



Fellowship and Observership Application Informational Packet

2026 PDP Cycle 1

Choreographer Fellowship on *BEACHES, THE MUSICAL* with Jennifer Rias on Broadway



Location: Manhattan NYC and the Majestic Theatre for tech and previews

Duration: 10 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: February 9, 2026
- Tech Begins: March 16, 2026
- Previews Begin: March 27, 2026
- Open: April 22, 2026

Grant Award: \$7500—all inclusive

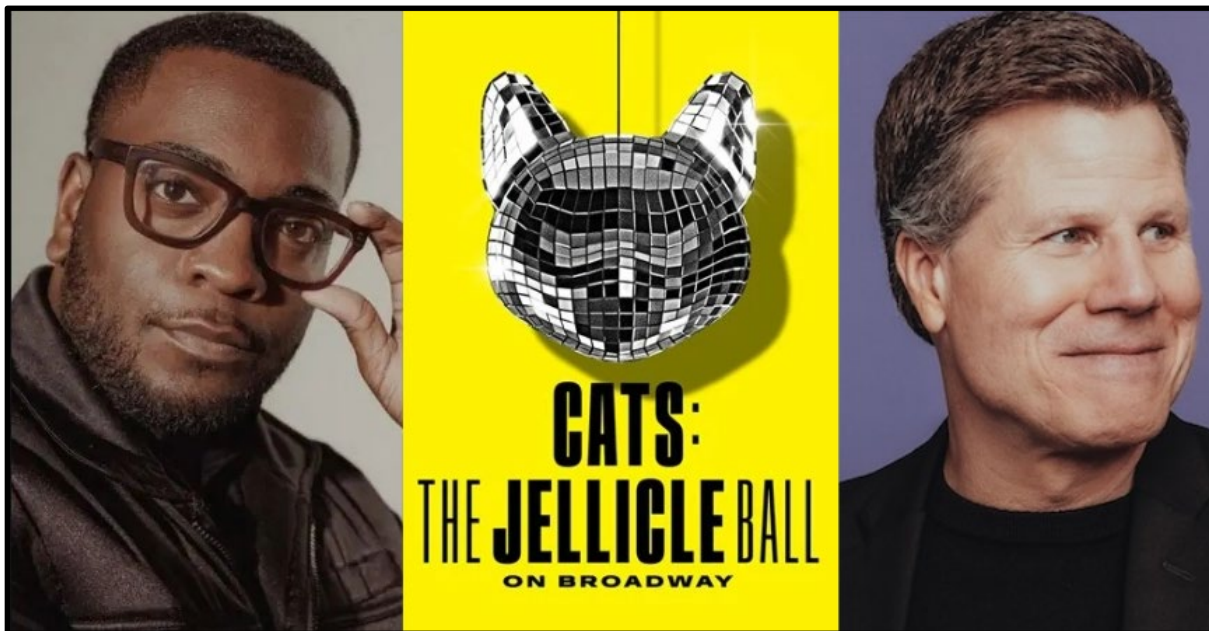
Application Expectations: early to mid-career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional information:

Applicants should be interested in working on a new commercial musical on Broadway. Comfortable with a lot of different styles of dance, movement, and storytelling. Experience working with kids a plus and encouraged to apply.

Learn more about Jennifer Rias [here](#) and *Beaches the Musical* [here](#)

Director Fellowship on *CATS: "THE JELlicLE BALL"* with Zhailon Levingston and Bill Rauch on Broadway



Location: Manhattan NYC and Broadhurst Theatre for tech and previews

Duration: 8 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: February 9, 2026
- Previews Begin: March 18, 2026
- Opening: April 7, 2026 (Fellowship will conclude April 5)

