



ATC CREATES NEW TRAINEE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ROLE FROM FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Demonstrating a commitment to discovering and nurturing new talent, acclaimed theatre company ATC has succeeded in a fundraising drive which has allowed it to create the new position of Trainee Associate Director. With funding from US philanthropists Jon and NorLee Sedmak, which has been matched by The Fidelio Trust and The Boris Karloff Trust, the company has recruited Polina Kalinina, an emergent director of Russian background to take the post on a fixed eighteen-month contract from May this year.

The role is salaried and provides the added commitment of training and nurturing the incumbent to develop from assistant level to associate level within that time. It specifically provides experience in touring – an area which no other training programme concentrates at present, giving practical experience in the demands of touring – from an artistic and producing perspective. After completing the contract Polina will make way for a new recruit to go through the same process

Polina's first project at ATC will be to assist Artistic Director Ramin Gray in directing the premiere of *The Events* by David Greig which opens at The Traverse in Edinburgh in August before playing at The Young Vic and then touring nationally in the Autumn. Polina will tour with the production and act as staff director during that time. The role also encompasses supporting ATC on play development and script reading and will culminate in her directing her own project which she will put together and tour in the autumn of 2014.

Of Russian descent, Polina Kalinina read English at Corpus Christi College Oxford and went on to take a Master's in European Theatre from Edinburgh, a diploma in directing from LAMDA. She then spent a year on The Orange Tree Theatre's Trainee Director Scheme. Directing credits include *Overruled* (Old Red Lion), *Dutchman* (Orange Tree), *Asya* (based on Turgenev, LAMDA) and *Punchcut* (Etcetera Theatre). Polina has assisted Sam Walters, Anthony Clark, Joseph Blatchley, Steven Jameson, Matt Poever, David Grindley and Lyndsey Turner (on the Royal Court gala scenes).

In the autumn of 2014 recruitment will take place for a new person in the role to begin for a similar period at the start of 2015

Nick Williams – Executive Director of ATC says

"We are delighted to be able to create the new post of Trainee Associate Director at ATC. Our commitment is to present the best in international contemporary theatre, on tour in the UK and internationally. In so doing, we are dedicated to working with new talent and to presenting opportunities to emerging artists in every area of touring theatre. We are immensely grateful to our funders who, by making the creation of this post possible, are contributing both to the future of the company and to the future of exciting and challenging theatre in the UK."

Ramin Gray – Artistic Director of ATC says

"With over 130 incredibly strong applicants with a huge range of backgrounds from all over the world, the selection process for the role was never going to be easy, but in Polina we have found someone who has the makings of an excellent director and one who has a strong interest in internationalism in the theatre – a key pre-requisite for working with ATC. We are delighted to welcome her to the company."

Polina Kalinina says

"I am extraordinarily grateful for this opportunity. I'm starting to understand just how difficult it is to crack into this industry and it can often feel pretty daunting doing it on your own. This is 100% what I need in order to move forward as a director. The post provides me with the chance to develop and learn with the support and example of a company whose work I admire at the same time as allowing me to fulfill a useful and practical role within it. I am sure this will prove to be a great partnership."

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