

January 1, 2015

Dear Director,

Thank you for your inquiry about the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. **Applications must be postmarked on, or brought to the theater by February 9, 2015.** We do not accept any applications by fax or email. We will notify all applicants of their admittance to the Lab on March 16 by email.

The dates for this year's Lab are Monday, June 8th to Saturday, June 27th, 2015.

The Lab takes place in rehearsal rooms here at Lincoln Center Theater or nearby . The Lab will be working a **six-day week from 10am to 10pm**. The day off will be Wednesday, June 17. A schedule of activities will be circulated on the Lab's first day. We will not know the exact list of all sessions until very shortly before the Lab begins. Because of the round-the-clock nature of the Lab, if you find you are only partially available during these weeks, please apply in another year and let a space go to someone who can attend. If you are accepted and then drop out before we begin without a substantial reason (illness or major job offer) you will not be admitted in future years. Please do not apply frivolously or ask us to hold a place "just in case." We plan our sessions around the directors we accept and it throws our activities into confusion if you walk away. This is not like young people applying to college: it's a professional situation. Like an actor who commits to a production, the Lab's work relies on the directors' participation in all its activities. We want to accept people who can commit to coming for the full Lab experience. So look at your schedules carefully.

Since some of you will be traveling in from other cities, there is the possibility of securing housing (if you don't know a friend here with a spare couch) by subletting from past Lab participants in the New York City area. When you are accepted we can provide information to the out-of-town directors about exploring housing options. We wish we had a plane to pick you all up and a hotel to house you. We don't have either.

The Lab is not open to the general public. There are no outside observers. Its work is totally private. It is free of charge. The Lab will be accepting approximately 65 directors this year. Lab directors are directors committed to working professionally, who have been in the field a couple of years. The Lab is not designed for students or directors who have recently graduated from school. It is not designed for directors who plan to return to school. It works best for directors who have finished their training completely and are in the field to stay. We welcome directors with academic training, and without. We are interested in directors from varied artistic traditions and also from countries outside the U.S. Most of the LCT Lab directors are in their 20's and 30's and others have come into the field a little later in life from other jobs in the theater.

Each year the Lab does something different. We have explored the question of style in theater, investigated the craft of Shakespearean interpretation, work-shopped plays written in the past in other countries with master directors from those cultures (Molière with Jacques Lasalle of the Comédie Française, the Yuan Drama masterpiece *The Orphan*

of *Zhao* from 780 A.D. China with Shi-Zheng Chen, *Black Codes from the Underground* a US/South African Township hybrid with Duma Ndlovu), looked at political theater in the present and the past, at forgotten directors such as Granville-Barker and Michel St. Denis and their approaches to directing, and conducted countless panels and discussions with both Lab Directors and Master Artists on practical and philosophical subjects in our field. The 2010 Lab was devoted to an exploration of religious plays and the sacred in theater. In 2012, the Lab explored comic plays and how they are performed. We have focused on the development of new plays and last year we looked at the audiences who attend our productions and how best to connect to them. The list of topics is so long, it's best to go to our website where you will find (or may have already found!) a complete Lab Archive which lists each year's Lab directors, actors, playwrights, designers, and guest artists and includes a description of all the sessions over the years. It can be found at <http://www.lct.org/directorsLabPastLabs.htm>

The 2015 Directors Lab

Difficult Plays

Why we love them, how to direct them?

Are we in an epidemic of TV-inspired 90 minute, family and personal dilemma dramas with 6 blackouts written for 4 characters? What about complexity? What about big ideas? What about new forms? What about plays that speak to the really difficult and really complicated times we live in? (But were there ever simple times?)

The 2015 Lab will explore some wonderful, really challenging plays both from the past and from today whose siren songs compel us! New plays, possibly unproduced, are especially welcome. Who is writing like this now? How to make sense of them stylistically? In terms of acting? Who would be able to help shed some light as you seek to understand how such a play works, is structured, needs to be realized?

Our goal is to select eight plays submitted by the directors of the 2015 Lab, and to investigate them together in rehearsal with an acting company, resident peer designers, and invited guests suggested by Lab members. Each of the chosen plays - ideally a mix of old and new plays - will be tackled by a small group of you, each director taking a day to lead the exploration. When you are not directing, you will be observing other members of the Lab working on your- and other - plays.

