

# PROJEKT EUROPA

## PROJEKT EMPOWER Application pack

This is our mentorship scheme. It supports and champions migrant theatre talent.

### What is it?

You can apply for a free mentorship programme. We want to support migrant theatre makers at the beginning of their UK careers. We want to create a new network, and support your development as a theatre maker.

### How will it work?

We will match 10 emerging artists with 10 of the UK's most successful migrant theatre makers. We will support you in a six-month period of mentoring from May to October 2024. You will take part in one-to-one and group meetings. It will end with an in-person celebration in London in November 2024. Everyone taking part in the scheme will be at that meeting.

### Who can apply?

- You are a first generation migrant living in the UK (please see our definition of first generation migrant below)
- You work in theatre - in any capacity
- You consider yourself 'early career'. Here are some examples of what 'early career' might mean: You have been in the industry for a few years (or less). You had a long career elsewhere and are new to the UK industry. You have had another career and recently retrained to work in theatre.

### What do we mean by 'first generation migrant'?

We realise there are many ways to define first generation migrants. Here are some suggestions. We have borrowed these from Migrants in Theatre (link to the full document [here](#)):

- You do not hold a British passport but live in the UK, or
- You have moved to the UK after spending your first 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

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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 identify yourself with one or more of these points, or you may define yourself in a different way. But if you think of yourself as a first generation migrant, you are welcome to apply.

## **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**.

You can read more about the mentors below.

## **What are the dates?**

It will be from May-October 2024. Five meetings will take place in this period. The exact dates will be decided between the mentor and mentee.

## **Where will the meetings take place?**

The meetings will be online or at a place that works for each mentor and mentee. The final meeting or celebration in November 2024 will be in London.

## **What is the cost?**

The programme is free. We will pay your travel expenses for the final meeting in London.

## **How do I apply?**

Please answer the following questions. You can use up to 500 words for each answer:

- 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

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to [anna@projekteuropa.org](mailto:anna@projekteuropa.org) writing 'PROJEKT EMPOWER application' in the subject heading. The deadline is **midnight, Wednesday 17th April 2024**.

If you prefer, you can send a video with your answers instead. Please send us a link to the video in your application. It should be no more than 10 minutes long.

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.

## **What happens next?**

We will let you know by **before the end of April 2024** if you have been selected. If you are selected, we will pair you with a mentor. You can tell us if there is a mentor you would like to be paired with, but we can't promise that you will get the mentor you prefer.

## **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](http://www.projekteuropa.org)

## **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

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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 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.

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**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 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).