

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

2026 MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative

OVERVIEW

The MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative supports Melbourne Theatre Company's commitment to fostering the professional development of Australia's next directors and contributes to the sustainability of our arts sector.

The initiative offers an invaluable opportunity for participants to learn about the process of developing productions for large-scale companies by providing paid positions for early to mid-career directors based in Melbourne to work alongside established and experienced theatre directors on a Melbourne Theatre Company production.

Assistant directors will be invited to attend design presentations and conversations in advance of rehearsals, gaining an insight into the pre-production process. Assistant directors will support the production's director in rehearsal through to opening, attend weekly production meetings and observe the bump in of the production into the theatre. Depending on the production's needs, the assistant director may be required to take on specific and relevant to directing responsibilities and attend performances during the season for show maintenance.

Melbourne Theatre Company is now advertising four (4) Assistant Director positions for 2026.

The 2026 assistant director positions have been made possible through the generous support of MinterEllison. Assistant directors may be invited to events hosted by MinterEllison and/or Melbourne Theatre Company at various times throughout the year – attendance, where possible, is greatly appreciated. Assistant directors may be invited to participate in an interview (filmed/written) and/or write editorial content about their experience as an assistant director on the production that may be used online by Melbourne Theatre Company and/or MinterEllison to support and promote the Future Directors Initiative.

Examples of previous content are available to view at mtc.com.au/futuredirectors

FEE & BENEFITS

The fee for each position is \$ 7,250 plus superannuation at the prevailing legislated rate.

This position will be engaged as a contractor and paid via ABN.

This position does not attract overtime payments or leave.

The fee provided covers pre-production, rehearsals through to Opening Night and, where requested, attendance during the season for show maintenance. If you are required to transfer a production to a second venue or take on re-rehearsal duties, an appropriate fee will be negotiated at time of engagement.

You will also receive two complimentary tickets to each Melbourne Theatre Company production (excluding Education & Families production) presented during Season 2026

You will have the opportunity to meet and explore topics of interest with Melbourne Theatre Company's artistic teams, senior management and participants of other pathway programs and initiatives within the Company. Through the rehearsal period you will have a regular touch point in the artistic team with whom you can reflect artistically and/or discuss company processes.

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PRODUCTIONS

The productions for which the positions are available are:

The Glass Menagerie

By Tennessee Williams

Director: Mark Wilson

Rehearsals: 23 March – 20 April 2026

Bump In to Opening: 21 April – 1 May 2026

Season Dates: 1 May – 5 June 2026

- **Notes:**
This is an identified position for a director with lived experience of disability, particularly physical disability.
- Applicants should be comfortable engaging with the play's themes of family, memory, disability, sexuality, and societal expectations.
- Applications are encouraged from directors who are open to exploring how these ideas can be thoughtfully re-examined in a contemporary context through the staging of a classic work.

[The Glass Menagerie | Melbourne Theatre Company](#)

Retrograde

By Ryan Calais Cameron

Director: Bert LaBonté

Rehearsals: 13 April February – 10 May 2026

Bump In to Opening: 11 May – 21 May 2026

Season Dates: 21 May – 27 June 2026

- Notes:**
- This is an identified position for a director who is First Nations, Bla(c)k and/or a person of colour.
 - Applications are encouraged from directors with an interest in race, power and representation in performance and the influence of politics plays on popular culture.
 - Experience working with text-based drama, historical or political theatre, or stories centering Bla(c)k voices is advantageous.
 - Applicants should be comfortable engaging with themes of racism, censorship, and artistic integrity.

[Retrograde | Melbourne Theatre Company](#)

Losing Face

By Marieke Hardy

Director: Leticia Cáceres

Rehearsals: 11 May – 14 June 2026

Bump In to opening: 15 June – 26 June 2026

Season dates: 26 June – 25 July 2026

- Notes:**
- Applications are encouraged from directors with experience and interest in the production of new writing.
 - Responsibilities may include tracking script changes and supporting the rehearsal room process of a world premiere.
 - Experience or interest in comedy and comedic performance is advantageous.
 - Applicants should be comfortable engaging with themes of ageing, death, women's health, and societal pressures around appearance.

[Losing Face | Melbourne Theatre Company](#)

Eliza

By Tom Holloway

Director: Paige Rattray

Rehearsals: 17 August – 20 September 2026

Bump In to opening: 21 September – 2 October 2026

Season dates: 2 October – 31 October 2026

- Notes:**
- Applications are encouraged from directors with experience and interest in the production of new writing.
 - Responsibilities may include tracking script changes and supporting the rehearsal room process of a world premiere.
 - In consultation with the director, the Assistant Director may be asked to attend performances during the season for show maintenance purposes. Please advise in your application if you will not be in Melbourne during the season.
 - Applicants should be comfortable engaging with themes of mental health, power, control, and identity.

[Eliza | Melbourne Theatre Company](#)

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NOTES FOR ALL APPLICANTS

These positions are for **Melbourne-based applicants only**.

Melbourne Theatre Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to providing a safe working environment. We embrace and value diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Diversity includes all the ways in which employees differ, and the valuable contribution that all of these differences bring to the Company.

Unless specified as an identified position, the Company encourages applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of any ethnicity; race; cultural background; sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; age; body; disability; neurodivergence and/or faith/religion. It is our policy to consider reasonable adjustments for qualified applicants with disabilities.

As part of your application, you are encouraged to outline any access needs you may have during the rehearsal process and season.

All applicants are encouraged to review the 2026 content guide to familiarise themselves with the productions' content which may affect your experience of the show prior to application. Content warnings for all shows can be found in the [Production Content Guide](#). Applicants should make themselves aware of the content of the plays before applying.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DATES

Please submit your application via the following link:
[MinterEllison Future Directors 2026 Application](#)

Applications close at **5pm on Sunday 23 November**.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel, including the production's director. Priority will be given to those who have not previously received a paid assistant director opportunity with Melbourne Theatre Company.

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application **by Monday 22 December 2025**.

Please note, due to the volume of applicants, feedback on your application is not always possible.

For any enquiries, please email
assistantdirectors@mtc.com.au.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

In your application please include:

- A current resume detailing any experience with directing, theatre or relevant artistic practice
- A current headshot (optional)
- Which production(s) you are applying for
- Confirm you are based in Melbourne
- Confirm your availability for rehearsals through to opening
- Indicate your availability for the season dates
- A letter addressed to the production's director with a personal statement that includes the following:
 - How your current experience relates to the specific skills or experiences required for the production you are applying for (see descriptions page 2)
 - Why is Melbourne Theatre Company of interest?
 - What do you hope to gain from the process?

Please ensure this statement is no longer than one page in length.

If you are applying for multiple positions, please provide a separate statement for each production of interest, which can be delivered in the one application/email.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rehearsals are usually scheduled 10am – 6pm Monday to Friday, with potential Saturday rehearsals called if/when required. Attendance from bump-in to opening night vary based on the individual productions needs and often involve early morning to late evening calls.

If you require any access and/or cultural safety needs, please include them in your application email. If you prefer to discuss this separately to your application, please make note of this and a member of the Company can contact you via any channel you feel most comfortable with (call/email/text).