

[UNDERGRADUATE-LEVEL] REQUIREMENTS & SCHEDULE FOR DIRECTING SPECIALIZATION

Description & Schedule

The Directing Apprentice should have strong availability during the **April 14 – June 20, 2025**. Review exact timelines below.

This is a 108-hr Apprenticeship with a \$1,870 stipend. The Directing Apprentice will be directly shadowing the Associate Director Nicholas Polonio during the rehearsals for *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, directed and adapted by Robert O'Hara at the Mark Taper Forum at the Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles; this includes observing rehearsal, tech process, as well as previews and opening night. During the program, the Apprentice will also observe Director Robert O'Hara in the rehearsal room. Please note that the Apprentice will spend the majority of their time observing the rehearsal process; applicants must see the value in simply observing how a professional rehearsal room is run. Apprentices may also be asked to jump in to assist with specific tasks, such as reading lines, distributing scripts, etc.

Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in directing, but no paid professional experience. Note that competitive applicants must have demonstrated their interest in directing through courses taken, on-campus experience, etc. Due to the competitive nature of this opportunity, applicants who are not planning to pursue careers in theatrical directing are unlikely to be considered.

Important to note: Because this production will be at the Mark Taper Forum, this opportunity will be primarily observational when inside the theatre. The Mark Taper Forum is a union house, and only Local 33 members can physically move items on the stage.

The location will be the Mark Taper Forum at the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles. Ideally, the Apprentice would have strong availability for the following schedule, working no more than 6-hour calls:

4/11 – Orientation with Program Director Time 12 – 2pm (2hr; In-Person)

TBD – *Hamlet* Apprentice & Observer Luncheon (1hr)

Friday Professional Development Series (In-Person)

5/9 – Professional Development Series 12-1pm (1hr)

5/16 – Professional Development Series 12-1pm (1hr)

5/23 – Professional Development Series 12-1pm (1hr)

4/12 - 4/29 – limited and flexible scheduling

4/29 - 5/22 – Rehearsals at the Music Center Annex in Downtown Los Angeles

5/23 - 5/28 – Tech Rehearsals & First Previews, at the Mark Taper Forum in Downtown Los Angeles (mandatory)

Apprentices (and a plus 1) are invited to attend Opening Night on June 4. These hours are not included in your Apprenticeship hours.

Eligibility

The Directing Apprenticeship is open to:

- Current undergraduates 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;
- 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)

Artistic Apprentices need to have a strong demonstrated interest in the exact career focus of the Apprenticeship. For example, Directing Apprentice should have experience directing a full-length play either on-campus or within a setting such as community theatre. They should be strongly interested in going into the focus of the Apprenticeship as a career.

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 Apprenticeship period. International students may apply as long as they have a social security number. All applicants must be over 18, but there is no upper age limit.

People who are in graduate programs and/or 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 do encourage students with nontraditional career and educational paths to apply, and all applicants can contact Apprenticeships@CTGLA.org with eligibility questions.

Questions

Please keep responses to no more than 750 words, **total**. Please submit your responses electronic application form. Review the information in the description before starting to write your response. **Applicants are encouraged to submit materials early, but all applications are due by 5pm (PT) on December 5** but note that an apprentice may be selected earlier.

1. What do you hope to learn or gain from the Directing Apprenticeship, and from observing the rehearsal process in particular? How will it impact your desired career path? Please be sure to tell us what your career goals are and review the description at the bottom of the page.
2. What interests you about this play? We recommend researching the production of Hamlet, and the **Associate Director Nicholas Polonio**, and **Director Robert O'Hara**.
3. Briefly address your previous experience in a rehearsal room, and what you think makes a rehearsal process successful.
4. Please describe your availability during the period from **April 14 – June 20, 2025**. Please see schedule below. Apprentices must be able to commit up to 108 hours during this time period in 8-hour days. Standing commitments such as a Monday evening class, work on Tuesdays and Thursdays, etc. may be accommodated but must be disclosed in this application.

5. Please tell us why you believe you fit the Diversity Requirement.

Center Theatre Group's Apprenticeships are intended specifically for people who self-identify as a member of a group currently underrepresented in theatre production and artistic careers. Examples 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 diverse emerging professionals with hands-on experience in an effort to promote diversity in the arts. Note that all applicants must answer the Diversity Requirement 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 eligibility, please contact Apprenticeships@CTGLA.org.