



EMBARGOED UNTIL 09:00 on 24/01/2022

PROJEKT EUROPA ANNOUNCES 2022 PROGRAMME SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE WORK OF OVER 40 MIGRANT ARTISTS ACROSS THE UK

This ambitious programme will see PROJEKT EUROPA collaborate with **The Marlowe Theatre, Royal & Derngate, Rose Theatre and Mercury Theatre**, as well as 10 leading theatre makers to deliver **three projects** that will inspire and embolden both professional and non-professional migrant artists, creating new local and national communities of theatre makers

PROJEKT EMPOWER will pair 10 emerging first generation migrant theatre makers with 10 of the country's most successful migrant artists in a 5-month mentorship programme designed to build a community of support and inspiration across the country. The mentees will be discovered through an open callout and will be partnered with one of the following mentors: **Omar Elerian, Mehmet Ergen, Anna Fleischle, Kaisa Hammarlund, Thusitha Jayasundera, Arinzé Kene, Ingrid Mackinnon, Lucian Msamati, Hyemi Shin and Caroline Steinbeis**. Please see below for mentor biographies and credits. Applications open on Monday 24 January 2022.

PROJEKT ELEVATE will identify and support 9 migrant artists to develop ideas for co-created work for their own communities, in collaboration with one of three theatres - **Mercury Theatre, Rose Theatre and Royal & Derngate**. Following an open call-out, PROJEKT EUROPA will commission 9 artists and provide artistic and dramaturgical support as they develop their project concepts. These commissions will broker new relationships between local migrant artists, the theatres and their communities, with a view to create co-production opportunities of participatory work between PROJEKT EUROPA and theatres across the country. Applications open on Monday 7 February 2022.

PROJEKT ENCOUNTER is a 20-week community engagement programme for first generation migrants in Kent. Building on PROJEKT EUROPA's previous work in Canterbury, they will



collaborate with a leading artist to develop and deliver an ambitious programme of workshops, with the aim of building an informal community ensemble at **The Marlowe Theatre**. PROJEKT ENCOUNTER will reach and connect with historically underserved migrant communities, specifically those with no existing relationship with theatre.

Artistic Director Maria Aberg says:

“I am thrilled to announce our 2022 programme of work, focused on amplifying international voices from within the UK. By working with migrant artists and communities we will support, inspire and empower them to ensure the future strength and resilience of our theatre sector.

The three projects are about creating opportunities, building networks and forging creative relationships between artists, theatres and communities.

*We want to **empower** emerging migrant artists to claim their space and make their voices heard, bolstered by a generous network of support.*

*We want to **elevate** migrant-led co-creation projects, to encourage artists to make bold, ambitious work for and with their communities, in collaboration with theatres they may not have had a relationship with before.*

*And we want migrant community members to **encounter** creative, playful and collaborative theatre making which celebrates all of their experiences and identities.”*

For Press Enquiries: Lucy Oliver-Harrison / lucy@projekteuropa.org / +44 7793 557 083

ABOUT PROJEKT EUROPA

Founded in 2020, PROJEKT EUROPA is an international theatre company making new work by migrant theatre makers for local and global audiences. They make theatre from an international perspective, exploring new sustainable ways of collaborating across borders. They are resident company at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, and from this base they originate, develop and produce their work.



www.projekteuropa.org

Twitter: @ProjektEuropa

Insta: @projekteuropa

Facebook: @WeAreProjektEuropa

ABOUT THE THEATRES

Royal & Derngate is the main venue for arts and entertainment in Northamptonshire. It was named Regional Theatre of the Year by the inaugural Stage 100 Awards in 2011, and was nominated again in 2016. It won the Management Award for Best Presentation of Touring Theatre in the 2015 UK Theatre Awards for their *Made in Northampton* work and Best Touring Production in 2016 for *The Herbal Bed*, and The Stage Ensemble Award and a Fringe First for *Education, Education, Education* in 2017. *The Worst Witch* won the 2020 Olivier Award for Best Family Show, whilst *Our Lady of Kibeho* was nominated for a 2020 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Royal & Derngate's *Made in Northampton* productions have transferred to the West End and Broadway as well as Shakespeare's Globe, the National Theatre and the Southbank Centre. Productions transferring to London in 2019 included *The Worst Witch*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *Touching the Void*, *Education, Education, Education* and *The Lovely Bones*, and Ralph Fiennes' *The Four Quartets*, one of the theatre's reopening shows post-lockdown, transferred to the West End in autumn 2021.

