



Tall Stories Directors Short Course 2025 Call Out

Do you want to discover and develop skills in directing storytelling theatre? On this short course, you will have the opportunity to work with a range of texts from fiction and non-fiction books and plays to create scenes for children, adults or both! The course will be led by Tall Stories Artistic Director Toby Mitchell, with support from the Tall Stories team and professional actors. Through the sharing of ideas, participants will learn from each other whilst learning how to work with performers to tell an engaging story.

When and where is the course?

The course will be held over three days on Saturday 15 and 22 February and Saturday 1 March 2025, 10am to 6pm, at the Tall Stories Studio in Islington.

Who is the course for?

We are inviting applications from aspiring storytelling theatre directors aged 18 and over. Up to eight directors will be selected to take part.

Some experience of theatre directing and/or assistant directing is useful but as this is an introductory course, no storytelling theatre experience is needed.

We are especially interested to hear from directors who live in Islington (and neighbouring boroughs) and/or who are from under-represented backgrounds in the theatre industry.

What will we cover?

Day One: Introductory day. Participants look at examples of direct narration and storytelling theatre, working with a short text to discover the Tall Stories way of creating shows.

Day Two: Participants share ideas and thoughts developed from the previous week. Participants experiment with a longer text, directing a two or three person scene, working with professional actors. They will receive feedback and support from the Tall Stories team.

Day Three: Participants continue to rehearse their two or three person scene, working again with professional actors. Participants will take turns to direct and assistant direct for each other. Scenes will be shown to the Tall Stories team, and feedback and support is given. This will be followed by debrief sessions for participants.

Is there anything I need to bring?

For Day One: Participants do not need to bring anything. Tall Stories will provide narrative texts written in the third person for everyone to work with. Text written in third person is used in direct address narration in storytelling theatre, to talk directly to the audience, involve and guide them through the story.

Here are some examples of the style of third-person text:

“Alice followed the White Rabbit down the rabbit-hole, then found herself falling down a very deep well...”

“As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning, he found himself transformed into a gigantic insect.”

For Day Two: We would like participants to bring a piece of narrative that they would like to work on, influenced by new knowledge they have gained from the week before. We encourage participants to bring text that resonates with them, or which is the kind of work they would like to direct. The text should be up to two minutes long.

For Day Three: Participants will continue to work on their texts from Day Two.

Cost

This course is **free** and Tall Stories will pay a £10 per day financial contribution towards the travel expenses of all participants for getting to and from the Tall Stories Studio, within the London area. If you live outside of London and need financial assistance with travel, please let us know when you apply, and we'll take this into consideration.

How to apply

Please complete the application form and send it to fiona@tallstories.org.uk

The questions may be answered in writing or by submitting a video or audio file. All formats will be equally considered.

Please apply as soon as you can, but no later than **9am Monday 20 January 2025**



All applicants will know the outcome of their application no later than Friday 24 January 2025.

If you have any questions, or if you would like this call out information or the application form in another format, please contact Fiona Bines on fiona@tallstories.org.uk or 020 8348 0080.

Equal Opportunities:

Tall Stories is committed to equality of opportunity and access for all.

We strive to create an inclusive environment that reflects our communities, values and respects diversity.

We ensure that no person is unfairly discriminated against in our recruitment and selection policies and procedures. We actively welcome applications from those currently underrepresented in our workforce and industry.

Your application and any associated personal information will be stored and processed in accordance with our Privacy Policy and destroyed after six months.

We look forward to receiving your application – thank you for your interest!