



# PITCH UP

helping theatre makers and  
venues start conversations

02 March 2017



Yolanda Mercy Quarter Life Crisis, image by OBDesignz

# INTRODUCTION

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house is an initiative aimed at better connecting theatre makers, audiences and venues across the South East. Pitch Up is one of the ways we're supporting that; a forum for sharing ideas in a spirit of openness and common purpose.

With our aim to support regional touring comes a responsibility to respond to the gaps that we're seeing in what's currently available. That's why we've put an emphasis on BAME theatre makers with this Pitch Up and why we've programmed a lot more 1minute Elevator Pitches than usual - because it's not simply about artists 'getting out there' but about a need for a wider set of connections and collaborations between artists, venues and producers. We have also timed today's event to coincide with our latest seed funding open call. These are investments of £3000-£8000 to support relationships between venues in the house network, and theatre makers or producers. We hope that this will encourage you to be bold when discussing potential collaborations today.

We're grateful to Ovalhouse for hosting us today. We share their ambition to see more of the diverse work that's being developed in London, reaching new audiences beyond the capital. And we hope that the conversations you have today can be a part of that.

## PARTNERS

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### house

Supporting venues across the South East to improve the range, quality and audience for contemporary theatre, house is supported by Arts Council England and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and delivered by Farnham Maltings.

[housetheatre.org.uk](http://housetheatre.org.uk)



### Ovalhouse

A development and performance space for experimental, radical and overlooked artists, Ovalhouse is known for theatre, performance and participation that speaks to a world beyond the mainstream.

[ovalhouse.com](http://ovalhouse.com)

@housetheatre

#pitchup



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## NICK MAKOHA and FUEL

### The Dark

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A new one-person live literature experience by award-winning poet Nick Makoha, produced by Fuel.

On a November evening in 1978, after eight years of civil war, Nick Makoha and his mother fled their homeland of Uganda. Many people were displaced, thrown into unfamiliar environments and forced to find a new home in the world.

*The Dark* is Nick's poetic retelling of his experience and that of others affected; a series of voices echoing from varying states of darkness. What unfolds is a story of those who find themselves exiled, with allegiances split between their birthplace and their new country.

Currently in its first phase of development as part of Ovalhouse's FiRST BiTE series and supported by Arts Council England.

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## About Nick Makoha



Nick Makoha is a poet, playwright, performer, activist and mentor and winner of the 2015 Brunel African Poetry Prize.

Makoha's theatre projects include *My Father and Other Superheroes*, a one-person show he wrote and performed in the UK, Europe and the US and *The Spalding Suite*, a show inspired by the UK's basketball subculture that toured the UK in 2015.

# THE THELMAS

Coconut by Guleraana Mir

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"Ever feel like you are constantly disappointing everyone?"

Meet Rumi, a British Pakistani woman. Born and brought up as a Muslim, Rumi spends more time enjoying fine wine and bacon than at the mosque. When she meets Simon, a white guy, she hopes that his decision to convert to Islam will be enough to keep everyone happy. However, as Simon begins to explore his faith, Rumi's world spins off its axis in ways she could never have predicted.

Originally written as a short one-woman play for *Ladylogue!* in 2014, *Coconut* is currently in development with The Thelmas and has been supported by Park Theatre's *Script Accelerator 16* and New Diorama's BAMER programme.

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## About The Thelmas



The Thelmas are dedicated to the development and promotion of female writers and makers, and committed to promoting the work of unheard voices, and to supporting BAMER stories.

Seeking out bittersweet stories that lie outside the traditional female and BAMER stereotypes, The Thelmas empower women to create theatre that is big, bold and emotionally resonant.

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## Other projects



### Ladylogue!

An evening of female monologues by emerging female writers. Produced in 2014 and 2015 for sold-out runs at the Camden Fringe, *Ladylogue!* picked up four and five star reviews.

"An all-female cast and crew making theatre that people like - maybe that's the best kind of feminism."

View from the Gods

# PHOEBE MCINTOSH

## Dominoes

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Illustration by William Stacey



*Dominoes* focuses on Layla, a history teacher on the cusp of marrying Andy. Having the same surname as her fiancé used to be cute until Layla discovers that they might have a shared history; one she finds unsettling and a threat to her friendships, sense of identity and the wedding itself. Were her enslaved ancestors owned by his slave-owner forefathers?