In addition to its production work, Royal & Derngate Creative Learning's nationally recognised engagement and CreatEd programmes also engage young people, schools, communities and artists through a broad range of inclusive in-person and digital creative projects, weekly groups, workshops and industry insight opportunities and resources, underpinned by ACE Quality Principles and the Let's Create strategy. Generate artist support network and NextGen industry insight programmes also provide local and regional artists of all ages to develop their artistic practice, including Generate Associate Artists gaining 18 months of tailored support to develop new work. Royal & Derngate is also lead partner of the Northants Cultural Education Partnership UNLOCK. www.royalandderngate.co.uk



Rose Theatre is the largest producing theatre in South West London and has established itself since its 2008 opening as one of the most exciting theatres in the UK.

Recent Rose Original productions include: *Leopards* by Alice Metcalf and co-produced with Fleabag producer Francesca Moody Productions, *The Seven Pomegranate Seeds* by Colin Teevan, directed by Melly Still; the Christmas 2021 production of *Beauty and the Beast*; the critically acclaimed *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, adapted by Rona Munro, which transferred to the West End in July 2019 following a successful UK tour; and the world premiere stage adaptation of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Novels, *My Brilliant Friend*, adapted by April De Angelis, which transferred to the National Theatre in November 2019. Both were directed by Rose Associate Artist Melly Still.

The Rose is home to one of the largest youth theatres in the country, offering over 1,000 participants training, careers advice and the opportunity to take part in productions alongside professionals. Rosetheatre.org

Mercury Theatre is the artistic powerhouse in the East – a vital, vibrant, welcoming centre of culture for the people of Colchester, Essex and beyond. The award-winning theatre presented in the auditorium and in the studio transforms and enriches lives in the local community. Through Mercury Productions and Mercury Originals the company produces world-class theatre, reinventing familiar stories and conjuring bold, new ones. The Mercury talent development programme seeks out fresh voices and stories that encourage people to see through the eyes of others. The Mercury's participation programmes connect communities and celebrate creative potential by providing people with everyday opportunities to be artistic and innovative.

A producing and receiving house with 530 seats in the theatre and a capacity of 96 in the studio, the newly (2021) refurbished Mercury is accessible throughout and boasts a thriving café- bar, dance studio, rehearsal space, participation space and impressive backstage workshop.

Following the major renovation in 2021, Mercury was awarded a BREEAM 'Very Good' certificate, placing it in the top 25% of public buildings in the UK for environmental standards. In 2021 the Mercury was profiled by Theatre Trust as a model of good practice in the UK.

The Mercury was established in 1937, is registered Charity Number 232387 and receives regular investment from:



www.mercurytheatre.co.uk

The Marlowe Theatre The Marlowe Theatre is Kent's large-scale, state-of-the-art theatre and engine house for the performing arts. It presents a year-round programme of touring classic and contemporary theatre, musicals, dance, opera, music and comedy and produces theatre at all scales for and with the young people and communities of Kent.

