

Paid Artistic Observership at Center Theatre Group

[Jaja's African Hair Braiding](#) by Jocelyn Bioh, directed by Whitney White

September 15, 2025—October 5, 2025

Please review all application instructions via www.ctgla.org/Observerships.

The Center Theatre Group Observership Program is a paid opportunity for diverse early-career theatre artists to sit in on a professional rehearsal process at one or more of our three theatres. The program may be especially beneficial for aspiring directors but is also open to designers, technicians, stage managers, playwrights, producers, and actors.

In each cycle, a small group of Observers will spend time in rehearsals for at least one Center Theatre Group production, observing the process at several different phases. They will discuss what they observe, receive training on what goes on in a professional rehearsal room, and reflect on their own artistic voice, guided by a teaching artist who is also a working local director. The Observership will end with all participants creating artist statements based on their experiences.

This cycle's Observership participants will follow the rehearsal process for [Jaja's African Hair Braiding](#) by Jocelyn Bioh, directed by Whitney White.

This opportunity may be especially beneficial for aspiring directors and playwrights interested in contemporary work and those curious about the rehearsal transfer process when a production moves to a new venue.

Each Observer will receive a \$650 stipend.

Tentative Schedule

Applicants should have **strong availability** from September 15-October 5, 2025 and be willing to make adjustments to commit to this program. The dates outlined below are **tentative** and subject to change based on shifting rehearsal schedules. Unless otherwise communicated with selected Observers, **all dates will be in person in downtown Los Angeles.**

- Monday September 15 2-4pm Orientation
- Tuesday September 16 9:30am-3:30pm Rehearsal and Discussion (First Rehearsal)
- Thursday September 18 9:30am-3:30pm Rehearsal and Discussion
- Thursday September 25 9:30am-3:30pm Rehearsal and Discussion
- Tuesday September 30 11:30am-5:30pm (Tech)
- Thursday October 2 11:30am-3:30pm (Tech)
- Final Luncheon TBD
- Selected Observers and a plus one are also invited and encouraged to attend Opening Night of *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* on Sunday October 5 at 7pm at the Mark Taper Forum, but this is not an official Observership program date.

Eligibility

This is a post-high school program open to:

- Current undergraduates OR graduate students at two-year or four-year colleges and universities;
- People who have graduated from a two-year or four-year college or university with an undergraduate degree within the last 12 months (cannot be masters or PhD graduates);
- OR people who have pursued an alternate path to formal education (examples: military veterans, students at technical or trade schools, people who went directly into the workforce after high school, people who pursued a career outside of theatre after graduating from an undergraduate theatre program).

All applicants must be curious about pursuing a career in live theatre, must have some demonstrated interest in the area in which they are applying (inside or outside of a school setting), and **must have strong availability for the duration of the Observership period***.

People who hold a master's and/or doctoral degree, people with extensive professional and/or paid experience in live theatre, people who no longer identify as early-career, and people who do not demonstrate adequate availability to meet the requirements of the program will not be considered, nor will students who do not address the Diversity Requirement. We encourage students with nontraditional career and educational paths to apply, and all applicants can contact the Program Manager at Observerships@CTGLA.org with eligibility questions.

*Observership Program Dates are subject to change and reliant on the production schedule. All applicants should have **strong general availability between the hours of 9am-6pm Tues-Fri during the Observership period**.

Questions for Observer Applicants

You will be asked to submit your answers to the following questions while completing the Electronic Observership Application. We encourage you to review the following Observership Questions **before** you begin your application to ensure thoughtful and complete responses. Please keep responses to no more than 750 words in total (not per question).

Applicants must submit the Electronic Observership Application AND email their PDF or Word resume to Observerships@CTGLA.org to be considered for this opportunity. Complete application instructions can be found on the Observerships web page.

Applicants are encouraged to submit materials early, but all applications are due by **12:00pm (PST) on Tuesday September 2, 2025**.

1. What do you hope to learn or gain from the Observership, and how might it impact your career goals? Please be sure to tell us what those career goals are. It's okay if you are still undecided, but we do need to understand how the program will benefit you.

2. This program is completely observational. You will have time to discuss what you observe in the room and reflect on your own artistry, but this is **not** a hands-on learning opportunity. It instead focuses on the benefit of observation and self and group reflection. Please describe how you think this Observership opportunity will differ from your past experience in theatre and how you think observing the process of a professional rehearsal will differ from actively participating in the rehearsal room.
3. Please research the play, playwright, and director. Address why you are interested in observing this production of *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, your interest in contemporary work, and/or this production's relevance to your career and artistic interests.
4. Please outline your availability during the period from September 15-October 5, 2025. Address the specific time commitments outlined above. Standing commitments such as a Monday evening class, work on Tuesdays and Thursdays, etc. can potentially be accommodated but must be disclosed in this application.
5. Please tell us why you believe you fit the Diversity Requirement:

All applicants are asked to articulate why they need this program, whether it is self-identifying as a member of a group currently underrepresented in theatre production and artistic careers, inaccessibility to participate in training programs or the like because they were not paid, etc. Some examples of underrepresented groups in this industry include but are not limited to, people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, women pursuing careers in production or other traditionally male-dominated areas, first-generation college students, people from low-income backgrounds, and military veterans. We seek to provide emerging professionals with hands-on and professional training experience in an effort to promote accessibility in the arts. Note that all applicants must answer the Program Need question to receive consideration. While whether or not a prospective applicant fits that description is a question that can best be answered by the applicant. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact Observerships@CTGLA.org