Can she be a 'domino' - a little bit of both black and white - or must she choose between marrying Andy and 'carrying on the ownership', or picking a side and 'honouring her roots'?

*Dominoes* is a 60-minute solo show that presents the mixed-race experience in a bold and thought-provoking way and asks if the difficulties of the past will always pose a threat to the future, and if discovering your identity means picking a side.

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## Contact

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## About Phoebe McIntosh



Phoebe McIntosh is a London-based actress and writer. Since graduating from the MA Acting course at London's Arts Educational, she has gained many diverse and exciting credits.

In 2013 she produced and performed her first play, *The Tea Diaries*, in sell out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe and The Tea House Theatre, Vauxhall.

## THE PLACE THEATRE and TOWNSEND PRODUCTIONS

### We Are The Lions Mr Manager

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At the heart of this project will be Townsend Productions' new play, *We Are The Lions, Mr. Manager* by Neil Gore. Employing the company's accessible and entertaining style to tell the important and inspirational story of Jayaben Desai and the Grunwick Strike.

In the summer of August 1976 Desai led a group of South Asian workers out of a London film-processing factory to demand their right to be treated with dignity and to be represented by a union.

The high profile two-year strike changed the perception of Asian women in wider society and challenged trade unions to recognise the rights of BAME and women workers. At its height, 20,000 people took to the streets to support the 'strikers in saris' and Desai's influence was recently recognised by BBC Radio 4's 2016 Women's Hour Power List.

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### Contact

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### About The Place Theatre



The Place Theatre, Bedford, is a busy community venue, presenting theatre, music, film and spoken word, but with a particular emphasis on politically progressive work and issue based theatre that explores concerns relevant to our local audiences.

The venue supports an active voluntary theatre sector and emerging professional artists. Townsend Productions is its first professional resident company.

## NOUVEAU RICHE

### Timbuktu

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*Timbuktu* is a candid portrait of racial and economic injustice, hyper-masculinity, love and pain.

The play is told from the perspective of four articulate young men during the aftermath of another murder on their Council Estate. *Timbuktu* weaves together movement, poetry, storytelling and direct address in a journey that travels through some of the harsh realities of our time, towards healing and transformation.

With the support of Ovalhouse and Rich Mix, Nouveau Riche researched the play with young black men aged 16-25. *Timbuktu* subsequently received standing ovations for readings at Arcola Theatre and at Bush Theatre's *Black Words Black Lives* festival.

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## Contact

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## About Nouveau Riche



Nouveau Riche is a cross-artform creative movement founded in 2014 by Ryan Calais Cameron and Shavani Seth to discover, nurture and produce unique stories that are both educational and entertaining.

Ryan Calais Cameron is a writer and actor. He is part of Soho Theatre's Writers Lab and is working on commissions for Arcola Theatre, PLAYtheatre, and Camden Peoples Theatre.

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## Other projects



### Cascade

Ryan Calais Cameron's second full length play explores identity, power, and the racial stereotypes that condition British behavior. A young black man and a white police officer collide on the night of a new wave of London riots, post Brexit. Their conversation twists and turns through layers of our current status quo as the characters hurtle towards a thrilling, inescapable fate.

## ELEVATOR PITCHES



### BLACK THEATRE LIVE

A pioneering national consortium of eight regional theatres led by Tara Arts, committed to effecting change nationally for BAME touring theatre through a sustainable 3-year programme of national touring, structural support and audience development.

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### LIGHTHOUSE



Lighthouse aims to be the leading arts centre in the South West by developing talent, enabling great quality work, being a cultural leader for the South West, and a leading employer within the arts industry and locally in Poole.

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### THE SPRING ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTRE



The Spring is a small place where big things happen. One of the few integrated arts and heritage centres in the UK, The Spring uses this position to create innovative programmes to inspire and engage the residents of Havant Borough and the surrounding region.

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### CULTURE DEVICE DANCE PROJECT *Waiting for Godot*

A cutting edge dance company for professional dancers with Down's Syndrome based at Hackney Showroom. Their surreal remake of *Waiting For Godot* will see the company's artists collaborating with theatre director Sam Curtis Lindsay and choreographer Daniel Vais.

