

PROJEKT EUROPA

PROJEKT EMPOWER

APPLICATION PACK

Thank you for your interest in applying for PROJEKT EMPOWER!

We hope that you find this information useful and we look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on anna@projekteuropa.org. Good luck!

About PROJEKT EUROPA

Established in 2020, PROJEKT EUROPA is an international artist collective, an advocacy group and an arts organisation and we create migrant-focused, multi-lingual work at the intersection of performance, co-creation and participation. We work to internationalise the theatre industry by supporting the creativity of first generation migrants in the UK, amplifying marginalised voices and celebrating the multitude of international perspectives which already exist within our borders.

www.projekteuropa.org

What is PROJEKT EMPOWER?

A free mentorship programme specifically aimed at supporting migrant theatre makers at the beginning of their UK careers and internationalising the theatre sector. We want to empower emerging artists to develop an authentic voice as creatives, supported by a new kind of network – one that encourages migrant artists to become the leading change makers of the future.

How will it work?

We will match 10 emerging artists with 10 of the UK's most successful migrant theatre makers, and guide them through a six-month period of one-to-one and group meetings, culminating in an in-person celebration in London in November 2024 for the full cohort of 20 artists.

Who is eligible to apply?

- You are a first generation migrant living in the UK (please see more information below)
- You work in theatre - in any capacity

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- You consider yourself 'early career' – that might mean that you've only been in the industry for a few years (or less), it might mean you had a long career elsewhere but are new to the UK industry, or it might mean you've had another career and have recently retrained to work in theatre

What do we mean by 'first generation migrant'?

We recognise that there are many circumstances by which you can identify as a first generation migrant. To help, we have included suggested definitions (examples only) as articulated by Migrants in Theatre ([link to the full document here](#)):

- You do not hold a British passport but reside primarily in the UK, or
- You have moved to the UK after spending formative years abroad, or
- You weren't born in the UK and have English as a second language, or
- You moved to the UK as a child, are culturally British but still seen as a migrant in the eyes of decision makers (especially if your name is foreign, if your ethnicity isn't white, if you trained abroad etc.), or
- You are an asylum seeker in the UK, or
- You are a refugee in the UK, or
- You are undocumented in the UK

You may recognise yourself under one or more of these points, or you may define yourself in a different way. Either way, please do apply if you consider yourself to be a first generation migrant.

Who are the mentors?

The mentors are **Ako Mitchell, Ana Inés Jabares-Pita, Enda Walsh, Gillian Tan, Hiran Abeysekera, Shelley Maxwell, Sirine Saba, Sung Im Her, Tanya Moodie** and **Vera Chok**.

Please see below for mentor credits and biographies.

What are the dates?

The programme will run from May-October 2024, with a total of five meetings arranged across this period - exact dates to be confirmed together with the selected mentees.

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Where will the meetings take place?

There will be an in-person full cohort meeting in November 2024 but all other meetings can take place online, or at a place that is convenient for each mentor and mentee.

What is the cost?

The programme is free to participate in. Travel expenses will be paid for attending the final meeting in London.

How do I apply?

To apply, please answer the following questions, using up to 500 words for each response:

1. Which piece of theatre or performance has most inspired you and why?
2. Why are you an artist?
3. Why do you need a mentor right now?

Please send:

- Your answers to the above
- A CV or description of your background in theatre

To anna@projekteuropa.org with the email subject 'PROJEKT EMPOWER application' by **midnight, Wednesday 17th April 2024.**

If you'd rather send us a video with your responses, please send us a link to view it and make sure that it's no longer than 10 minutes in total.

Please complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form which can be accessed here: [Equal Opportunities Form](#). We need this form to be completed in order to consider your application, but we will not look at it in connection with the recruitment process - it is completely confidential.

Who will assess my application?

Applications will be assessed by a panel including **Bec Martin**, Artistic Director & CEO of New Diorama, **Kris Nelson**, Artistic Director & CEO of LIFT and **Matthew Xia**, Artistic Director and Joint

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CEO of Actors Touring Company as well as Maria Aberg, artistic director of PROJEKT EUROPA and Anna Oggero, company producer at PROJEKT EUROPA.

What happens next?

We will let you know **before the end of April 2024** if you have been selected. If you are selected, we will pair you with a mentor - you are welcome to let us know if you have a preference in your application, but we may not be able to accommodate your preference in the final selection.

