

AlterTheater Directors Lab

A new program, designed to help us better achieve our mission of:

- o Creating compelling work in places where people are
- o Supporting the creative growth of theater directors
- o And helping to build a community that is inclusive, diverse, and accepting;

and to increase the hiring pool of diverse directors for AlterTheater's mainstage productions by:

- o training directors to work with alternative space, a zero waste policy and minimalist design aesthetic
- o providing directors with opportunities to work in a 3/4 thrust or fully in the round
- o training emerging directors to work with a very experienced and very vocal ensemble, including well-established Equity actors

AlterTheater is beginning this program to help identify directors who thrive on the possibilities of storytelling in non-traditional spaces, in places where people are, with a zero-waste, minimalist design aesthetic. We fully recognize that directing at AlterTheater is not for everyone.

After the first quarter, participants will be asked to self-evaluate whether they feel AlterTheater is artistically a place that excites them, and will be able to leave the program if it's not a good match.

Halfway through the program, AlterTheater will evaluate participants, and invite up to 5 participants to continue in the program.

AlterTheater has a limited number of mainstage directing slots, and while we do not guarantee that directors who complete this program will be hired to direct a mainstage show, it is our goal with this program to support the creative growth of directors who we feel will be the best match for our ensemble company.

Applicant Qualifications:

Applicants must:

- o **Have seen at least one AlterTheater production**

AND

- o Have worked in theater in any capacity for at least 5 years; OR
- o Have at least two assistant director credits (not including school); OR
- o Have 1 directing credit at a professional or semi-professional theater (not a school or community theater).

Questions about eligibility? Please email: casting@AlterTheater.org with "Directors Lab" in the subject line

Structure and Participant Goals:

A yearlong program based on mentorship and hands-on learning.

- o Created by veteran directors Ann Brebner, Will Marchetti, and artistic director Jeanette Harrison. Modeled in part after the prestigious Old Vic's director training program.

The exact structure of the program will be built around the participants' interests and skill levels, and may include:

- o Each participant will be involved in an aspect of design, from helping to hang lights with a lighting designer to cabling the speakers for the sound designer. **By the end of the program, participants will have a clear understanding of design limitations and possibilities, and begin thinking minimally in design realization.**
- o Participants will learn, through working with casting director Jeanette Harrison, best practices to implement AlterTheater's casting philosophy of using color in casting in ways that challenge rather than reinforce stereotypes. **By the end of the program, participants will be able to articulate and advocate for their own vision and values about diversity in their artmaking.**
- o Through hands-on directing experiences, participants will work with seasoned, professional actors.
- o Activities will be structured around participants' goals and existing skills, but may include:
 - o Participants may assistant and/or associate direct mainstage productions.
 - o Participants will have the opportunity to EITHER
 - create a piece of storytelling that is in a place where people are, that reaches people who may not traditionally go to the theater OR
 - create an event that meets people where they are and then brings them into Alter's mainstage programming. (ie, book club, staged reading of a different play by the same author, engagement or community volunteerism around issues raised in our plays)

Time Commitments and Expectations:

- o Participants are expected to make a weekly commitment to the program. The weekly time commitment will vary from a minimum of 3 hours to 30 hours/week. Commitments that require more than 15 hours/week will provide a stipend to the participant.
- o Before joining the mainstage directors pool, directors will be encouraged to production manage one mainstage show. Participants will be paid to production manage.
- o In mentorship meetings, participants will discuss their creative growth and map their strategy to meet their career and artistic goals within the AlterTheater fellowship.

Application:

To Apply:

Please email in one pdf file the following materials. We strongly encourage brevity and 12 point font. The entire narrative section should be fewer than 3 pages.

1. A resume or portfolio (a link is accepted)
2. Your name, your phone number, your mailing address, your email address, and your phone number(s)
3. What is your personal artistic mission/vision?
4. What is the most exciting storytelling experience you've witnessed recently? What made it so powerful to you?
5. Whose work do you most admire and why?
6. OPTIONAL: Please talk about what you bring to the room as a director. What are your skills/strengths/interests? What is your directing philosophy?
7. How do you hope AlterTheater's yearlong program may be able to advance your career and/or artmaking? (If you wish, please feel free to discuss: Where do you feel like your career may be floundering or hitting a wall? What obstacles are preventing you from the work you'd like to do? (obstacles can be both internal and external/institutional).)
8. OPTIONAL: up to two letters of recommendation from someone who knows you as an artist. We strongly encourage recommendations from someone also familiar with AlterTheater.

Please email applications to: casting@altertheater.org. Application window will close at 9 am Pacific time on 8/15/19. Please note that we do not provide housing or housing assistance, and we strongly encourage applications from San Francisco Bay Area residents.