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### CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS PRODUCTIONS *Kabad* (working title)

Crying in the Wilderness aims to create a pan-continental, interdisciplinary theatrical practice. *Kabad* is a new play for an ensemble of five women, telling the epic story of Sarai, the matriarch of a nomadic community whose leadership is under threat.

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## ELEVATOR PITCHES



### **AYO-DELE EDWARDS** *Becoming*

Ayo-Dele is an actress and singer-songwriter who has worked with West Yorkshire Playhouse, Ovalhouse and The Royal Court. *Becoming* is a story of migration, identity, family and faith between London and Nigeria, performed by Ayo-Dele accompanied by three musicians.

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### **CREATIVE ARTS EAST**

A rural touring scheme that aims to provide memorable and uplifting arts experiences that enrich community life. By working in partnership with local volunteers, the scheme brings high quality and affordable arts events to the rural communities of Norfolk and Suffolk.



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### **SHARMILA CHAUHAN** *Flip Side*

Writer of Kali Theatre's acclaimed, *The Husbands*, Sharmila Chauhan's *Flip Side* imagines a future of over population and limited resources in which couples are vetted by the state's compulsory Love Lab to see if their relationships can withstand the strain of parenthood.

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### **WATFORD PALACE THEATRE**



A 21st century producing theatre, making new work across theatre, dance, outdoor arts and digital. As well as commissioning and producing plays from new and established writers, the theatre supports the work of resident companies, Rifco Arts and Tiata Fahodzi.

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### **TALAWA**



Talawa launches MAKE to bring its artist development work together and consolidate its community of Black British artists. Grassroots workshops, masterclasses and career support will complement Studio Firsts, Talawa Firsts, script reading service, TYPT and Creating Routes.

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## YOLANDA MERCY

### Quarter Life Crisis

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Image by OBDesignz



Following the success of her debut solo show *On The Edge of Me*, Yolanda Mercy is back with her coming of age comedy. Featuring live music, audience participation and a special guest from the local community, *Quarter Life Crisis* presents an upbeat take on the millennial phenomenon of big dreams, no cash, going viral, Youtube tutorials, having numerous zero hour contracts, surrendering the Young Persons Railcard and trying desperately to cheat adulthood.

What does it mean to be an adult and when do you become one?

*Quarter Life Crisis* was seed commissioned by Ovalhouse and is supported by Arc Stockton and Third Angel. It will be accompanied by wrap around workshops called *The Millennial Hour*, which include CPD sessions, talkbacks and fun games.

## Contact

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## About Yolanda Mercy

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Yolanda Mercy is an actor and playwright. She is currently Associate Artist at Ovalhouse and has been resident at the Almeida Theatre and Roundhouse. Yolanda's shows seamlessly incorporate dark comedy, spoken word and audience participation to tell stories that are centred around the diverse and contemporary world that we inhabit. Described as "relatable, funny and very honest", she has toured her work across the UK.

## LUTON CULTURE and NEW WAVE THEATRE

A Serious Business by David Florez

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Luton Culture is working with New Wave Theatre to produce and tour David Florez's play, *A Serious Business*, with an initial small scale tour planned for March/April 2018.

A TV commissioner, a famous young British-Asian comedian and his aging agent wrangle over a new contract towards a tensely fraught climax. A state-of-the-nation play about censorship, racial stereotyping, box-ticking and changing cultural values.

Responding to the limited stock of touring theatre that can both satisfy a wide theatre audience whilst meaningfully addressing current issues, Luton Culture wants to help develop excellent new writing, showcasing creative talent from diverse backgrounds, and producing work that audiences find easily accessible.



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### Contact

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### About Luton Culture

# Luton Culture

Luton Culture showcases high quality arts and culture across three inspiring heritage sites; Stockwood Discovery Centre, Wardown Museum and The Hat Factory Arts Centre. They also deliver community-focused Library services, arts in the public realm, engagement projects and a programme for the Library Theatre in Luton Central Library. They actively support artistic talent, creativity and skill through their growing programme of development opportunities.

