

EXECUTIVE SEARCH • PLANNING • ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS

Position Profile Dallas Theater Center Enloe/Rose Artistic Director Dallas, TX

OPPORTUNITY

Dallas Theater Center (DTC) encourages qualified candidates to apply for the Enloe/Rose Artistic Director Position. The successful candidate will join one of the most important producing companies in Dallas-Fort Worth, one of the most economically robust regions in the U.S.

BACKGROUND, HISTORY, AND LEADERSHIP

Dallas Theater Center (DTC) is one of the leading regional theaters in the country and the recipient of the 2017 Regional Theatre Tony Award. DTC is committed to producing theater with resident artists (their Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company and a Resident Playwright) that illuminate diverse experiences and spark collaboration and dialogue. Founded in 1959, DTC is a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center in the Dallas Arts District and presents its annual season at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre (500 seats), designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus, and Rem Koolhaas. DTC also performs at its original home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater (497 Seats) in the Turtle Creek area, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. The historic "Kalita" is essentially a proscenium theater with a gentle thrust/apron. The flexible Wyly Studio and Bryant Studio, both accommodating up to 120 seats, are also used by DTC as additional performance venues during their annual production season.

Kevin Moriarty joined DTC as its Artistic Director in 2007, and after 15 years of his artistic leadership the Dallas Theater Center Board of Directors appointed Moriarty to serve in the newly created Executive Director/CEO role, the top leader of the institution. Beginning with that transition in 2023, DTC's Resident Playwright, Jonathan Norton, has served as the theater's Interim Artistic Director, guiding the artistic life of the company as DTC has made considerations around its plans for permanent artistic leadership.

DTC produces a year-round subscription series of classics, musicals, and new plays and an annual production of *A Christmas Carol* for more than 50,000 North Texas residents annually. The upcoming <u>2025-2026 Season</u> includes five productions in addition to *A Christmas Carol*, a mix of new plays, contemporary stories, and musical theater. Additionally, the theater produces extensive education programs, including the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, a partnership with SMU Meadows School of the Arts MFA actor training

program, and many community collaborations. DTC is also the home of the Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company, which features twelve resident artists who perform in every season.

Throughout its history, Dallas Theater Center has produced many new works, including *The Texas Trilogy* by Preston Jones in 1978; Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, adapted by Adrian Hall, in 1986; and recent premieres of *I Am Delivered't* and *penny candy* by Interim Artistic Director Jonathan Norton; *The Supreme Leader* by Don Nguyen; *Miller, Mississippi* by Boo Killebrew; *Stagger Lee* by Will Power; *Giant* by Michael John LaChiusa and Sybille Pearson; *Hood: The Robin Hood Musical Adventure* by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn; *Bella: An American Tall Tale* by Kirsten Childs; *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter; *The Fortress of Solitude* by Michael Friedman and Itamar Moses; and *Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical* (which would go on to be renamed *Schucked!*) by Robert Horn, Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally.

DTC is guided by <u>Mission, Vision, and Values</u> that center community and embrace the ideals of supporting a resident company of artists. As a cultural leader in the Dallas community, DTC has had a long standing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in planning and operations and is focused on representing the full spectrum of lived experiences in the region that it serves.

DTC's current budget is nearly \$8.5 million, an almost even split between earned and contributed revenue. The company operates on LORT B, C, and D contracts across the venues that it performs in on an annual basis. The DTC staff of artisans, production personnel, and administrators is around 40 professionals, and production personnel are hired as over hire support throughout the season. DTC's current Board of Directors is composed of 48 business, civic, and community leaders and supporters of DTC's mission focused work.

To learn more about DTC, please visit their website at https://dallastheatercenter.org/.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

The new Enloe/Rose Artistic Director will join a company that is seeking a strong sense of direction and vision building around an even more distinct and notable artistic profile both locally and nationally. As the company looks to the future, it is contending with the realities of new audience trends in a post-pandemic live entertainment era. Long committed to a resident company of artists, DTC maintains relationships with a core group of twelve actors in its Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company. A new Artistic Director will have the opportunity to consider a new set of guiding principles for how the Brierley Resident Acting Company is recognized as a core asset for the theater, while also evaluating and considering how to build and maintain a strong artistic and production team to serve all of DTC's artistic ambitions.

In the newly conceived management structure that DTC has adopted with Kevin Moriarty serving in the top staff position of Executive Director/CEO, the Enloe/Rose Artistic Director will work closely with Moriarty on shaping the overall vision of the company. The new artistic leader will be given the space and opportunity to craft a bold, new artistic vision and nurture an atmosphere where artists can take calculated risks and create thrilling work that not only has depth and breadth but which resonates deeply with committed and yet-to-be welcomed audiences. Against this backdrop, DTC

continues to be in a period of reimaging its financial model, having modified its annual operating budget from a peak of nearly \$12 Million in past years to its current level of \$8.5 Million, all with an eye towards growth, sustainability and fiscal responsibility and rigor.

DALLAS, TEXAS

Situated in North Texas, Dallas is the ninth-most-populous city in the United States (approximately 1.3 Million residents) and third in Texas after Houston and San Antonio. Its metropolitan area encompasses one-quarter of the population of Texas and is the largest in the Southern U.S. and Texas followed by the Greater Houston metropolitan area. The nearby Fort Worth community is a partner city in the region's vibrancy, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area is considered one of the most dynamic communities in the United States. The region continues to experience dynamic growth, and within its culturally diverse community, nearly half of its residents are Spanish speaking.

