

The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director 2025-26

Role Description and Terms and Conditions

"The NYT REP has pioneered a new way of training actors and the quality is extraordinary" - The Stage

The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director Bursary

Dates: w/c 15 September 2025 – 28 November 2025 and 5 January - June 2026

Remuneration: £14,000 bursary

Location: National Youth Theatre, 443-445 Holloway Road, London N7 6LW

Application Deadline and Interview Dates

Deadline for applications: 10am, Wednesday 23 July

Round 1 interview (online): Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 July

Round 2 interview (in person at NYT Holloway Road): Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 August

Start date: w/c 15 September

Background to the role

About NYT

Founded in 1956, the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain (NYT) is a world-leading, award-winning youth arts organisation. We discover, inspire, and showcase the diverse talents of young people aged 14 to 30 from across the UK, providing high quality practical experience in performance and technical theatre which enables young people to acquire vital transferable skills and confidence. We pride ourselves on spotting potential and ensuring that an environment is created within which this talent can be nurtured and developed. We are a company of firsts, continually breaking the mould and cementing our reputation as a pioneer in youth arts performance.

About The NYT REP Company

The NYT REP Company is a free, industry-based alternative to formal training, offered over eight months of activity to 16 exceptionally talented young people to give them an industry head start. The programme begins with an intensive 9-week actor training programme with industry leaders, before progressing to a production phase with the company rehearsing and presenting two productions with professional creative and production teams. The final phase of the training is the development of a film project. Alongside direct training from professionals and organisations including National Theatre, The Bush, BBC and Urban Myth Films, each NYT REP member receives additional support through an industry mentor.

About the Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director

The role's purpose is to learn the skills of a director through practical experience. The Assistant Director will support the work of the NYT REP Company. To do this, they are expected to train

alongside the actors in the REP Company, and to assist the Directors and creative teams working on each of the production phase projects; two theatre shows, and one film project. The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director will be mentored throughout their training by **Rachel Bagshaw**, award-winning stage director, theatre maker and Artistic Director of The Unicorn Theatre.

About the Bryan Forbes Bursary

The Bryan Forbes Bursary was set up in 2014 in memory of Director Bryan Forbes CBE who was President of National Youth Theatre from 1983 to 2005. The Bursary enabling the Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director for the 2025/26 NYT REP Company will be the tenth that we have awarded. National Youth Theatre is very grateful to all those who have donated to the Bryan Forbes Bursary and in particular Emma Forbes and Graham Clempson.

Role Description

Title of role: The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director

Hours: This is not an employment contract. The role is structured in 2 phases:

REP PHASE 1: 15 September 2025 – 28 November 2025

- Intensive training full-time, 10am-6pm Monday-Friday at NYT's Creative Headquarters (443-445 Holloway Road, London, N7 6LW)
- Includes 3 evenings per week (from 22 September), 6pm-9pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

REP PHASE 2: w/c 5 January 2026 – June 2026

- Rehearsal and production phase, full-time
- 2 theatre shows and 1 film project
- Phase 2 will include evening and weekend calls, including longer hours during technical rehearsal weeks for each production

The REP Company and Bryan Forbes Director will be on a break between **29 November 2025 and 4 January 2026**. No bursary payments will be made during this time.

Remuneration: The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director receives a **£14,000 bursary** to support their training and development

Expectations of the Assistant Director

- To attend weekly meetings with NYT's Associate Director to support the REP training programme and assess progress.
- To train alongside the fellow REP company members
- To support with administrative tasks during the Phase 1 training period, including scheduling and communications with industry professionals and the company
- To be Assistant Director on three National Youth Theatre REP productions (2 theatre shows and 1 film project), and, in doing so to satisfy the demands of the Director of each production, which may include:
 - To attend production meetings for the REP shows.

- To provide research material for rehearsals as instructed by the Director.
- To arrange visiting experts for the rehearsals.
- To support the Director in rehearsals – this may involve contributing to rehearsal discussions, taking note of rehearsal progress, supervising second rehearsals (e.g., dance calls, music calls), assisting with scheduling rehearsal calls, and on rare occasions leading rehearsals in Director's absence.
- To support the REP actors in rehearsals, such as assisting with line learning.
- To support the Stage Management and technical team in rehearsals and during technical rehearsals, such as standing in for actors during lighting sessions.
- To support the Director during technical rehearsals and previews; checking sightlines, taking performance notes, rehearsing scene changes
- To monitor the productions during the run. This involves watching each performance, taking notes of any corrections that need to be made, feeding back a report to the Director, and when instructed by the Director, offering feedback to the performers.
- To work with the National Youth Theatre team and to take on any duties in support of the work of The National Youth Theatre as required by them, including casting, and production activities outside of REP.
- To adhere to and promote the company's policies in relation to equal opportunities, health and safety, diversity, environment.

Person Specification

- Proven experience as a theatre director/assistant director – at least one professional, reviewed show, and previous assisting experience highly preferable
- Interest in film and digital work
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and the ability to adapt communication styles to a range of different audiences and purposes
- Ability to give strong notes and to be observant and constructive when watching rehearsals and performances
- An ability to multitask and respond reliably to tasks as required by the artistic team
- Be positive and approachable when dealing with a wide range of artists at all levels
- Highly organised, self-motivated and the ability to prioritise tasks
- Proven strong administrative skills, competent IT skills including Excel and other Microsoft packages.
- Experience of working with young people
- Ability to work effectively and efficiently as part of a busy team

Additional Training

The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director will participate in Continuing Professional Development opportunities offered by NYT to learn about safeguarding, equality and quality assurance. The post

holder will participate in Access and Inclusion training, Safeguarding training and Navigating Boundaries training.

The Bryan Forbes NYT REP Assistant Director will have access to benefits provided by NYT including a confidential support and counselling service operated by Health Assured.

Terms and Conditions

- The Assistant Director will have an updated DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and online training safeguarding (NYT will provide this).
- The Assistant Director will receive a £14,000 bursary award
- Then payment will be made in 8 monthly instalments of £1,750, starting on 8 September 2025 and running September, October, November 2025 and January, February, March, April and May 2026. No payment in December.
- Should the Assistant Director leave before the end date (June 2026) the allocated bursary for the time missed should be returned to NYT.
- The progress of the Assistant Director will be monitored by the Associate Director