PROJEKT EUROPA became a resident company at The Marlowe theatre in March 2021, joining Associate and Resident companies The Philharmonia Orchestra, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Glyndebourne Opera and The Royal Shakespeare Company. The Marlowe's collaboration with PROJEKT EUROPA supports the making of radical work by migrant theatre makers, giving audiences the opportunity to share international experiences. In September 2021, The Marlowe collaborated with PROJEKT EUROPA on *We Are The Stories*, a trilogy of work-in-progress performances that were created with migrant communities from Kent.

www.marlowetheatre.com

ABOUT THE MENTORS

Omar Elerian is a freelance theatre director, writer and dramaturg. Italian and of Palestinian descent, Omar trained in Italy and graduated from Lecoq International Theatre School in Paris in 2005. Omar was the resident Associate Director at the Bush Theatre from 2012-2019, where he commissioned and directed some of theatre's most successful shows. As a sole director for the Bush, his credits include smash-hit *Misty* by Arinzé Kene (Bush, West End), *NASSIM* by Nassim Soleimanpour (Bush Theatre, Traverse Theatre and a world tour), *Going Through* by Estelle Savasta and *Islands* by Caroline Horton.

Mehmet Ergen was born in Istanbul. He studied ballet, opera and piano in Istanbul's state and municipal conservatories, as well as acting in *Bilsak* along with *History of Art* at the University of Istanbul. He founded and is the current artistic director of the Arcola Theatre, London and he co-founded and ran the Southwark Playhouse between 1993-1999. He was associate producer at the Battersea Arts Centre (1999-2001); advisor and judge for BBC Radio drama; founder of the Arcola's opera season *Grimeborn*, and founder of the new writing festival *Oyun Yaz*.



Mehmet also taught at University of Essex, Bilgi University, Istanbul Aydın University, Anadolu University and Yeditepe University.

Anna Fleischle is a multi-award winning stage and costume designer from Germany. She has won an Olivier Award, a Critics Circle Award, an Evening Standard Award, and a South Bank Award. Productions include: *Hangmen* dir. Matthew Dunster (Golden Theatre, Broadway NYC, West End/Royal Court), *Weimar Nightfall* dir. Simon McBurney (LA Philharmonic/Complicite), *Message In A Bottle* chor. Kate Prince (Sadler's Wells/Universal Music/ Zonation), *A Kind of People* dir. Michael Buffong (Royal Court), *Two Ladies* dir. Nicholas Hytner (The Bridge Theatre), *Home, I'm Darling* dir. Tamara Harvey (Duke Of York's/ NT), *Death Of A Salesman* dir. Marianne Elliott & Miranda Cromwell (Young Vic/West End), *Beware Of Pity* (Schaubühne, Berlin/Complicité). She is Co-founder of Scene/Change, an Associate Artist at the Young Vic Theatre, a trustee at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and an Ambassador for PiPA.

Kaisa Hammarlund is a screen and stage actor born in Helsingborg, Sweden. She moved to London to attend Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Her credits include Alison Bechdel in *Fun Home* at the Young Vic, Charity in *Sweet Charity* at the Royal Exchange, Violet in *Violet* at the Charing Cross Theatre as well as roles at the NT, the Almeida, Trafalgar Studios, Lyceum and Sadler's Wells. TV credits include playing Queen Elizabeth I in *The Boleyns* for the BBC, as well as roles in *I Hate Suzie*, *Doctors* and *Holby City*.

Thusitha Jayasundera is an actor born and raised in Sri Lanka. She came to the UK during a period of extreme political brutality in Sri Lanka which had far reaching effects on her family and friends. She secured a place at RADA and went on to complete their 3yr action course. Theatre shows include *Blank* (Donmar Warehouse), *Our Town* (Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park), *Stories* (NT), *Behind The Beautiful Forevers* (NT), *The Vertical Hour* (Park Theatre), *Tiger Country* (Hampstead Theatre). TV includes *Dr Foster*, *Humans*, *Broadchurch* and *Holby City*. Thusitha has just finished filming *Lord of The Rings* in New Zealand.

Arinzé Kene is an actor and writer. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, he is best known for his one-man play *Misty* and is currently playing the lead role in *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Story* at the Lyric Theatre. His credits as a performer include *Torn* at the Arcola, *Been So Long* and *Death of a Salesman* at the Young Vic, *One Night In Miami* at the Donmar Warehouse and *Girl from the*



North Country at the Old Vic. As a writer, his work includes *Suffocation* and *Little Baby Jesus*, which earned him the Most Promising Playwright at The Offies in 2011. Kene was awarded an MBE in 2020 for his services to drama and screenwriting.