Stipend: \$6000—all inclusive

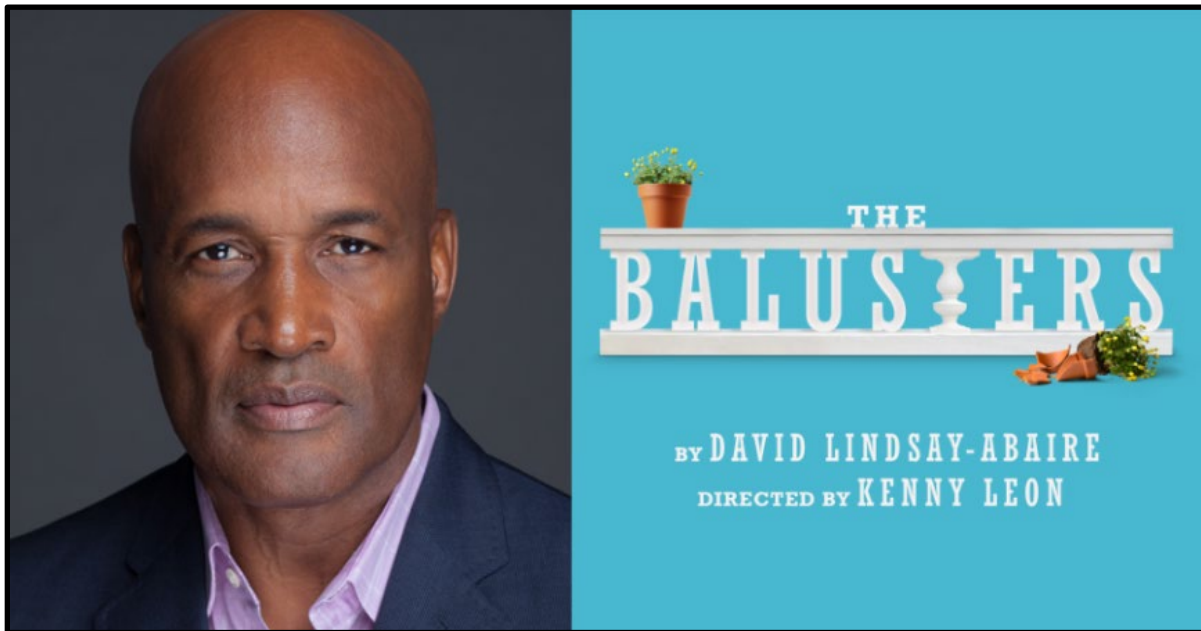
Application Expectations: early to mid-career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio

Additional information:

Applicants should be interested in reimagined revivals, ballroom culture, and working on a commercial musical on Broadway. This provides a unique opportunity to learn from not only one, but two brilliant creatives. Ballroom background experience with an interest in directing, encouraged to apply.

Learn more about Zhailon Levingston [here](#), Bill Rauch [here](#), and *Cats: "The Jellicle Ball"* [here](#)

Director Observership on *THE BALUSTERS* with Kenny Leon at Manhattan Theatre Club



Location: Manhattan, NYC at Manhattan Theatre Club

Duration: 8 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsals Begin: February 24, 2026
- Tech Begins: March 24, 2026
- Previews Begin: March 31, 2026
- Opening: April 19, 2026