# SOMETHING UNDERGROUND THEATRE COMPANY

## Fucking Foreigners

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Micky is a young journo from Britain's most xenophobic newspaper. She is on the hunt for a story that will help boost the case for Brexit and decides to go undercover on a Greek beach, hoping to find ISIS infiltrators among the refugees. Instead she meets Saif, falls for him, becomes disillusioned with her mission, becomes pregnant. Only then does she discover that he's exactly the nemesis she's been trying to expose. Or is he?

An ambitious mid-scale play about migration, leaky boats and leaky borders, anti-EU media, Syria, Iraq, Chilcot, truck attacks, Brexit, mistaken identities, compassion and love.

Working with migrant and middle eastern actors, music and language, Something Underground will bring together the creative rivers of diverse worlds.

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## Contact

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## About Something Underground Theatre Company



Founded in 2006, Something Underground's work ranges from fully-scripted plays to physical theatre, long-form improvisation and storytelling.

A regular award-winning feature at the Brighton Fringe, Something Underground are minimalist in their use of props and set, inviting audiences to use their imaginations as performers use physicality, voice, music and lighting to conjure different worlds.

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## Other projects



### You Can't Watch This Play

A wildly subversive, newly-discovered-each-performance journey, with live piano score and in-the-moment plunges into worlds you've been told "DO NOT EXIST!" (and to keep quiet about them).

*"...an off-kilter wild-man, elemental myths you'll hear around a fire.....hypnotically unpredictable"*

The Stage

# HELEN SEYMOUR

## To Helen Back

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Image by Jake Cunningham and Emrys Plant



Helen Seymour built a hospital in her head and now she wants to put it around an audience in your theatre. Following an Arts Council funded development period supported by Wise Words, Penned in the Margins, Apples and Snakes, and Gulbenkian, *To Helen Back* (say it out loud) is now tour-ready and is like nothing you've seen before.

An hour long spoken word/comedy/performance art show directed by Hannah Silva, *To Helen Back* analyses sickness, health and what it really means to recover. Helen Seymour admits you into a surreal hospital to create a funny, unique and powerful theatrical experience. So come on, be on the look-out while Helen sneaks around wards, X-Ray Rooms and cupboards to discover the bizarre, the bemusing and the ba...ah, well that would be telling.

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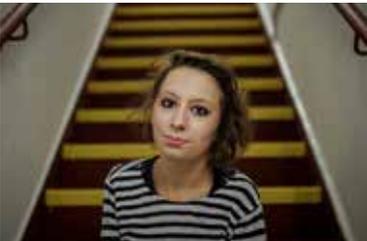
## Contact

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## About Helen Seymour



Helen Seymour is a spoken-poet-word-artist-human-performance-person. Pretty snazzy, eh?

Before writing her debut show, she spent most of her stage time pretending to be a bear. She's also a bit obsessed with death but in quite a charming way. If she wasn't a spoken word human performance person she thinks she'd be a pharmacist from the past.

## PITCH LAKE PRODUCTIONS

### Ain't I A Woman Too?

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Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale reside in Heaven. When a new arrival faints and a nurse is called, the two women, pitted against each other down below, meet for the first time. In a nearby tea house they discuss their lives, war, the NHS and who's who in heaven. *Ain't I A Woman Too?* is a play about how wars impact on society and the recognition of women's achievements throughout history.

Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale were both nurses during the Crimean War. The difference in their stories comes from their heritage and how this changed the way they were perceived. The play is inspired by the ongoing attempts to discredit Mary Seacole, most recently the opposition from Nightingale supporters to the 12 year campaign to erect a Mary Seacole statue. The statue was finally unveiled in 2016.

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### Contact

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### About Pitch Lake Productions



Founded by Cara Nolan, Cathy Tyson and Michelle Inniss in December 2014 to put BAME characters at the centre of their own story, Pitch Lake Productions was formed to address the lack of leading roles in British Theatre for BAME mid-career actors in particular. The company's first production was of Inniss's debut play, *She Called Me Mother*. Commissioned by Black Theatre Live, the show toured to fourteen venues nationwide.

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### Other projects

#### **They Know Not What They Do**

When a grieving mother and her son's young killer are face to face, who will find the strength to understand and who will lose control?

