

Jerwood Assistant Director

Supported by the Jerwood Foundation, we are looking for a Jerwood Assistant Director for our production of ***Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*** by Rajiv Joseph directed by Omar Elerian.

The Young Vic is committed to providing opportunities for directors to develop their craft and to expand their knowledge and practice. Learning from experienced artists by assisting is a vital chance to develop skills and understanding. Equally, having the chance to spend time in a theatre and to understand how the departments work together to produce work is also an important aspect of a director and theatre maker's knowledge.

The scheme provides each Jerwood Assistant Director with:

- An assistantship on a production at the Young Vic
- A paid two-week placement at the Young Vic, observing day to day running of the theatre, attending planning and management meetings and spending time in departments such as Marketing & Audiences, Production, and Development
- A small pot of money to see shows

About Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

When an atheist suddenly finds himself walking around after death, he has got some serious re-evaluating to do.

Iraq, well into the new millennium. A fast-talking Tiger haunts the streets, plagued by a fundamental question: "Why am I here?"

And he's not the only one.

US forces have long since toppled Saddam Hussein, yet Baghdad remains aflame. In the chaos, the lives of American Marines Tom and Kev collide with Iraqi translator Musa after their chance encounters with the Tiger. Iraqi or American, man or beast, they are all searching for meaning, revenge, forgiveness, and a solid gold toilet seat that's worth a fortune.

Rajiv Joseph's dark comedy received multiple Tony nominations and recognition as a Pulitzer Prize finalist after it's Broadway run. Now in its European premiere, **Omar Elerian** brings this surreal and profound play to the Young Vic.

Writer – **Rajiv Joseph**

Director – **Omar Elerian**

Set & Costume Designer – **Rajha Shakiry**

Lighting Designer – **Jackie Shemesh**

Sound Designer - **Elena Peña**

Movement Director – **Annie-Lunnette Deakin-Foster**

Casting Director – **Heather Basten CDG**

Costume Supervisor – **Male Arcucci**

Prop Supervisor – **Kate Margretts**

Associate Designer – **Yimei Zhao**

Cast includes **Ammar Haj Ahmad, Arinzé Kene, Hala Omran** and **David Threlfall**.

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
- Research, preparation and support during the pre-production period, as required
- Assisting with the creation of the programme
- Overseeing cover rehearsals and ensuring that any 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

Key dates

Applications open	Monday 14 July 2025
Applications close	10am, Monday 11 August 2025
Interviews	Week commencing 25 August 2025
Rehearsals start	Monday 27 October 2025
Technical rehearsals start	w/c 24 November 2025
First preview	Tuesday 02 December 2025
Press performance	Tuesday 09 December 2025
Final performance	Saturday 31 January 2026

Fee & Availability

£5,000 to cover the period from appointment to the end of the run.

The Jerwood 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 supporting the understudy/cover process throughout the run.

Rehearsals typically take place Monday to Saturday between 10am-6pm, with possible evening calls. Rehearsals take place at the Young Vic.

There is an additional two-week placement payment of £550 per week. The timings of the placement is to be mutually agreed between the Young Vic and Jerwood Assistant Director, but this should take place within four months of the production.

There is a £200 budget to cover the cost of seeing productions either in London or beyond.

Eligibility requirements

For the Jerwood Assistant Director role on *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, we are looking for someone who:

- Is resident in the UK at the time of application
- Has the right to work in the UK for the duration of the assistantship
- Is fully available for the duration of the assistantship (see key dates above)
- Has experience as an Assistant Director on at least one mid-scale professional* production
- Has experience as a Director on at least one production (not necessarily in a professional capacity)
- Has knowledge of the production process
- Can speak and read Arabic (this is desirable and not essential)

*We would define 'professional' as: The team who created and realised the production have or hope to have theatre as their main career focus and source of income.

Application Process:

If you would like to apply, please submit your CV and a Cover Letter.

- Your CV should list all your relevant theatre credits (tip: if you have been an Assistant or Associate Director, please include who you were Assistant/Associate to)
- In your Cover Letter, and in no more than 500 words, please answer the following question:
 - Why are you interested in working on this specific production?
 - When answering this question, we encourage you to demonstrate how your experience has shaped your skills and understanding of what an Assistant Director's role and responsibility is.
- Please also include any information about any access requirements
- Please also complete an [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#). If you prefer not to provide the information, please answer 'prefer not to say' to the questions.

