

Assistant Director

Students at all levels of experience are welcome to apply to be an Assistant Director (AD) for a production in the Theatre Department's season of plays. Students may assist one of the three professionally directed shows. The Assistant Director position is an opportunity for a student to learn firsthand an individual Director's process and the production process as a whole.

The duties of an Assistant Director vary from show to show; this page provides an outline of what might be expected of an AD. Some duties may be shared with the Stage Manager. If there is a Dramaturg working on the show, some of these duties would fall under the Dramaturg's purview. Good communication and respect are important in clarifying the assignment of these duties, and the assignments may change throughout the rehearsal period.

Pre-Production Duties

Read and study the play; discuss interpretation and production concept with the Director (and Dramaturg when relevant).

Attend all design meetings.

Perform research, as requested, that could encompass criticism, historical period, playwright's biography and body of work, etc.

Attend and assist with auditions and call-backs, typically during the first week of the semester.

Duties of the Assistant Director *During* Rehearsals

Attend all rehearsals, actively watch and listen, and take notes for the Director.

Maintain an up-to-date copy of script and rehearsal schedule.

Take notes and communicate regularly with the Director regarding the progress of the production. Support the Director in realizing the play onstage, which requires an in-depth understanding of the play, its characters, the setting, etc.

The Director may also ask the AD to run special rehearsals such as line-throughs or speed-throughs.

The AD may be asked to be "on book" during rehearsal or walk through scenes for an absent actor.

Occasionally run errands such as making copies, leading guest artists to rehearsal space, or grabbing coffee.

Attend all production meetings, make sure the Director's concerns are addressed.

Duties of the Assistant Director *After* Rehearsals

The Assistant Director may be asked to type up any rehearsal notes taken by the Director for distribution to the cast and/or crew.

Tech and Dress Rehearsals thru Opening

Take notes during tech and dress rehearsals and share with cast and crew.

Once the show opens, the Director's responsibilities to the production end, and the Assistant Director's tasks are likewise concluded.

A student who takes on an AD role must register for THTR UN2427, the design/production assistant course; this is a 2-point graded practicum and may fulfill either of the two production crew requirements for the Theatre major.

Students who wish to pursue a concentration in Directing are strongly encouraged to be an Assistant Director during their time at Barnard. Calls for Assistant Directors go out in April for the following year. Questions may be addressed at any time to Professor Reagan, areagan@barnard.edu