Stipend: \$4800—all inclusive

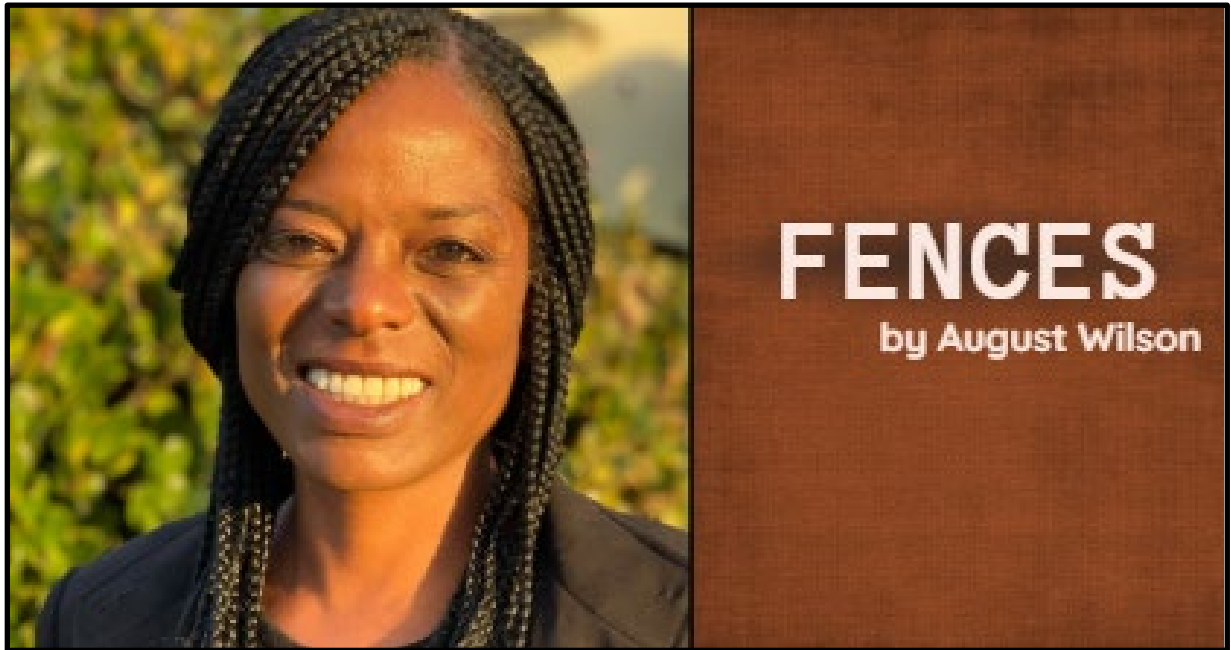
Application Expectations: early to mid-career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional information:

Applicants should be interested in working on a new and evolving commercial play on Broadway.

Learn more about Kenny Leon [here](#) and *The Balusters* [here](#)

Director Fellowship on *Fences* by August Wilson with Delicia Turner Sonnenberg at The Old Globe



Location: The Old Globe in San Diego, CA

Duration: 10 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsal begins: March 10, 2026
- Tech begins: March 31, 2026
- Previews begins: April 4 2026
- Opening: April 9, 2026

Stipend: \$3,375—all inclusive

Application Expectations: early to mid-career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional information:

Applicants should be interested in August Wilson plays and play revivals.

Learn more about Delicia Turner Sonnenberg [here](#) and *Fences* [here](#)

Director Observership on *WINDFULL* by Tarell Alvin McCraney with Awoye Timpo at Steppenwolf



Location: Steppenwolf, Chicago IL

Duration: 6 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsal begins: March 9, 2026
- Tech begins: April 4, 2026
- Previews begin: April 9, 2026
- Opening: April 19, 2026

Stipend: \$3,600—all inclusive

Application Expectations: Early Career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional information:

Applicants should be interested in new works and straight plays.

Learn more about Awoye Timpo [here](#) and *Windfall* by Tarell Alvin McCraney [here](#)

Director Observership on *I & You: The Musical* with Sarah Rasmussen at The Olney Center



Location: The Olney Center in Olney, MD

Duration: 3 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsals begin: April 7
- Tech begins: April 16
- Previews begin: April 22
- Opening: April 25

Stipend: \$1,800—all inclusive

Application Expectations: Early Career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional information:

Applicants should be interested in learning about co-production structure and two-hander musicals.

