



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

Trainee Assistant Director



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About Garsington Opera

Located in the stunning Chiltern hills on the Getty family estate near High Wycombe, Garsington Opera is a prestigious summer festival with a fast-growing international reputation. With performances in June and July we produce four productions each year, in partnership with our two resident orchestras The English Concert and the Philharmonia. We have recently completed the building of our own permanent space, to provide state of the art rehearsal studios, production workshops, café, offices and a home for our acclaimed community programme and world-class Emerging Artists scheme.

GO Mission

- To enrich the lives of our audiences and participants by producing operas which are theatrically compelling and of exceptional musical standard.
- To encourage and expand knowledge and appreciation of opera through performance and exciting life-long participatory projects with a dynamic, inclusive, outreach programme in the community, for all ages and abilities from diverse backgrounds.
- To discover, encourage and nurture the best young performing talent, particularly from the UK, providing an outstanding programme of development for young professional singers.
- To broaden our audience through appropriate use of digital media.
- To grow our national and international reputation.



About the Role

As part of its talent development 'Pathways Programme', Garsington Opera is looking to recruit a Trainee Assistant Director to work alongside Director Bruno Ravella, on our 2026 Season revival production of *Der Rosenkavlier* by Strauss followed by working alongside Director Jack Furness and Movement Director & Assistant Director Rebecca Meltzer on a new production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Gerald Barry.

This is an entry level role. Through this process, the successful candidate should gain the experience to be ready to work professionally in roles as an Assistant Director / Staff Director in an opera house. You do not need to have previous Opera experience to apply.



Job Specification

Post: Trainee Assistant Director

Fee: £500.00 a week fee

£145.00 approx. a week towards travel (equivalent to a Weekly Zone 1 - 6 Travel Card + Travel to High Wycombe)

Period: 13 April - 19 July 2026

Accommodation: Accommodation will be provided on the evenings of stage rehearsals when asked to attend notes and lighting sessions.

Garsington Opera provides a free, regular bus from High Wycombe to Garsington Studios and Opera Pavilion.

Application Deadline: 11.59pm on Sunday 9 November 2025

Interview Date: Successful candidates will be invited to interview online via MS Teams in the week of 25 November and 1 December 2025.

The successful candidate will also receive £500.00 to spend on professional development, to be agreed with Director of Artistic Administration. This can be spent on, but not limited to, tickets and travel to see performances, building a website, suitable courses, mentoring and/or coaching.

This job description outlines the principal responsibilities and duties of the post holder. It is not meant to be, nor is it, an exhaustive list of specific responsibilities and duties. The post holder will be expected to undertake any other duties which could reasonably be expected as being within the remit of the post and which arise out of changes in legislation, regulations, orders, rules and working practices, methods and procedures and reviews, as directed from time to time.

Garsington Opera is committed to providing and supporting an inclusive environment that promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion. We are aware how a diverse team enriches our culture, where all can reach their full potential and flourish whatever their background. We encourage applications from all suitably qualified persons, regardless of background, race, sex, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief or age.



Key Tasks and Responsibilities

The Trainee Assistant Director would act as a 2nd Assistant Director on the production of *Der Rosenkavalier* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Garsington will endeavour to provide the successful candidate with the following experience whilst on the programme giving them the skills and experience to be an Assistant Director / Staff Director in the future. These would include:

- taking notes for the Director in studio and stage rehearsals
- distributing notes to principals and chorus
- attending cover rehearsals with the Assistant Director; give direction to covers in these rehearsals when required
- take blocking notes in rehearsals; create the book with guidance from the Director/Assistant Director
- walk the role of an absent principal during rehearsals
- attend production meetings
- go through the production book with the Stage Manager
- show duty: attend three performances and write up the show report
- assist the Assistant Director with the schedule
- weekly check-ins with the Director
- lead the showcase cover showcase rehearsals supported by the Assistant Director
- the opportunity to observe stage rehearsals for all Garsington productions in the 2026 Season where the schedule allows
- two Dress Rehearsal tickets for all Garsington productions in the 2026 Season.



How to Apply

The closing date for applications is 11.59pm on Sunday 9 November 2025.

Applicants should send a CV as well as a cover letter to

admin@garsingtonopera.org

Cover letters should be no longer than one page and include:

- why you are interested in the position and what your future aspirations are
- a written report of no more than 500 words about an opera or play or musical production you have been to recently
- details of two references.

We are unable to accept applications from those who are not already based in the UK.

We are unable to provide feedback to those not invited to interview.



Garsington Opera
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