Ingrid Mackinnon is a movement director, choreographer, teacher and dancer from Canada. Movement direction credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (winner of the Best Choreographer Award at the Black British Theatre Awards 2021 – Open Air Theatre Regent’s Park), *Josephine* (Theatre Royal Bath/The Egg), *Antigone* (Mercury Theatre), *Breathing Space* (Royal Court), *Liar.Heretic.Thief* (Lyric), *ReImagining: Cacophony* (Almeida), *Typical* (Nouveau Riche/Soho Theatre), *#WeAreArrested* (RSC), *Kingdom Come* (RSC). Performance credits include Dallas Black Dance Theater, Disney’s *The Lion King* (West End), Royal Opera House, English National Opera, and Uchenna Dance. Ingrid has an MA in Movement: Directing & Teaching from Central School of Speech and Drama. Ingrid is also co-founder of MoveSpace and a trustee of Dancers Career Development.

Lucian Msamati is an award winning, BAFTA nominated actor, writer and director. Born in the UK, raised and educated in Zimbabwe by Tanzanian parents, he is a founder member of the acclaimed Over the Edge Theatre Company based in Harare. After leaving the University of Zimbabwe in 1997, alongside performing and touring with Over the Edge, he worked as a freelance copywriter, voiceover artist and radio broadcaster. He relocated to the UK in 2002. He served as Artistic Director of British-African theatre company Tiata Fahodzi from 2010 to 2014. He is an Associate Artist of the RSC and Rose Theatre and is a current board member of the Donmar Warehouse. His theatre credits include *Romeo & Juliet*, *'Master Harold'...and the boys*, *Amadeus*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Amen Corner*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Death and the King's Horseman*, *The Overwhelming* (all NT); *Othello and Pericles* (RSC); *Little Revolution*, *Ruined and I.D* (Almeida) and *If You Don't Let Us Dream, We Won't Let You Sleep, Belong* (Co-production with Tiata Fahodzi) and *Clybourne Park* (Royal Court). His TV credits include *Gangs of London*, *Luther*, *Game of Thrones*, *Taboo*, *Black Earth Rising*, *His Dark Materials* and *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*.

Hyemi Shin is an award-winning set and costume designer. She studied at Hongik University in Seoul and Wimbledon College of Arts. She was the overall winner of the 2011 Linbury Prize and won the Irish Times Best Costumes award for Michael Keegan-Dolan’s *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala*.



Her design credits include *The Seagull*, *Hérons*, *Morning*, and *Secret Theatre* for Lyric Hammersmith, *Once in a Lifetime* and *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* for Young Vic, *The End of Eddy* for Unicorn, *Solaris* for Malthouse and Lyceum Edinburgh. Opera includes *Samson et Dalila*, *The Return of Ulysses* at the ROH, *The Skating Rink* at Garsington and *The Damnation of Faust* at Glyndebourne. Dance Includes *Unearth* and *Orpheus Alive* for National Ballet of Canada and *MÁM* for Teac Damsa.

Caroline Steinbeis is a freelance theatre and film director and dramaturge, currently Associate Director at Sheffield Theatres. Caroline was born in Munich and studied at Royal Holloway, University of London, completing her MA at the Central School of Speech and Drama. In 2009 Caroline won the prestigious JMK Award for Outstanding Directors, directing Caryl Churchill's *Mad Forest*. Her production, *Fatherland*, was invited to the Radikal Jung Festival in Munich in 2011 and her production of *Brilliant Adventures* won the prize for Best Studio Production at the Manchester Theatre Awards in 2013. Caroline was International Associate at the Royal Court Theatre from 2011-2013. Her short film *From A Strange Land* has found international success and Caroline is currently developing her first feature film.