

JMK Award 2026 – Application Pack

The JMK Award was established in memory of James Menzies-Kitchin, a young theatre director who died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 28, to encourage others to fulfil their potential as he had promised to do.

The JMK Trust was founded to give opportunities to young theatre directors of similar ability and vision. The Award enables one outstanding applicant each year to create their own production. For many, winning the JMK Award is the breakthrough moment in their directing career with previous winners including: Adam Karim, Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu, Diane Page, Roy Alexander-Weise, Josh Roche, Polly Findlay, Natalie Abrahami, Bijan Sheibani, Thea Sharrock, and Joe Hill-Gibbons.

The Young Vic is committed to providing opportunities for directors to develop their craft and to expand their knowledge and practice. In 2026, the JMK Award returns to the Young Vic with an exciting list of titles for prospective directors to choose from. The winner of the JMK Award will stage their production in the Maria Studio Theatre in Autumn 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the JMK Award, the application process, accessibility requirements or general enquiries, then please email creatorsprogram@youngvic.org.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for directors with raw talent, enthusiasm and passion who wish to pursue a career as a theatre director.

Eligibility

You can apply for the JMK Award if the following statements apply to you:

- I will be between the ages 18-35 (inclusive) on 1st January 2027.
- I have not directed more than three professional productions.
 - A professional production is defined here as a full-length piece performed by professional actors (whether paid or unpaid) to a paying audience for a full production run (3 weeks or more).
- I have some professional training or practical experience in the performing arts (e.g. experience as an Assistant or Associate Director, choreographer or actor etc.)
- I am not in full or part-time education or currently undertaking a degree between now and January 2027.
- I am a resident in the UK, have permission to work in the UK and am based in the UK.
- I am available for the interviews and production dates listed in the timeline below.

Application Timeline and Process

You will need to be available for the key dates listed below: first and second stage interviews and the production dates.

Timeline:

Applications open – Thursday 04 December 2025

Applications close – 10am, Monday 12 January 2026

**Please note – we cannot accept ANY applications after the 10am deadline on Monday 12 January 2026 (please don't leave it until the last minute!!)*

First Stage Interviews (in person) – w/c 02 February 2026

Second Stage Interview & Practical (in person) – Friday 06 and Saturday 07 March 2026

Award Winner Announced – March/April 2026

Production dates

Rehearsal: 21 September – 17 October 2026

Technical Rehearsal/Previews: w/c 19 October 2026

Production run until Saturday 21 November 2026

Process:**Application Form**

To enter the Award, you will first need to complete an application form. As part of the application form you will be asked to:

- Complete a Personal Information form
 - All applications are anonymised – this form is used for administrative and equal opportunities purposes and is not passed onto the panel.
- Pick **one** of the five plays from the list
 - Please only pick **one** play – we cannot accept multiple applications from the same candidate
 - Pick a play that you have something to say about, as you may be spending up to a year or more with it!
- Answer three questions relating to your play selection
- Submit your CV as a Word Document or PDF
 - Please remove your name and contact details from your CV.

1st Stage (w/c 02 February)

Interview – an in-person interview with panellists from the JMK Trust and Young Vic team. This will be a chance to talk more about your experience and ideas for your selected play including initial design and staging ideas.

2nd Stage (06 and 07 March)

Day 1: Interview – an in-person interview with you and your designer with panellists from the JMK Trust and Young Vic team. This will be a chance for you and your designer to present your ideas.

Day 2: Practical – an in-person 3-hour practical workshop session where you'll work with professional actors to rehearse a scene. You will be observed by members of the JMK Trust and Young Vic team to see how you like to direct.

Plays:

- **All The Little Lights** - Jane Upton
- **Attempts on Her Life** - Martin Crimp*
- **Black Men Walking** - Testament
- **Girls** - Theresa Ikoko
- **The Funeral Director** - Iman Qureshi

[Click here to access the scripts.](#)

*Please note, if you select *Attempts on Her Life* by Martin Crimp, you are permitted to have up to four actors.

Technical Specification:

You may find it useful to look at the technical specification of the Maria Studio Theatre to understand the space in which the production will be performed. This will also help with your conversations with your designer for the latter stages of the application process.

[Download the technical specification of the Maria Studio Theatre here.](#)

Application Forms:

- Complete the online [PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM](#) here
- Download and complete **the APPLICATION FORM** from the Young Vic website

Send your completed application form and CV (with your name/contact details removed) to: creatorsprogram@youngvic.org

We also accept applications via audio or video files. Please ensure that you are answering all the questions in the application form, and that your audio/video file lasts no more than 5 minutes. Applications are anonymised, so we will only use the transcript from your file. You can email your file to the same email above.

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