Starring BAFTA and Golden Globe nominated Cathy Tyson, Inniss's second play focuses on forgiveness and the role of restorative justice in the criminal justice system. This will be produced in Autumn 2017.

## ELEVATOR PITCHES



### THEATRE ROYAL BURY ST EDMUNDS

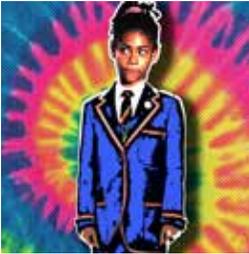
A 350 seat venue and National Trust property, with a year round programme of theatre and entertainment serving the East Anglian heartlands. A creative organisation, presenting work by a wide range of visiting companies, as well as producing theatre for UK touring.

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### SIMON MOLE Friends For All

An interactive performance for families, with rapping, dancing and video projections. Poet and rapper Simon Mole performs in this humorous and moving piece, co-created with director Peader Kirk. Commissioned by the V&A Museum and available from May 2017.

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### PEGASUS THEATRE

Committed to delivering a world-class artistic programme for, with, and by young theatre makers and younger audiences. Pegasus empowers young people from all backgrounds through an exemplary programme of participation at the heart of a professional theatre.

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### HYPHENATED Home Is Where...

Drawing on interviews with Third Culture Kids - who grew up in a different culture than their parents and created a hybrid identity - Hyphenated use recorded-delivery, movement and multimedia to disrupt dominant narratives around globalisation and belonging.

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### QUARTERHOUSE

Opened in 2009, Quarterhouse is part of The Creative Foundation, an arts charity dedicated to the creativity-led regeneration of Folkestone. It places innovative co-created projects, an artistically ambitious programme and working with the local community at its heart.



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## ELEVATOR PITCHES



### PLEASANCE FUTURES

Pleasance Futures is committed to developing a pipeline of creative talent through scratch nights, a youth company, work-in-progress showings, awards, associate artist programmes, and programming runs for emerging companies in both London and Edinburgh.

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### TALES FROM WITHIN It began with 7

Development and showcasing of 7 British writers of Iraqi, Irani, Somali, Yemeni, Syrian, Sudanese & Libyan descent. An opportunity to magnify the voices of new writers at a time when world politics affects their everyday existence.

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### NEW SLANG PRODUCTIONS Race Today

Six BAME writers create vignettes in response to articles they select from *Race Today*, an agitational magazine printed by the British Black Panthers in the 1970s. These are staged in everyday locations to create a provocative promenade performance.

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### ARTS AT THE OLD FIRE STATION

An arts centre co-habiting with the homelessness charity Crisis. The auditorium seats up to 124 and most incoming shows play for one to two nights. A reputation for good quality art aimed at adults which takes a risk, asks a question and entertains.

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### CERTAIN BLACKS Arts Ensemble Harlem

Aimed at supporting the growth of diverse artists working in performance, live art, music and theatre, and providing more diverse work for touring and performance across the UK and beyond. This year's festival - Rich Mix 7-10 September - is on the theme of 'Harlem'.

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# THE HIDDEN PROJECT

## Hidden

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An adaptation of *Hidden*, Miriam Halahmy's acclaimed novel for young people, by playwright Vickie Donoghue (*Mudlarks*, HighTide Festival Theatre).

Alix is a 14 year old girl who lives on quiet Hayling Island. She and her new friend, Samir (the bullied Iraqi refugee boy in her class) find themselves unwittingly saving Mohammed, a drowning Iraqi man dumped by traffickers. Exploring themes of welcome, tolerance and democracy, and the social, cultural and political dilemmas of the teenagers' sheltering of an asylum seeker.

Working with Thameside Theatre, Thurrock, The Hidden Project has run research workshops with school children in Essex - with further workshops planned for Kent and Hampshire - and young refugee performers in London.

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## Contact

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## About The Hidden Project



The Hidden Project is led by director Stuart Mullins and producer Rebecca Hayes Laughton. They have commissioned playwright Vickie Donoghue and assembled a team of young producers to develop *Hidden*; Temor Alkaisi (Iraq), Hassan Almousaoy (Iraq), and Shahd Abusalama (Palestine). The project is seeded by house and supported by Thameside Theatre, Quarterhouse, and The Spring, with funding from Counterpoint Arts and Arts Council England.