Learn more about Sarah Rasmussen [here](#) and *I & You: The Musical* [here](#)

Director/Choreographer Observer on *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* with Dan Knechtges at Theatre Under The Stars



Location: Theatre Under The Stars in Houston, TX

Duration: 4 weeks

Dates:

- Prep begins: April 21, 2026
- Rehearsals begin: April 28, 2026
- Tech Begins: May 12, 2026
- Previews begin: May 19, 2026
- Opening: May 21, 2026

Stipend: \$3,000

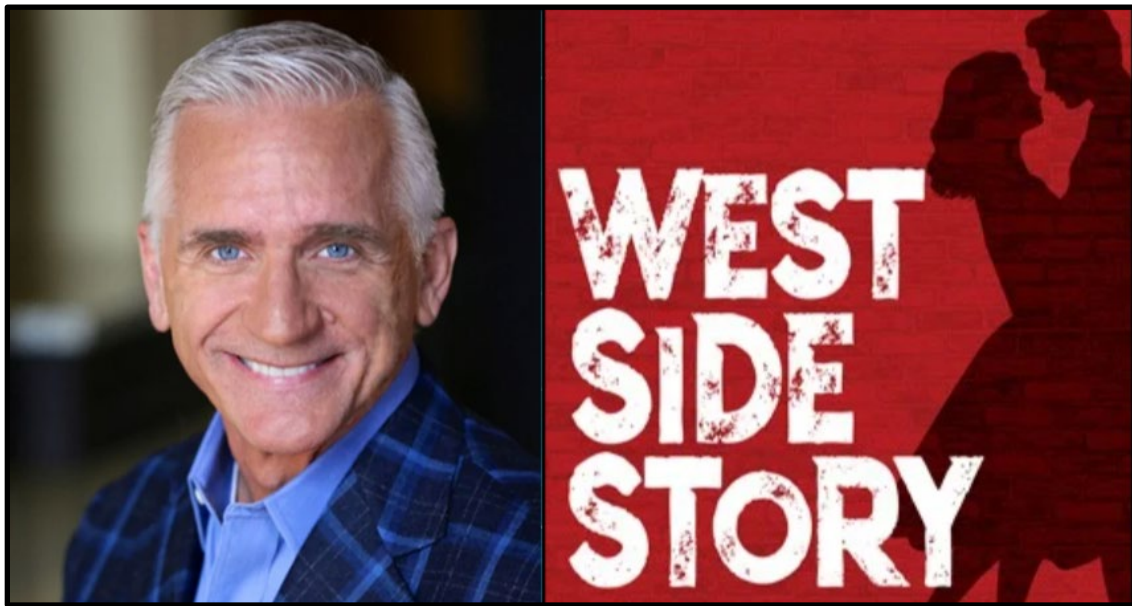
Application Expectations: Early Career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional Information:

Applicants should be interested in big musicals or Juke Box musicals through the lens of a director/choreographer. This gives a unique opportunity to observe not only the show Director but also the Artistic Director of Theatre Under The Stars.

Learn more about Dan Knechtges [here](#) and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* [here](#)

Director Observer on *West Side Story* with Mark S. Hoebee at Paper Mill Playhouse



Theatre Information: Manhattan, and Papermill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ

Duration: 4 weeks

Dates:

- Rehearsal begin: May 4, 2026 (New 42nd Street Studios)
- Tech begins: May 20 (at Paper Mill Playhouse)
- Previews Begin: May 28
- Opening night: May 31

Stipend: \$2,400—all inclusive

Application Expectations: Early Career applicant, must submit a personalized letter of interest, Resume, Headshot, Bio—all due January 26.

Additional Information:

Applicants should be interested in large scale musicals and revivals of classics. This gives a unique opportunity to observe not only the show Director but also the Artistic Director of Paper Mill Playhouse.

Learn more about Mark S. Hoebee [here](#) and the production [here](#).

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the following three categories

Clarity: The applicant's ability to articulate interest, with specificity, in the theatrical art form and in their own work as a director and/or choreographer. Their response has clarity of thought, understanding, and focus.

Timing: The applicant speaks to why this is the specific right moment in their career to participate in the given opportunity.

Access & Impact: The applicant articulates why this production opportunity would give them access to knowledge and/or a type of educational theatrical experience they do not currently have.