

Dear Director,

Thank you for your inquiry about the 2018 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. **Applications must be postmarked on, or brought to the theater by March 12, 2018.** We do not accept any applications by fax or email. We will notify all applicants of their admittance to the Lab on April 16 by email.

The dates for this year's Lab are Monday, August 6th to Saturday, August 25th 2018.

The Lab takes place in the rehearsal rooms here at Lincoln Center Theater. The Lab will be working a **six-day week from 10am to 10pm**. The days off will be Monday, August 13 and Monday, August 20. 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 or end 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 applying to college: it's a professional situation. Like an actor who commits to a production, the Lab's work relies on the directors committing to participate in all our activities. 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.

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 70 new 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've looked at audiences and what plays connect with them. In 2015 we did a Lab on complicated plays and widely different ways to approach 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 2018 Directors Lab

The Dream Lab: A Chance to do what you have not yet tried.

Look at your professional life in the theater – outside of what you're doing to make a living. We'll be asking in the application what you've done so far.

In the 2018 Lab we're interested in making it possible for you to try something you haven't yet done, with the support, expertise and encouragement of others who might know something about what you dream of trying to do.

You in turn, may offer your experience and artistry to others.

Most of you who will be applying have begun a life in the professional theater, and have probably been doing one kind of work: new plays of a certain kind – perhaps plays on the short side, with a focus on realism and family dynamics. Or adaptations, assisting on classics, plays for young people, directing events, or doing devised work. Do you yearn to try your hand at something totally different? Something you'd like to experiment with, talk with others about with the goal of adding it to your repertoire? If so, this is the Lab for you. We will look for experimenters among the Lab applicants and also the master artists we invite- the urge to change and grow doesn't end once a career is established. Between you all, you will find roles as explorers AND as experts who have information and experience to share.

DETAILS

Lab Directors are welcome to attend all Lab sessions. You are also welcome to lead a specific Lab activity. We will be creating the Lab sessions from the ideas you suggest - especially on the last page of this application. If there is a playwright new or old you feel passionately about, a technique you've found fruitful, a theater experience that gave you a new insight about what theater can or should do, or a production you directed you're proud of, if there is a panel discussion on a topic that interests you, or a master artist you feel we should invite, or a theater or an artist you've heard about but don't know well, please tell us and we will ask you to realize that session with us.

We will be sorting through the ideas of the accepted Lab directors and putting the Lab schedule together during June and July. 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 so you can type your answers in a longer format. You can use PDF conversion websites like www.pdfword.com, www.pdfonline.com, or other similar sites. 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 MARCH 12, 2018.** We do not accept applications that are faxed or emailed. We will notify you via email on APRIL 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.

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 very important to us. Your ideas will 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! Take the time to think deeply about the questions we are asking.

2018 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. 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.]

2018 LCT DIRECTORS LAB APPLICATION

(Print out and return by mail the following pages postmarked by **Monday March 12**)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTRY _____

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 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 2018 Lab

Please copy these questions in a word document and write as much as you like. Draw from your own experience.

Who are you making theater for?

Have the plays you've directed so far reached this audience? If so, please describe. If not, why not?

What kind of plays or productions would you, personally, like to see in the future as an audience member? What kind of plays should your community see? What is your community? Do you have one?

What kind of plays or productions would you like to direct in the future?

Do you currently have the resources to do the work you'd like to do?

Who does?

If you don't have the resources, describe what they are and how you might get them?

Are there artists working today that are doing- or even doing in part- what you would like to do? Who are they?

What kind of plays do you feel are important now?

What role do you see the theater playing in society today?

What role could it play that it's not playing now?

How could this happen?

How do you currently make a living outside of theater?

2018 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 I would like to:

Discuss:

Lead or see a panel on:

Share a method I am finding useful or fertile

or

Find out more about the following method that I have only heard about or a theater where work of this kind happens:

Invite the following people who I'd like to hear from:

Know more about:

Share my knowledge about:

Explore a play I know and would like to share: Please list title and author and send the play with this application.

DO NOT RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR APPLICATION

APPLICATION MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE THEATER OR POSTMARKED FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY **MARCH 12th, 2018:**

Lab Dates are August 6th - 25th, 2018

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 new or classical play if you are suggesting one.

___ 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