

## Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme announces the recipients of 3 paid 18-Month Residencies for Resident Assistant Directors and its new NPO status.

RTYDS, one of the leaders in the field of promoting talented directors to forge a career in theatre and artistic leadership, has named the three emerging directors who will receive paid 18-Month Residencies as Resident Assistant Directors, starting late summer this year.

The residencies will take place at three major UK theatres where recipients will receive exceptional work-based training in a producing house, and the opportunity to direct their own show. They have been awarded to:

- **Maddie Kludje – Birmingham Repertory Theatre**
- **Nickie Miles-Wildin – Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester**
- **Taio Lawson – Sheffield Theatres**

*“RTYDS is passionate about giving opportunities to exceptional theatre directors to develop as artists and leaders – these 18 month residencies at Birmingham REP, Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester and Sheffield Theatres each offer a director access to the highest quality of theatre producing in the heart of a theatre of national importance. The directors have the chance to develop their craft, learn about how a theatre building operates and direct their own production. By nurturing and supporting these three exciting and talented directors we are enhancing the strength and quality of the future artistic leadership of this country.”* Sue Emmas, Artistic Director RTYDS

RTYDS is also delighted to have received NPO status for the first time in the recent round of ACE funding, which enables it to support a nationwide structure of paid opportunities for career development for directors, particularly from under-represented backgrounds. In the coming year RTYDS will work with over 250 new and emerging directors. There will be six Introduction to Directing projects, three 18-Month Residencies, a pilot Associate Directorship and RTYDS will facilitate a nationwide community for directors to support each other through a Craft and Career Development Programme that will reach around 200 directors across the country with workshops and masterclasses.

**Maddie Kludje at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.** Recent work includes directing a devised piece for the new entrance opening of the Victoria and Albert Museum with young people from Emergency Exit Arts, *Check The Label* by Eno Mfon for Talawa First, *Fable* by Luke Barnes in London, New York and Cape Town. Work at the Young Vic includes the Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director for *The Web*, *The Scottsboro Boys* with the Young Vic’s under 18 participants and *Little Red Riding Hood* at Theatre Royal Stratford East. She is a drama facilitator working predominantly with Talawa Theatre Company, Young Vic, Old Vic and EEA.

**Nickie Miles-Wildin at Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester.** Nicola co-founded TwoCan, Gloucestershire’s first professional disabled-led theatre company and is an Associate Artist for Kazzum and GDance. Her directing credits include *Bingo Lingo* with Wild N Beets, *Disability Sex Archives*, *Two Can Toucan* for TwoCan, *Nana’s Jumble* for Kazzum, *Mosquitoes* at the National Theatre, and *Ramps on the Moon’s Tommy*. Assistant

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Director work includes *The House of Bernarda Alba* for Graeae/Manchester Royal Exchange, *Lost and Found* with GDance, *Blood Wedding* for Graeae/Dundee Rep/ Derby Theatre, *Waiting Game* for Kazzum, and *Wheels on Broadway* for Graeae.

**Taio Lawson at Sheffield Theatres.** Taio Lawson was born and raised in South London. After co-founding Metal Mouth Theatre as a teenager and making shows in fringe venues in the South of England and internationally, Taio worked on *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* and *Life of Galileo* at the Young Vic as the Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director and Jerwood Assistant Director. He was a Resident Director at the Almeida Theatre assisting on *They Drink it in the Congo* and *Oil*. He has also directed plays and rehearsed-readings at the Cockpit, Rhoda McGaw Theatre and Bush Theatre.

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RTYDS is funded by Arts Council England and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and is an Associate Company of the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester and the Young Vic.  
[www.rtyds.co.uk](http://www.rtyds.co.uk)