehearsal and education spaces and a café bar and bistro. NST has taken on a strategic lead role in co-ordinating creative partnerships within the complex and the city and working closely with the John Hansard Gallery and City Eye who will be resident in the adjacent south building.

NST aims to be a major cultural force for Southampton offering the highest quality opportunities for the widest possible range of audiences and participants; providing an essential home to support artistic practice for the region; and playing a key role in championing the value of culture locally. Both of NST's sites will be core to delivering this integrated programme: its campus base at NST Campus, where it will work in an increasingly strategic partnership with the University of Southampton; and its new city centre base, which will be an anchor and hub for the city's burgeoning Cultural Quarter.

NUFFIELD SOUTHAMPTON THEATRES (NST)

JOB DESCRIPTION: LABORATORY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Responsible to: **Laboratory Producer**

Responsible for: N/A

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Laboratory

NST Laboratory is the company's artistic development programme, a creative engine room at the heart of the organisation, through which the NST team, its creative associates, and its community of artists can explore creative new ideas and develop their work; hone and grow their theatrical craft; and network with other practitioners.

Position Summary

Launched in 2015, the Laboratory Associate scheme provides an opportunity for early-career* creatives to undertake a one-year attachment, developing skills, creating a collaborative project and acting as artistic members of the Laboratory team.

Over the course of the year, the Laboratory Associate Director will assist a lead Director on two NST Productions, contribute to Laboratory's programme of work, attend selected NST meetings and have the opportunity to lead a collaborative responsive project working with the Laboratory Associate Designers and Producer.

Our 2015/16 Lab Director was Anthony Lau who assisted on *The Hudsucker Proxy* co-directed by Simon Dormandy and Toby Sedgwick and *The Glass Menagerie* directed by Sam Hodges. Anthony also directed Lucy Alibar's *Juicy and Delicious* created with the other Laboratory Associates.

He was Associate Director on NST's production, *The Shadow Factory* which opened the new NST City venue in February 2018.

Our 2016/17 Laboratory Director was Chloe Mashiter who assisted on *Dedication* directed by Sam Hodges and *Fantastic Mr Fox* directed by Maria Aberg. Chloe went on to become Resident Director for the *Fantastic Mr Fox* tour which toured to venues including Lyric Hammersmith, The Lowry, and Curve, as well as the UAE. With the other Laboratory Associates, Chloe devised a new piece *I Won't Make It On My Own* based on the every day ordinary acts of making.

Our 2017/18 Laboratory Director is Ian Nicholson who has assisted Sam Hodges on *Son of Rambow* at the Other Palace and will be assisting Luke Sheperd on *Billionaire Boy* this Christmas. He is working on directing a re-imagining of the Medusa story with the current Laboratory Associates.

*Our definition of early career doesn't just mean young and emerging.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assisting a lead Director in the realisation and delivery of two NST Productions. Specific assisting duties will be tailored to the individual's capability, as well as to the specifics of the productions. One of the productions will be directed by NST Artistic Director, Sam Hodges and is expected to be produced at NST City.
- In collaboration with the Laboratory Associate Designers and Producer, acting as lead Director on the development of a new studio scale project which is made in response to a NST Main House production.
- Attending monthly meetings with Laboratory Associates and NST's Laboratory Producer, feeding into the ongoing strategy for NST Laboratory.
- Contributing to the delivery of skills development events through Laboratory whereby the Laboratory Associate Director can pass on their skills and knowledge. This may include: leading a JMK director's workshop, leading a Grapevine networking event, assisting on Experiment etc.
- Attending selected internal NST meetings, such as programming or artistic planning meetings, both to gain insight into the artistic processes of a producing theatre and to offer input.
- Attending work-in-progress, readings and shows on behalf of NST where appropriate.
- Acting as ambassador for NST at all times in the public realm and online.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

- Enthusiasm for NST and its programme
- At least 12-18 month's professional experience as a freelance director/assistant
- Strong commitment to developing a career as a theatre director
- Willing to contribute to and learn from the Laboratory programme
- Basic knowledge of the UK theatre sector
- Good time management skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and interested in building relationships
- Good IT and computer skills

RENUMERATION

Contract: Freelance, one-year attachment

Fee: £11,250 retainer. Some expenses available whilst on main house productions.

About role statements

As NST evolves to meet the changing needs of a producing company the roles required of all staff will evolve. As such staff should note that this document is not intended to represent the role that the incumbent will perform in perpetuity. This role statement is intended to provide an overall view of the role as at the date of this statement.