What kind of play or plays should you suggest? Ones that genuinely have meaning to you, that you have read and been taken with. What did directors make of the first draft of *Angels in America*? *Peer Gynt*? Or Euripides' *Ion*? *Six Characters*? *Mud*? *Skin of our Teeth*? *Camino Real*? *The Bacchae*? *Timon of Athens*? *Penthesilea*? *Death and the King's Horseman*? Genet's *The Screens*? And big, adventurous new work from young writers in 2015!!

DETAILS

Lab Directors are welcome to attend all Lab sessions. Each director in 2015 will be leading a room in rehearsal for one day, working with one of the selected plays. Directors are also welcome to lead a specific Lab activity. We will be creating additional Lab sessions from ideas you suggest on the last page of this application. We call these activities "Shared Sessions." It's a way to introduce artists you admire, or techniques you work with to the other members of the Lab. If there is an idea you would like to discuss in conjunction with our theme this year, a technique you are finding useful, a panel discussion on the topic of our Lab that interests you, or a master artist you feel we should invite to help us delve deeper into this subject, please tell us and we will ask you to organize or moderate that session.

We will be sorting through the ideas of the accepted Lab directors and putting the Lab schedule together during the spring. As in most years, the Lab schedule will be finalized several hours before the Lab begins!

Please find the application attachment that accompanies this email. This application is a non-writable PDF. You may convert the application to a word document or type your answers in a separate document. The form isn't so important; your thoughts are. Print the application out, and return the non-shaded portions to Lincoln Center Theater. No letters of recommendation are needed. **THE APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED OR BROUGHT TO THE THEATER BY MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2015.** We do not accept applications that are faxed or emailed. We will notify you via email on MARCH 16. Please note that every year we send emails out and we always get some returned, so please make sure we have your current working email and that we can get through your spam filter. If you have questions that this letter and the application do not answer, please leave us a message at (212) 501-3203 or email labassistant@lct.org. If you live in a country whose mail service shuts down in February - Chinese New Year, Carnival etc.- email us and we will make arrangements.

We thank you for your interest in the Directors Lab and we look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Anne Cattaneo
Director
LCT Lab

André Bishop
Artistic Director
Lincoln Center Theater

P.S. As you will see in the application that follows, you and your thoughts are important to us. Your ideas make up the Lab. Please type your application so we can read what you have to say. If you speak another language, feel free to find someone to translate what you are writing. It's hard to write in another language and we want to know who you are!

2015 LCT DIRECTORS LAB

WHAT THIS APPLICATION IS AND HOW TO FILL IT IN

The Lab is hard to describe. For some of you who have heard of us or been referred by former Lab members, the best insights will come from them. This page is meant to give you some idea of what we are looking for from you and we hope it will help as you fill in your application.

We do not see the Lab as a place for career advancement or resume building. No one will get a job directing a show here at LCT. We see it as a place to grow, meet other directors and think and explore. One of our most pressing concerns is to find directors with hands-on experience: directors who are out there through thick and thin making art – in early career stages. Not people who think they might LIKE to direct, or direct more, but people actually directing. Equally important for us is finding passionate people who are making very different kinds of theater, so when we bring you all together there will be a wonderful range of theater experiences in the room. Some of you have gone to school, some of you haven't. Some of you have backgrounds well informed about theater history, others do not. Some of you are "in the business" and know a lot of people, others do not. Some of you are working in theaters you have founded, in churches, in established regional theaters, assisting big name international directors, organizing festivals, creating multi-disciplinary work, doing Broadway touring companies, directing opera, making transitions into directing from design, acting or stage management. We want all of you. Our creed in the Lab is that when we focus on a subject (the later plays of James Baldwin, French director Louis Jouvet, Yiddish theater techniques, Goethe's rules for actors, Augusto Boal, interpreting Shakespeare, Hal Prince) one-third of the Lab thinks that person is God, one third of the Lab has never heard of them and one third is somewhere in between.

We love directors who come into the Lab thinking they like one kind of theater and have their course of life slightly diverted in some unexpected way. We feel the Lab's success has come from members who are busy working and find that they want or need to grow, to know more, or branch out into something they don't know as well. The Lab is perfect for people like you. It's the opposite of a showcase – it will push you into exploring what you DON'T already know.

Finally, we are looking for people who can take the time to really think about what they are doing. Why do you like the plays you do? Who are you doing them for? What kind of peer artists do you like to work with? Who do you dream of working with? What kind of theater means something to you and can you express this vision to others – actors, designers, etc?