# TOLU AGBELUSI

## Ilé la Wà

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Photo by Rob Sibetry Covell



*Ilé la Wà*, 'We are Home' in Yoruba, is a multi-layered play set around the central theme of immigration and identity in the UK. Four characters detained after a spot check on the streets of London unravel in the pressure-filled holding room where they are left without answers.

Based on real stories sourced through interviews, news reports and personal accounts, it has a unique story that disrupts basic definitions of home and plunges the audience into an emotional roller coaster delivered in a perfect marriage of poetry and theatre that breathes new life into a universal theme.

*"...there is a brutal honesty here that cannot, should not, will not be stifled. Let's start the movement, Ilé la Wà needs to return."*

A Younger Theatre

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## Contact

Main contact: Tolu Agbelusi  
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## About Tolu Agbelusi



Tolu Agbelusi is a Nigerian British poet, playwright, performer and lawyer with a gentle but powerful voice full of subtle emotion that cuts deep.

As an immigrant who has lived on several continents, Agbelusi has a particular interest in exploring narratives about ethnic minority cultures that aren't often represented in popular culture beyond set stories.

# SHERYL HILL and SHIPS IN THE NIGHT

## Sheryl Talks Obesity

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Photo by Sam Franklyn



This new devised theatre production will interrogate the complexities of obesity and how weight loss is promoted within the UK. Told through the eyes of a ‘very obese’ woman, *Sheryl Talks Obesity* is driven by the need for this conversation to become much kinder within society.

Obesity is frequently promoted as an easy thing to fix: eat less, move more. Over the next eighteen months, 19st Sheryl Hill will train for a marathon, the *Three Peaks Challenge* and cycling from Land’s End to John O’Groats to test that very theory.

Over the same period, Sheryl will explore the complexities of this troubling epidemic and probe why, if we need to lose weight for our health, is it the most uninspiring conversation going?

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## Contact

Main contact: Sheryl Hill  
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## About Sheryl Hill



Sheryl Hill is Artistic Director of Ships in the Night theatre company.

There are things happening within society that Sheryl doesn’t understand. She makes work to dissect, digest and make sense of them. She (frequently) doesn’t know, or have an answer but through her work, aims to create a platform in which we can challenge, educate and provoke a vigorous and informed debate.

# OUTSPOKEN ARTS

## #ReGeneration

Photo by Ellie Loycock



Activism and individualism collide over soya lattes, jerk chicken, planning applications and pop-up vintage shops. Welcome to Brixton.

An hilarious and devastating exploration of gentrification, *#ReGeneration* is a multimedia theatre piece about the fight for 'home' on an estate that's scheduled for demolition. A story about what happens to a community when it is under threat.

Supported by Ovalhouse and Arts Council England, Outspoken Arts engaged with Brixton's diverse communities to hear their stories, and interviewed experts, councillors and housing providers. *#ReGeneration* draws on this material to examine the relationship between councils and developers, the role of artists, the sudden mixing (or not) of classes, and the clash and cohesion of different 'tribes'.

## Contact

Main contact: Endy Mckay  
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Twitter: [@outspokenarts](https://twitter.com/outspokenarts)

## About Outspoken Arts



Formed in 2011 by professional actors Chetna Pandya and Endy Mckay, Outspoken Arts believes that everyone has the right to 'be outspoken', and uses the arts to respond to social issues and create change.

Outspoken Arts has successfully led community and youth theatre projects and continues to be commissioned by leading theatre organisations such as the Barbican and the Tricycle.

## Other projects



### **Eve (working title)**

The theatre becomes court, the audience become jury as Eve takes the stand: "Proven beyond reasonable doubt, my dear. Truth has nothing to do with it."

Only 5.7% of all reported rape cases result in a conviction. *Eve* will explore why these shocking figures are so low and what victim, judge and jury really face during a sex trial in Britain.

# JUSTICE IN MOTION

## Contained

Photo by Ben Johnston



*Contained* is a dynamic, entertaining, thought-provoking, and visually striking piece of physical theatre. Based on Joakim Daun's play *Pecking Order*, *Contained* uses the analogy of birds to question public perception and response to migration, and came out of a collaboration with academics aimed at creating new dialogues on human migration.