Please send your CV and Cover Letter to recruitment@youngvic.org

We also accept applications via audio or video files – lasting no more than 3 minutes. You can email your application (answering the above information) to:

recruitment@youngvic.org

Applications close – 10am, Monday 11 August 2025

Interviews: tbc, w/c 25 August 2025

Interviews will take place with Omar Elerian and a member of the Young Vic team.

We actively work to create a team at the Young Vic that is made up of people from a variety of backgrounds with different experiences, skills, and stories to join us and influence and develop our working practice.

It is important to us that the lived experience of our team accurately and fairly represents the participants, audiences, and communities we serve. We specifically welcome applications from candidates from the following groups, which we believe are under-represented in our workforce and in theatre more widely:

- Black people and people in the Global Majority
- People who are D/deaf and hard of hearing
- Disabled people
- Neurodivergent people
- People from working class backgrounds
- Members of the LGBTQIA+ community

About Young Vic

Our anti-racism commitment

Our leadership team and staff share a joint commitment to prioritising the wellbeing of Black people and people in the Global Majority at the Young Vic. We are working together to create a culture of care for all, but especially those with lived experience of racism, and we commit to holding each other accountable for building and maintaining this culture. We believe that making the Young Vic an anti-racist organisation, and a place where racism is not tolerated, makes the culture better for everyone.

The language we use and why

We believe that language is important and empowering. Where possible we are specific as possible with our language and avoid defaulting to umbrella terms or making assumptions about people's identity or experience.

When we can't be specific, we say, 'Black people and people in the Global Majority' instead of phrases like 'Person of Colour' and 'BAME'. This is because the term 'Black people and

people in the Global Majority' does not centre whiteness and is also factually true - over 80% of the world's population make up the Global Majority.

Our values at the Young Vic

We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where everyone is treated with fairness, dignity, respect and importance, and shows respect for themselves, others and our community regardless of seniority or area of work. Our values are as follows:

We believe theatre is at its best when everyone participates. We begin by asking, who isn't here that should be? Then we make certain they are. At the Young Vic, everyone belongs, everyone is welcome.

We are driven by relentless curiosity and debate. We believe in the power of stories to help us see the world in new ways. We believe in being a forum for discussion and opposing views, in the possibility of fostering understanding and shifting perspectives.

We believe in pioneering and leading into the unknown. We innovate in how we make work and how we share it. We push against the status quo to challenge whose voices are celebrated, and whose stories are told.

We are led by the creativity of our people and the limitless possibility of imagination. We believe in pushing limits and reimagining what's possible. We make space for the unexpected, and we move quickly to make the most of opportunity.

We collaborate: working together to achieve shared goals. We believe our organisation is made stronger by including varied and unique perspectives and talents in every aspect of our work. We are committed to reflecting the great diversity of our city onstage and off.

We prioritise kindness. We lead with heart, with care, and with the wellbeing of our people - our staff, participants, volunteers, theatre makers, civic leaders, advocates, supporters, and audience members.

We are committed to openness rooted in trust. We believe in being held to account - apologising when we've not upheld our values or when we've caused hurt or confusion, and learning from our mistakes.

Jerwood Foundation

Established in 1977 for John Jerwood MC (1918-1991) by Alan Grieve CBE, **Jerwood Foundation** is a UK charity committed to supporting excellence and emerging talent in the arts in the UK. Alan Grieve was appointed Chairman Emeritus in 2023, and at this time Rupert Tyler was appointed Chairman. The organisation is led by Lara Wardle, Executive Director and Trustee and to date Jerwood Foundation has committed over £112 million to support the arts in the UK.

Jerwood Foundation owns the **Jerwood Collection** of modern and contemporary art, and an important part of Jerwood's philanthropic mission is delivered by the Collection through its loaning programme and promotion of a broader understanding, interpretation and enjoyment of art. Also included in the Jerwood group of organisations is **Jerwood Space**, which was Jerwood's first major capital project when established by Jerwood Foundation in Southwark in 1998. Jerwood Space is a dedicated rehearsal space providing theatre, musical theatre, opera and dance companies with an outstanding environment within which to create their work.