



Associate Director (Freelance)
Project: On Tyranny

Application Pack

This pack contains:

- Information about the company and project
- Job description
- Summary of terms
- How to apply

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact recruitment@javaadalipoor.co.uk

ABOUT THE JAVAAD ALIPOOR COMPANY

The Javaad Alipoor Company (TJAC) creates powerful multi-platform theatre that explores the intersection of politics, technology and contemporary life. Founded in 2017, TJAC makes ambitious new work with extraordinary artists for diverse audiences and communities across the North West and internationally. Alongside its award-winning productions, the company develops ambitious participatory projects with young people and communities, connecting local experiences with global perspectives and inviting people to reflect on, discuss and respond to the issues shaping contemporary life.

We recommend you read the [company's manifesto](#) to get a sense of our work.

ABOUT THE PROJECT: ON TYRANNY

On Tyranny is a major theatre and participation project that places young people at the centre of conversations about democracy, citizenship and the future of public life. The project invites young people to explore questions of power, freedom, truth and responsibility through performance.

Led by The Javaad Alipoor Company, the project brings together schools, colleges, and youth organisations from across Greater Manchester to work with professional theatre-makers and internationally renowned playwrights. Four new short plays have been commissioned from writers from Ukraine, Hong Kong, Mexico, and Syria—countries where questions of democracy, civic participation and human rights have particular urgency and relevance.

Over the course of the project, young people aged 15–18 will rehearse, perform, and respond to these new works, developing their skills as artists, collaborators, and critical thinkers. Alongside the creative process, participants will engage with international artists, explore contemporary global issues, and contribute their own perspectives to wider conversations about democracy and social change.

The project culminates in the **Festival of Democracy** at Contact Theatre in March 2027, bringing together young people from across Greater Manchester to share performances, participate in workshops and celebrate their work as part of a vibrant cultural and civic gathering.

At its heart, *On Tyranny* is about creating opportunities for young people to encounter ambitious new theatre, connect with international perspectives and explore the role that creativity can play in shaping the world around them.

ROLE SUMMARY

The Javaad Alipoor Company is seeking an experienced and dynamic Associate Director to support the delivery of **On Tyranny** across Greater Manchester.

Working closely with the Producer, Artistic Director and wider creative team, the Associate Director will play a central role in supporting participating schools and youth organisations throughout the project. This will include

leading CPD and training activity, providing artistic support during rehearsals, visiting participating groups, and supporting the delivery of the Festival of Democracy.

We are seeking an experienced theatre-maker with a strong track record of creating ambitious work with young people. The successful candidate will be excited by the opportunity to work on a project that combines local youth participation with international artistic collaboration and explores complex contemporary political and social questions through theatre. ☐

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Artistic Leadership

- Lead the CPD and training day for participating teachers, youth workers, and group leaders.
- Support schools and youth organisations to interpret and stage the commissioned plays.
- Provide artistic guidance and creative problem-solving throughout the rehearsal process.
- Champion high-quality artistic outcomes while ensuring work remains accessible and achievable for young performers.
- Support young people to engage with the project's themes creatively and confidently.

Project Delivery

- Work closely with the Producer and wider creative team to deliver the project timeline.
- Undertake visits to participating schools, colleges, and youth organisations across Greater Manchester.
- Act as a key point of contact for participating groups, providing advice and support throughout the project.
- Monitor project progress and identify where additional support may be required.
- Attend project meetings and contribute to planning and reporting.
- Support planning and delivery of the Festival of Democracy at Contact Theatre in March 2027.
- Contribute to project evaluation and reflection following the festival.

Young People's Participation

- Create a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for all participants.
- Encourage creativity, collaboration, and confidence among young people.
- Ensure young people's voices remain at the centre of the project.
- Support opportunities for young people to engage with the project's international playwrights and artistic programme.

Safeguarding and Inclusion

- Adhere to all safeguarding, health and safety and organisational policies.
- Work closely with partner organisations to ensure safe and positive participation.
- Champion inclusive, anti-oppressive and youth-centred working practices. ☐

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Experience

- Significant professional experience as a theatre director, facilitator, creative learning practitioner, or comparable artistic leadership role.
- Considerable experience directing and facilitating theatre projects with young people aged 13–18.
- Experience working within schools, colleges, youth theatres, community organisations, or participatory arts settings.
- Proven experience leading rehearsals, workshops, training programmes, and creative development processes.
- Experience managing relationships with artists, educators, community partners, and stakeholders.
- Strong organisational and project management skills.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Knowledge of safeguarding responsibilities and best practice when working with young people.
- Ability and willingness to travel regularly across Greater Manchester.

Desirable Experience

- Experience delivering large-scale youth theatre, participation, or festival projects.
- Experience directing or developing new writing.
- Experience creating or facilitating work that engages with social, civic, or political themes.
- Experience working with international artists, writers, or culturally diverse creative teams.
- Knowledge of the cultural, education and youth sectors across Greater Manchester.
- Experience mentoring artists, facilitators, teachers, or youth workers.

Personal Qualities

We are looking for someone who:

- Is passionate about the power of theatre to engage with complex ideas and urgent contemporary issues.
- Is excited by supporting young people to explore themes of democracy, citizenship, freedom, and responsibility through performance.
- Enjoys working at the intersection of local and international artistic practice.
- Has a genuine interest in politically informed and socially engaged theatre.
- Is curious, reflective, and open to different perspectives and experiences.
- Is collaborative, supportive and highly organised.
- Is committed to creating inclusive spaces where diverse voices can be heard and valued.
- Believes in the potential of young people as artists, leaders, and active participants in civic life.

SUMMARY OF TERMS

FEE: £10,000

CONTRACT: ☐ Freelance fixed term

ENGAGEMENT: September 2026 – April 2027

WORKING days: 40 days of engagement and workshops across all participating schools, including 1 day of CPD training in October, attend Festival of Democracy on **13-14 March 2027**, and post-project evaluation in **April 2027**

LOCATION: Due to the nature of the role, you will be required to travel across Greater Manchester to attend workshops, school visits and rehearsals with teachers and students. Travel expenses will be covered.

RESPONSIBLE TO: Producer and Artistic Director

KEY RELATIONSHIPS: Participating teachers, youth workers, and group leaders

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit:

- A CV (maximum 2 pages)
- A covering letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining your relevant experience and interest in the role
- Please complete our Equal Opportunities Monitoring [Form](#). Responses are anonymous and won't be used in the recruitment process.

Application Deadline: 7 August 2026, 10.00am

This role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check. If the successful freelancer does not currently hold a valid Enhanced DBS certificate, The Javaad Alipoor Company will support them through the application process.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role before applying, please contact Jenna Omeltschenko at jenna@javaadalipoor.co.uk

Interviews: First-round in-person interviews will take place during the week commencing 10 August 2026. While we will do our best to accommodate all candidates, we ask that you make every effort to be available during this period. If second-round interviews are required, they will be held during the week commencing 17 August 2026.

If you have any questions about the application or recruitment process, please contact recruitment@javaadalipoor.co.uk