ABOUT THE MENTORS

Ako Mitchell is a US born, London based actor and filmmaker. His recent stage work includes *Sound of Music* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Black Superhero* (Royal Court) and *The Color Purple* (Leicester Curve & Birmingham Hippodrome UK tour). Ako appears as Charlie in *Marvel's Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* and as *The Woodman* in Netflix's *Hilda*.

Ana Inés Jabares-Pita is a Spanish-born award winning designer and creative director working across opera, dance, theatre, concerts, film and exhibitions. She has extensive musical training and a keen interest in new technologies and illusionism. Ana Inés was overall winner of the *Linbury Prize* in 2013 and a *Jerwood Young Designer* at the Gate Theatre in 2014 and has worked with Royal Shakespeare Company, Glyndebourne, Royal Court Theatre, Young Vic, Headlong, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Royal Lyceum, Gate Theatre and the National Theatre of Scotland as well as internationally.

Enda Walsh is a multi-award-winning Irish writer for stage and screen based in London. His work has been translated into over twenty languages and has been performed internationally since 1998. *Once*, his adaptation of the film by John Carney, picked up eight Tony Awards on Broadway in 2012, including Best Book. His 2008 biopic, *Hunger*, told the story of the final days of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands and won a host of awards, including the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. He collaborated with David Bowie on the musical *Lazarus* (New York Theatre Workshop, 2015, and West End, 2016).

Gillian Tan is a video and lighting designer. She was born in Singapore and is of Peranakan descent. Gillian specialises in theatrical, immersive and interactive experiences. She works with

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companies that are game changers and innovators – who are not afraid to take risks with technology and creative ideas. Her interests are in exploring and pushing the boundaries of what the entertainment industry can bring to audiences in the 21st century.

Hiran Abeysekera is a Sri Lankan actor. He won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor for his performance in the stage adaptation of London's West End: *The Life of Pi* (also at Sheffield Crucible and on Broadway). Other productions include: *Cymbeline*, *Hamlet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* for the RSC; *Tempest* and *The Prisoner* for Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord; *Botticelli in the Fire* at Hampstead and *Peter Pan* at Regent's Park.

Shelley Maxwell is an award-winning choreographer, movement director and intimacy professional originally from Jamaica. She works across theatre, film and television and trained as a dancer in both Jamaica & Cuba. In 2019 she received the award for Best Choreographer at the inaugural Black British Theatre Awards for her outstanding work on *Equus* at Trafalgar Studios/ Stratford East.

Sirine Saba is a Lebanese-born actress who studied at RADA. Her credits include *Phaedra* (NT), *Beauty & the Beast*, *Midnight's Children*, *The Tempest*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Pericles*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Tales from Ovid* (also *Young Vic*) and *A Warwickshire Testimony* at the RSC; *Britannicus* at the Lyric, Hammersmith; *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Winter's Tale*, *King Lear*, *Antony & Cleopatra* at Shakespeare's Globe.

Sung Im Her studied contemporary dance at Han-Sung University in Korea. Since then she has been working with Jan Fabre, Les ballets C de la B, Alias, Needcompany and Abattoire Ferme. As a director of Her Project, she creates interdisciplinary performances, working across the UK, Europe and Korea. Last year, Sung Im Her was invited to the Korean National Contemporary Dance Company to make a new piece called "Everything Falls Dramatic", which was presented in Brussels, Madrid and Manchester. Her was awarded Dance Artist of the year in 2022 by the Korean Ministry of Culture and was recently named as one of ten "Stage sensations to watch out for in 2023" by the Guardian.

Tanya Moodie is a Canadian-born British actress. Tanya won the Royal Television Society's Breakthrough Award for the role of Meg in the BAFTA winning comedy *Motherland* (BBC). Other film and television credits include Sam Mendes' *Empire of Light*, *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, *The*

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Man Who Fell to Earth (Showtime), *Ten Percent* (Prime Video), *A Discovery of Witches* (Sky), *Sherlock* (BBC), and *The Pentaverate* (Netflix). In theatre she is a two-time Olivier nominee for Outstanding Achievement In An Affiliate Theatre. Her many Best Actress nominations include What's On Stage, the London Evening Standard Theatre Awards, and the UK Theatre Awards.

Vera Chok is a Malaysian-Chinese actor, performance maker and poet. They attended The Poor School and Ecole Phillippe Gaulier & have taught via New Earth's Academy, RHIF, and the ESEA Improv Festival. Theatre includes The National Theatre, the West End, and UK tours, and projects with The RSC, Complicite, Manchester Royal Exchange, and Royal Court. Vera was series regular Honour Chen-Williams in the first ever East Asian family in a UK continuing drama (Hollyoaks).