The Dallas–Fort Worth area has one of the largest concentrations of corporate headquarters for publicly traded companies in the United States with major corporations such as AT&T, Energy Transfer Equity, CBRE, Tenet Healthcare, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments, Jacobs Engineering, HollyFrontier, Dean Foods, and Builders FirstSource based in the city.

The Dallas cultural community is an impressive mix of performing arts institutions, museums, and culturally specific institutions. DTC is part of the Dallas Arts District, located in the northern section of downtown and home to several arts venues – the largest contiguous arts district in the United States. Notable venues in the Dallas Arts District include the Dallas Museum of Art; the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center (home to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Dallas Wind Symphony); the Nasher Sculpture Center; the Perot Museum of Nature and Science; and the Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art. In addition to the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, DTC's home base (which it shares with Dallas Black Dance Theatre), venues that are part of the AT&T Dallas Center for the Performing Arts (ATTPAC) include Moody Performance Hall, home to the Dallas Chamber Symphony, and the Winspear Opera House, home to the Dallas Opera and Texas Ballet Theater.

Fed in a large part by a well-regarded theatre training program based in the community at Southern Methodist University, Dallas supports a vibrant theater ecosystem, with DTC holding its place as the largest professional theater in the city. Other notable theater companies in the area include Dallas Children's Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater, Cara Mia Theatre Company, Uptown Players, Casa Mañana, and Stage West. To learn more about Dallas, visit https://dallascityhall.com/.

Opportunities and Challenges

The next Enloe/Rose Artistic Director will join an organization with a strong legacy, committed board, and a remarkable facility. Like many producing companies across the country, DTC continues to energetically woo audiences back to the theater. In 2023, the organization took the painful step of initiating staff layoffs and an institution-wide reorganization, which has resulted in a smaller staff with reduced programming compared to pre-pandemic. Among the many

opportunities and challenges at DTC are these:

- Fully engage the <u>Wyly Theatre</u> in all of its remarkable variety of configurations, including
 proscenium, thrust, flat floor, and black box. Every element of the Wyly's stage and audience
 chamber is configurable, making it one of the most innovative and intimate theater spaces in
 the country.
- Embrace the twelve-member Brierley Resident Acting Company as an essential element of DTC's producing model.
- Expand DTC's reach into a thriving and expanding population in one of the most economically robust regions in the country through a programmatic vision that captures the community's imagination.
- Support the full range of DTC's programming through its <u>Public Works</u> education and community engagement initiatives.
- Balance artistic ambition with available resources, ensuring that DTC continues to thrive as the flagship producing theater in Dallas.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Enloe/Rose Artistic Director is responsible for choosing and producing DTC's main stage season. The Artistic Director is a member of the senior leadership team, working closely with the Board of Trustees, and reporting to and working collaboratively with the Executive Director. The primary responsibilities for the Artistic Director role are these:

- Choose a season of plays and musicals that will resonate with the diverse populations of Dallas.
- Form a productive and collaborative working relationship with the Executive Director, Board of Trustees, and members of the senior leadership team.
- Explore and interrogate the many ways in which the Wyly Theatre can be configured in ways that enhance the work and its connection to DTC's audiences, including new forms of story-telling and an inclusive vision for theatrical expression.
- Embrace the Brierley Resident Artist Company as a core tenet of DTC's producing model, including recruiting new members and guiding its artistic growth.
- Steward artistic and producing relationships that are important to DTC, locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Serve in key ambassadorial roles, advancing DTC's mission and values both locally and nationally.
- Maintain an active presence as a generative theater artist at DTC and nationally.
- Work closely with DTC's Public Works programming to enhance both community engagement and main stage performances.
- Embrace the values that the organization has codified relative to producing in an infinitely flexible performance space with a resident company in an organization that strives for excellence, fiscal health, collaboration, and inclusion.
- Lead by example, setting a standard for integrity, empathy, collaboration, and grit.

QUALIFICATIONS

While no one individual will likely possess all of these qualifications, DTC is interested in these

skills and abilities in qualified candidates:

- Proven history as a highly creative theater artist with deep experience in plays and musicals.
- Demonstrated ability in creating productions that utilize space in environmental, immersive, or non-traditional ways.
- The ability to effectively engage with a resident company of artists.
- While accomplished stage directing will be seen as a plus, DTC is open to candidates from other backgrounds in the theater.
- A strong network of relationships in theater with the ability to draw performers, designers, and directors from across the country.
- Strong organizational and people management relative to producing in an institutional environment.
- The ability to get the best work from everyone "in the room."
- Clear understanding of all design and production elements relative to theatrical shows.
- Transparent and effective communication.

COMPENSATION AND START DATE

The annual salary range for the Enloe/Rose Artistic Director position is \$200,000-210,000, depending on qualifications, and includes a full benefit package commensurate with other organizations of its size. DTC intends to make a hiring decision by the end of calendar year 2025, with the selected candidate transitioning into the position as soon as possible afterwards.

DTC is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate based upon race, religion, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, reproductive health decisions, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, status as a protected veteran, status as an individual with a disability, genetic information, political views or activity, or other applicable legally protected characteristics.

HOW TO APPLY

David Mallette and Jonathan West from MCA are facilitating this search. Qualified and interested candidates should submit the following items for consideration:

- A current resumé
- Cover letter (no more than 1 ½ pages)
- Four professional references
- Salary expectation

All documents should be in .pdf format and have the candidate's name as part of the file name. Submissions should be made through Management Consultants for the Arts' website at: https://www.mcaonline.com/searches/artistic-director-dtc

Questions about the role may be addressed to <u>info@MCAonline.com</u> with "DTC Artistic Director Search" in the Subject Line.