So we will look at your resume to see what kind of plays you've been doing, and what kind of a life you've been making for yourself in the profession. Again, we are looking for many paths, and many different artistic sensibilities. We then ask for your role models and what inspired you at key moments in your life – this is to give us a snapshot of your life in the theater so far. We ask you to describe three ideal projects that you would like to make happen – write these as personally as you can so we sense who you are and where you are coming from artistically. If you don't know all the details yet about how you will approach your next three projects, write your questions or what you hope these productions will allow you to explore. All this will help us gather a passionate, committed and thoughtful group. No letters of recommendation needed. **Print out the application form that follows, and please type so we can read what you've written.** Write as much as you want. Think hard, have fun, and be yourself.

[Do not return this page with your application – shaded pages are for you to keep.]

2015 LCT DIRECTORS LAB

APPLICATION

(Print out and return by mail the following pages postmarked by **Monday Feb. 19**)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTRY _____

TELEPHONE # (____) _____

CELL PHONE # (____) _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE INCLUDE A RESUME WITH THIS APPLICATION

HAVE YOU APPLIED TO THE LAB BEFORE? YES _____ NO _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A STUDENT? YES _____ NO _____

PROJECTED YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO RETURN TO GRAD SCHOOL? YES ___ NO ___

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN DIRECTING PROFESSIONALLY? _____

List three directors you admire:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Describe a theater experience that changed you - or your perception of what theater is or can do.

YOUR NAME _____

Describe three projects that interest you artistically: the three projects you would ideally like to direct over the next couple of years. What are the plays? Where would you like to do them? How would you approach them? Who would be your artistic collaborators? We print out these pages in June as part of your artistic profile so Lab Members get to know each other. Please type! Write as much as you want.

PROJECT #1:

PROJECT #2:

PROJECT #3:

For the 2015 Lab

Please copy these questions in a word document and write as much as you like.

Please suggest one or two very challenging plays: plays that are profound and complicated and a challenge to direct. They might be from the past or they might be new. If they are new, please mail the play with your application. If they are from the past, when you list the play(s) and the author(s), unless you hear from us, you can assume we know them. If we don't, we'll contact you.

For each play you suggest (and for your and our sanity, please don't suggest more than, say, 3 plays, maximum) ponder the following questions. Don't have all the answers please-have some questions, and speculate about what you might need to make your way into the heart of the play. If you already know how to do this play, the 2015 Lab won't be of any use to you.

What attracts you to this play?

What seems challenging about this play?

What is trying to do?

Where did it come from – what influences can be felt in it?

What kind of spatial environment does it need?

What kind of approach in the acting?

How does it (ideally) relate/connect to its audience?

Who IS its audience?

Who wrote it and does this help you understand the play?

What's the action of the play?

What's the structure of the play?

And finally: Who would you like to talk with beforehand or have in the rehearsal room helping you on your journey to find the answers to these questions above? Think big. This can be anyone. An actor you feel might understand how to play the play. A designer. A famous director you admire. A playwright. A dramaturg. An expert from outside the theater – a historian, a psychoanalyst, a scholar? Feel free to suggest as many people as you want.

2015 LAB SESSION LEADER IDEA PROPOSALS

This summer, thinking about what I know how to do and what I haven't yet had the opportunity to explore in my life as a director on the subject of plays that are really challenging, I would like to:

Discuss:

Lead or see a panel on:

Share a method I am finding useful or fertile that has helped me unlock a play

or

Find out more about the following method that I have only heard about or a theater where complicated and interesting plays are presented with some frequency:

Invite the following people who might have interesting ideas to share on this subject:

Know more about:

Share my knowledge about:

DO NOT RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR APPLICATION
This is a reference sheet for you once you have mailed the application.

APPLICATION MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE THEATER OR **POSTMARKED** FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY **FEBRUARY 9, 2015:**

Lab Dates are June 8th - 27th, 2015

Please send by mail or drop at the stage door (open 7 days/week from 9am-11pm)

Directors Lab
Lincoln Center Theater
150 West 65th St.
New York, NY 10023

APPLICATION CHECK LIST:

___ Resume enclosed

___ Script enclosed of a challenging new play

___ Non-shaded pages of application (attach extra sheets if you need more room- extra sheets encouraged.) Please type.

PLEASE DO NOT FAX OR EMAIL YOUR APPLICATION

Information or questions? We're here!

Web www.lct.org/dirlab/

Email labassistant@lct.org

Phone (212) 501-3203