The set is a transparent shipping container and is the visual and metaphorical centre of the piece; representing the means of transport for many migrants trying to get to Europe. It stands for trade and entrepreneurship and the economy that lies behind the migration industry. It also evokes the despair that leads people to step into a container and the frightening and dangerous journey that ensues, as well as the courage it takes to pick up your life and begin it again somewhere else.

## Contact

Main contact: Anja Meinhardt  
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Twitter: @JusticeMotion

## About Justice in Motion



Justice in Motion was set up in 2013 by Anja Meinhardt and is the current resident EVOLVE company at Oxford Playhouse. The company raises awareness and inspires action through captivating performances, workshops, and talks. The work is a compelling mixture of physical theatre, dance, music, spoken word, and film: entertaining, sometimes humorous, and always thought-provoking.

## Other projects



### Bound

Inspired by true accounts of human trafficking, *Bound* is a compelling and thought-provoking tale of dreams and broken promises, of hope, optimism, and resilience in the face of harrowing circumstances.

Driven by the desire for a brighter future, three people unknowingly take the biggest gamble of their lives, their story is one of strength in the face of adversity.

## ELEVATOR PITCHES



### TRINITY CENTRE

East Bristol's Trinity Centre is a much-loved landmark and a hub of contemporary theatre, dance and music that helps to connect artists and audiences in new and unexpected ways. Trinity also hosts a number of artist residencies throughout the year.

Main contact: Fergus Evans

Email: [Fergus@3ca.org.uk](mailto:Fergus@3ca.org.uk)

Website: [3ca.org.uk](http://3ca.org.uk) | Twitter: [@trinitybristol](https://twitter.com/trinitybristol)

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### THE WOODVILLE

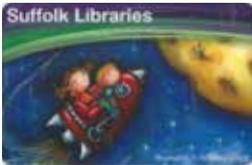
The Woodville in Gravesend has a 650 seat auditorium and 180 seat studio. The venue's creative programme aims to address the challenge of being commercially viable, whilst presenting a varied and enriching calendar of entertainment and supporting new work.

Main contact: Mandy Hare

Email: [mandy.hare@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.hare@gravesham.gov.uk)

Website: [woodville.co.uk](http://woodville.co.uk) | Twitter: [@thewoodville](https://twitter.com/thewoodville)

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### SHAMSER SINHA *The Rocket*

Mekdes is 10, Ari is 7. They are orphaned, unaccompanied asylum seekers from Ethiopia, seeking the love of a family and security of a home in the rural outskirts of a Suffolk market town. A play for 7-11 year olds, with puppetry and music, aimed at regional venues.

Main contact: Shamsir Sinha

Email: [shamsers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shamsers@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [casarotto.co.uk/client/shamsir-sinha-15534](http://casarotto.co.uk/client/shamsir-sinha-15534)

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### UNTOLD *The Scar Test*

A play about life inside Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. Drawing on interviews with Befrienders, solicitors, mental health nurses, centre officers, and the detainees themselves, *The Scar Test* incorporates physical theatre, multiple languages and humour.

Main contact: Alison Holder

Email: [producer.untoldarts@gmail.com](mailto:producer.untoldarts@gmail.com)

Website: [untoldarts.co.uk](http://untoldarts.co.uk)

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### EM FORSTER THEATRE

Based within an independent school, the venue has a 370 seat auditorium and a 90 seat studio. Most visiting shows do single nights in the main house but longer runs are possible in the studio, and the theatre is keen to work with companies to develop work in that space.

Main contact: Kat Portman

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Website: [tonbridge-school.org](http://tonbridge-school.org) | Twitter: [@emftheatre](https://twitter.com/emftheatre)

## ELEVATOR PITCHES

### ARTS AT STOWE



Arts at Stowe is a new initiative from Stowe School to develop the profile and provision of the arts. Part of the school and historical house with a remit to engage the wider public, the programme features theatre, music, art exhibitions, workshops and residencies.

