

The work of recent MFA Theatre Directing graduates

The most recent graduating cohort, cohort six, left in September 2010:

Two directors have year-long contracts as staff directors at the RSC. One is associate director at the Royal Exchange, where he was on secondment. One has been assistant director to Nancy Meckler on *Onassis*, and one assistant to Christopher Luscombe on *When We Are Married*, both in the West End. One has assisted Thea Sharrock on *Cause Celebre* at the Old Vic. One is assistant director on the national tour of *The History Boys*. One has just directed and produced a fringe production called *A Winter's Tale* and another is directing a play he wrote at theatre503.

Of graduates in the previous three years:

One is associate at both the Gate Notting Hill and Sheffield Theatres and has directed at those theatres, at the Royal Court on several occasions, and has directed two new plays at the National Theatre in 2011.

One is the first English-speaking director to win the European Opera Prize and the Ring Award: prestigious European-wide competitions for emerging opera directors. The European Opera Prize brings with it an opera production at the Teatro Sociale di Como, and the Ring Award an opera production at Graz Oper. He also has productions planned for the ENO and other leading European opera houses until 2017.

One has won the Regional Theatre Young Director award and is at Chichester Theatre.

One won the Cohen Bursary and spent a year at the National Theatre Studio and with English Touring Theatre, and now has an ACE-funded company, commonpractice.

Two have been assistant directors at the National Theatre assisting Nicholas Hytner and Howard Davies amongst others.

Three of the four current assistant directors at the RSC are Birkbeck directors.

Two other directors have been assistant directors at the RSC in the long company for two and a half years, and have recently directed RSC productions at Hampstead Theatre.

Both of the associate directors of the National Theatre of Wales are Birkbeck graduates.

One is education associate of Frantic Assembly and an associate of the National Theatre of Scotland, and has his own devising company, Rough Fiction.

One is a founder and co-director of Coney, a new national portfolio organisation.

One is artistic director of Jermyn Street Theatre and another is the associate.

One is a freelance director in New York and on the West Coast and is artistic director of Counterpoint Theatre in New York.

One is the director of the theatre company Theatre Professionals and of the Intensive Drama Program in Mumbai.

Many have gone on to direct productions at theatres where they had their secondments: West Yorkshire Playhouse, the Royal Exchange Manchester, Nottingham Playhouse, the Theatre by the Lake Keswick, and at theatre503. Many others have directed and produced fringe productions, including at Southwark Playhouse, the Arcola and the Riverside Studios.

Others have been assistant directors at the Almeida, Headlong, The Globe, Told by an Idiot, Filter, the Young Vic, the Old Vic, Holland Park Opera, Opera North, in the West End, on national and international tours, and at numerous regional theatres. Many have directed productions at drama schools.

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