



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

Trainee Assistant Director



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About Garsington Opera

Located in the stunning Chiltern hills on the Getty family estate, Garsington Opera is a prestigious summer festival with a fast-growing international reputation. With performances in June and July we produce four productions each year, in partnership with our two resident orchestras The English Concert and the Philharmonia. We have recently completed the building of our own permanent space, to provide state of the art rehearsal spaces, production workshops, café, offices and a home for our acclaimed community programme and world-class Young Artists scheme. This is an exciting time to join an innovative and growing company.

GO Mission

- To enrich the lives of our audiences and participants by producing operas which are theatrically compelling and of exceptional musical standard.
- To encourage and expand knowledge and appreciation of opera through performance and exciting life-long participatory projects with a dynamic, inclusive, outreach programme in the community, for all ages and abilities from diverse backgrounds.
- To discover, encourage and nurture the best young performing talent, particularly from the UK, providing an outstanding programme of development for young professional singers.
- To broaden our audience through appropriate use of digital media.
- To grow our national and international reputation.



About the Role

As part of its talent development 'Pathways Programme', Garsington Opera is looking to recruit a Trainee Assistant Director to work alongside Ruth Knight, Director, and Rebecca Meltzer, Movement Director / Assistant Director, on our 2025 Season production of *Rodelinda*.

This is an entry level role. Through this process, the successful candidate should gain the experience to be ready to work professionally in roles as an Assistant Director / Staff Director in an opera house. You do not need to have previous Opera experience to apply.



Job Specification

Post: Trainee Assistant Director

Fee: £500.00 a week fee

£138.30 aprox a week towards travel (equivalent to a Weekly Zone 1 - 6 Travel Card + Travel to High Wycombe)

Period: 6 May - 25 June 2025 and 1, 2 and 8 July 2025

Accommodation: Accommodation will be provided on the evenings of stage rehearsals when asked to attend notes and lighting sessions.

Garsington Opera provides a free, regular bus from High Wycombe to Garsington Studios and Opera Pavilion.

Application Deadline: Sunday 10 November 2024

Interview Date: Successful candidates will be invited to Zoom interviews the week of 21 November 2024



Key Tasks and Responsibilities

The Trainee Assistant Director would act as a 2nd Assistant Director on the production of *Rodelinda*. Garsington would ensure the successful candidate has the following experiences whilst on the programme giving them the skills and experience to be an Assistant Director / Staff Director in the future. These would include:

- Taking notes for the Director in studio and stage rehearsals.
- Distributing notes to principals and chorus.
- Attending cover rehearsals with the Assistant Director; give direction to covers in these rehearsals when required.
- Take blocking notes in rehearsals; create the book with guidance from the Director/Assistant Director.
- Walk the role of an absent principal during rehearsals.
- Attend production meetings.
- Go through the production book with the Stage Manager.
- Show duty: attend three performances and write up the show report.
- Assist the Assistant Director with the schedule.
- Weekly check-ins with the Director.
- Lead the showcase cover showcase rehearsals supported by the Assistant Director.



Key Tasks and Responsibilities Continued

In addition to the above you will receive:

- The opportunity to observe stage rehearsals for all Garsington productions in the 2025 Season.
- Two Dress Rehearsal tickets for all Garsington productions in the 2025 Season.
- £500.00 to spend on professional development, to be agreed with Director of Artistic Administration. This can be spent on, but not limited to, tickets and travel to see performances, building a website, suitable courses, mentoring and/or coaching.



How to Apply

The closing date for applications is Sunday 10 November. Applicants should send a CV as well as a cover letter to admin@garsingtonopera.org

Cover letters should include:

1. Why you are interested in the position and what your future aspirations are.
2. A written report of no more than 500 words about an opera or play or musical production you have been to recently.
3. Details of two references.

We are unable to accept applications from Directors who are not based in the UK.



Garsington Opera
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