Main contact: Deborah Clarke  
Email: [deborah.clarke@stowe.co.uk](mailto:deborah.clarke@stowe.co.uk)  
Website: [stowe.co.uk](http://stowe.co.uk) | Twitter: [@artsstowe](https://twitter.com/artsstowe)

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### LETTIE PRECIOUS *The Wind that Sweeps Away the Dust*



In an attempt to save his marriage, Jacob takes his English wife Gwen to Zimbabwe under the pretence of a holiday. What she doesn't know is that he is about to reveal a sinister past that will either bring them together or tear them apart; his true identity.

Main contact: Lettie Precious  
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Twitter: [@LettiePrecious](https://twitter.com/LettiePrecious)

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### GREENWICH AND LEWISHAM YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE



Based at Tramshed, Woolwich, GLYPT specialises in making work for and with young people. GLYPT is currently producing, *Jump Out of Skin*, through its Progression programme, which offers training to young people aged 18-25 who are unable to access traditional routes.

Main contact: Tony Casement  
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Website: [glypt.co.uk](http://glypt.co.uk) | Twitter: [@GLYPTatTramshed](https://twitter.com/GLYPTatTramshed)

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### THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON



A feisty producing theatre in the heart of the Cotswolds, the venue is a theatre, cinema, gallery and concert hall. The cause and subject of arguments, debates, acclaim and affection, The Theatre is not a 'Little Theatre' but an eccentric one that likes to make a big noise.

Main contact: Emily Moseley  
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Website: [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com) | Twitter: [@ChippyTheatre](https://twitter.com/ChippyTheatre)

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### TAKE THE SPACE *The Engine Room*



Take the Space creates opportunities for Black talent to flourish; responding to ideas and passion to make work happen. The Engine Room is a planned initiative, offering seed funding, salons and venue partnerships to develop Black work across a range of disciplines.

Main contact: Jenny Williams  
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# SCHEDULE

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- 14.00 Welcome and introduction from **house** and **Ovalhouse**
- 14.15 **Nick Makoha and Fuel** The Dark  
**The Thelmas** Coconut by Guleraana Mir  
**Phoebe McIntosh** Dominoes  
**The Place Theatre and Townsend Productions** We Are The Lions Mr Manager  
**Nouveau Riche** Timbuktu
- 14.45 Elevator Pitches:
- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Black Theatre Live</b>           | <b>Ayo-Dele Edwards</b>       |
| <b>Lighthouse</b>                   | <b>Creative Arts East</b>     |
| <b>The Spring</b>                   | <b>Sharmila Chauhan</b>       |
| <b>Culture Device Dance Project</b> | <b>Watford Palace Theatre</b> |
| <b>Crying in the Wilderness</b>     | <b>Talawa</b>                 |
- 15.00 Break
- 15.20 **Yolanda Mercy** Quarter Life Crisis  
**Luton Culture and New Wave Theatre** A Serious Business by David Florez  
**Something Underground Theatre Company** Fucking Foreigners  
**Helen Seymour** To Helen Back  
**Pitch Lake Productions** Ain't I A Woman Too?
- 15.50 Elevator Pitches:
- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds</b> | <b>Pleasance Futures</b>            |
| <b>Simon Mole</b>                    | <b>Tales From Within</b>            |
| <b>Pegasus Theatre</b>               | <b>New Slang Productions</b>        |
| <b>Hyphenated</b>                    | <b>Arts at the Old Fire Station</b> |
| <b>Quarterhouse</b>                  | <b>Certain Blacks</b>               |
- 16.05 Break
- 16.25 **The Hidden Project** Hidden  
**Tolu Agbelusi** Ilé la Wà  
**Sheryl Hill and Ships in the Night** Sheryl Talks Obesity  
**Outspoken Arts** #ReGeneration  
**Justice in Motion** Contained
- 16.55 Elevator Pitches:
- |                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Trinity Centre</b>     | <b>Arts at Stowe</b>               |
| <b>The Woodville</b>      | <b>Lettie Precious</b>             |
| <b>Shamser Sinha</b>      | <b>GLYPT</b>                       |
| <b>Untold</b>             | <b>The Theatre Chipping Norton</b> |
| <b>EM Forster Theatre</b> | <b>Take the Space</b>              |
- 17.10 Closing comments before conversations continue over a drink