



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

Responsible to: Producer (Development Project) and Creative Director

Key relationships: Project Team, including: Producer, Creative Director, Creative Associates, Producing Assistant, Production Management.

Fee: £120 per day

Contract: Fixed-term freelance contract, 8 weeks

Location: Woolwich, London, UK

Start Date: w/c 22nd July 2024

Deadline for applications: 10am on Monday 27th May.

How to apply: Complete the application form [here](#) including your CV and cover letter.

If you have any questions or are experiencing any difficulties with the application process, please contact workwithus@punchdrunk.com.

OUR HISTORY

Founded in 2000 by Felix Barrett MBE, Punchdrunk is widely recognised as the “pioneer of the ‘immersive theatre’ phenomenon” (The Telegraph). The company is best known for their mask shows, a form of theatre in which roaming audiences experience epic storytelling inside singular, sensory worlds. These productions have been cited amongst the 40 creative moments that changed culture (Creative Review) and currently play across three continents: *Sleep No More*, New York has been running since 2011; *Sleep No More*, Shanghai (2016 - present) is the longest-running international show in China; and *The Burnt City*, London has welcomed over 200,000 audiences since it opened in March 2022. In March 2024, Punchdrunk announced their latest project, *Viola's Room*, opening in London in May 2024.

Alongside these landmark theatrical productions, Punchdrunk has taken its ground-breaking approach to live experiences and created cross-cultural collaborations in music, tech, fashion and TV - from projects with Rihanna to Jack White, Louis Vuitton to Alexander McQueen, and from Samsung to Brad Pitt's Plan B Studios. The company was listed amongst the 50 most influential artists of the last 50 years (Sky Arts, 2022) alongside David Bowie, Sir Steve

McQueen and Vivienne Westwood.

Previous projects include: *The Third Day* (BAFTA-nominated TV series starring Jude Law and Naomie Harris with HBO and Sky Studios), *Believe Your Eyes* (with Samsung, 58th Venice Biennale, 837, ArtBasel and Cannes 2016), *ANTIdiary* (with Rihanna and Roc Nation), *The Drowned Man: A Hollywood Fable* (with the National Theatre), *The Crash of the Elysium* (Manchester International Festival), *The Duchess of Malfi* (with ENO), *Sleep No More* (with the American Repertory Theatre), *It Felt Like A Kiss* (with Adam Curtis and Damon Albarn, Manchester International Festival), *Tunnel 228* (in collaboration with The Old Vic), *The Masque of the Red Death* (with Battersea Arts Centre), and *Faust* (in collaboration with the National Theatre).

THE ROLE

Punchdrunk is embarking on an exciting journey in the initial Development Phase of a ground-breaking project. We're on the lookout for an enthusiastic and dedicated Assistant Director to join us in shaping the creative vision for this endeavour. This role offers the opportunity to delve into Punchdrunk's innovative creative processes as we conceive an immersive live experience based on an existing IP.

In this pivotal moment of Punchdrunk's evolution, we're not only crafting boundary-pushing immersive experiences but also seeking new partnerships and avenues for our established shows on a global scale. As we explore new horizons, we need someone with a keen eye for innovation and a passion for pushing the boundaries of traditional theatre.

The ideal candidate for the Assistant Director position is someone who is at an early stage in their career, eager to expand their networks, and gain invaluable experience in the immersive field. We encourage applicants with a background in directing, particularly in non-traditional forms, new technology and gaming, to join us in this exciting venture.

This role will be instrumental in supporting the project team to bring our creative vision to life. While not a hands-on directing position, it offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the development of ideas and concepts for our immersive experiences. If you're ready to be part of a dynamic team at the forefront of immersive storytelling, we want to hear from you.

JOB DESCRIPTION | RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Creatively supporting the Project Team to develop a innovative, ambitious and unique project;
- Working with the Project Team to plan and implement the development process, including supporting the realisation of Deliverables on time and to a high standard;
- Creative research and other administrative support as necessary.

This is a summary of the role and is not exhaustive, other duties and responsibilities will apply as reasonably required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Desirable

- A demonstrable commitment and experience in working as a director with non-traditional forms and/or gaming.
- An interest in Punchdrunk's work and/or immersive experiences.

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Fixed-term freelance contract (8 weeks).
- Up to 5 days per week, though there is some flexibility if required. Standard hours of work are 10am-6pm, Monday to Friday.
- Due to the nature of this role, some evening or weekend work may be required.
- £120 per day.
- Place of Work: Punchdrunk offices in Woolwich.

How to apply: Complete the application form [here](#) including your CV and either a brief statement (maximum 2 A4 sides) or a video (maximum two minutes) describing your suitability for the position, and the benefit to your early career this position would provide. If you have any questions or have any difficulties with the application process, please contact workwithus@punchdrunk.com.

As an Equal Opportunities Employer, Punchdrunk welcomes applications from all sectors of the community, regardless of gender, age, race, sexuality or disability and makes appointments based solely on ability to fulfil the duties of the post. Candidates who are shortlisted for an interview will be given the opportunity to specify any access needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

We particularly welcome applications from applicants who identify as LGBTQ+, disabled, people of the Global Majority*, and people living in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

*people who identify as Black Caribbean, Black African, South Asian, East Asian, Middle Eastern or Latinx.