

### **Rakhee Jasani**

Rakhee Jasani has worked in participatory arts for 25 years as a deviser, facilitator, educator, producer, evaluator and manager. She co-founded and ran Eastside Educational Trust, a London based youth arts charity empowering young people to discover the arts and pursue careers within the creative industries. As a director of Eastside, Rakhee was responsible for every aspect of the organisation from the creative aspects of project origination and delivery, to fundraising, budgeting, planning, marketing, training and staff management. Under Rakhee's leadership, Eastside set two official Guinness World Records, won The European Award for Languages (twice) and The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Rakhee forged a number of exciting national and international partnerships including with Historic Royal Palaces, BFI and School der Poezie and brought Adobe Youth Voices and Disney Musicals in Schools to the UK. Rakhee developed a number of award-winning programmes for young people in Literature, Theatre, Dance, Film and Digital Arts.

### **Ranjit Khutan**

Ranjit Khutan is a playwright, screenwriter and author, and has had work performed on stage and screen since 1998. Through his full-time role as Head of Public Health at the University of Wolverhampton, he has been able to align his interests in the arts with his Public Health background. This led to him to focus his PhD research on the use and effectiveness of the arts in public health practice, examining how applied theatre practitioners can evaluate and articulate the health outcomes of their work in prisons (University of Manchester). He continues to examine how the impact of the arts can be evidenced, measured and articulated across disciplines, and has developed a model for evaluating arts and health initiatives that he shares through academic papers and at conferences. As a writer he is interested in examining issues that marginalised/socially excluded communities face (e.g. LGBT and BAME), and how the arts can encourage social change. He has worked as a theatre reviewer and as an arts consultant/evaluator; assisting arts organisations in their development, engagement and evaluation plans.

### **Ria Meera Munshi**

Ria Meera Munshi is a Bollywood Guinness World Record Holder and celebrity choreographer. She is the Director of multi-award winning and international company, Ri Ri's Dance Academy. Ria began her Classical Indian training in the South Asian dance form, Bharatanatyam, at the age of five, while additionally becoming familiar with a broad range of Indian Folk Dances, to include: Rajasthani, Marathi, Kathak, Bhangra and Gujarati Folk Dances. Ria has been involved in a number of creative collaborative dance projects including a video mapping piece with renowned digital experts Illuminos, a Bollywood pop music video promoting recycling with GMWDA as well as choreographing for audiences in their thousands for large outdoor events, such as Manchester Day and Cast The Light. Channel 4's

Come Dine With Me, BBC3's Bollywood Carmen and ITVBe's The Real Housewives of Cheshire are just a snippet of the television appearances Ria has made as a dance artist.

### **Richard Shields**

Richard Shields is a practising Artist, Curator and Writer based in the North West. His work offers a contextualised view of contemporary culture and values through the combination of traditional skills, relational aesthetics and re-appropriation. Having co-founded the artist-led initiative 'Contents May Vary' in 2004, Shields went on to curate a series of site-responsive exhibitions throughout the UK, exploring and broadening the scope for an alternative to the gallery system. The method of responding to alternative sites was applied to his studio practice, using personal experiences from student debt, unemployment, gallery jobs and cataract procedures as inspiration. In 2012 Shields concluded a project in which he sold his own credit card debt as an artwork.

His explorations into the related histories of Art and Banking have led to an ongoing practice-based research project. This activity included a site-specific commission for the Mdina Cathedral Biennale and a practice-based workshop at Cittadella Arte in Biella, Italy. After completing a residency in Bill Drummond's Curfew Tower, curated by Penthouse NQ Shields is currently exploring his Northern Irish identity through a mythical paramilitary art organisation, drawing parallels to the structure of the contemporary art world. When writing about art Shields continues to imbue a degree of personal experiencing when visiting an exhibition. Shields ran his own studio in Manchester for ten years and works as a freelance technician, working for major institutions, and smaller artists led spaces.

### **Rita McLean**

Rita McLean is an independent museums and heritage consultant. She has over 35 years' experience of working across the UK museums and heritage sector in a range of curatorial, museum development, senior management and advisory roles. She was Director of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (BMAG) from 2004 until 2012, and prior to this, a member of BMAG's senior management team with responsibility for the operation and development of the service's historic house/community museums. Her experience spans leading the delivery of major capital development projects, collections development and interpretation programmes, exhibition programming, audience development and diversity initiatives.

Since 2013, Rita's freelance work has included numerous consultancy and expert advice assignments for the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support delivery of a range of grant-funded projects. She was a member of ACE's Museum Accreditation Panel from 2012–2018 and a Governor of Compton Verney House Trust 2012-2018.

Rita is a National Trust Midlands Advisory Board and an Honorary Research Associate of the University of Birmingham.

### **Ros Terry**

Ros is a creative producer with particular expertise in new writing, contemporary work and participation. Currently, she is a senior producer at the National Theatre looking after 'Public Acts' a new nationwide initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community. Her role is to shape the long-term strategic and creative vision for the programme, building sustained partnerships with communities and theatres across the UK and creating ambitious new works of participatory theatre.

Previously she was the producer at the Royal Court Theatre delivering their in-house productions, co-productions, national, international and schools tours and a number of one-off projects. From 2015 to 2017 Ros ran, and doubled the reach of, the NT's flagship youth theatre programme 'Connections' - working in collaboration with 45 UK theatres. Prior to this, she was the producer for Clean Break Theatre Company where her role was to further the company's artistic vision and outputs in theatre venues, festivals, prisons and non-cultural settings.

Ros is a Trustee of Deafinitely Theatre and an alumnus of the Clore Leadership Programme and the National Theatre's Step Change scheme.

### **Rosaria M. Gracia**

Rosaria Gracia, PhD, is an International Dancemaker and ethnochoreologist, researcher and educationalist. Her area of International Dance specialism is Carnival art forms - especially Brazilian, Cuban and Spanish - in which she has been working as practitioner and choreographer since 2000. Her current research interests are in cultural syncretism through dance and movement and dance and health. She is the co-founder of Finding your Compass (arts and health organisation), director of the Three Score Dance Participation Programme, dance director of OldsKool (circus for 50+), lead choreographer for Maracatu Cruzeiro do Sul, resident choreographer for Same Sky and regularly teaches at schools, festivals and events in Europe and the UK. She also choreographs for theatre, mass movement projects and site-specific performances. In dance and health, her specialism is in the use of movement and one's narrative as tools for recovery and its application in a variety of conditions, such as mental health issues, dementia and Parkinson's. She is also a GYROTONIC (R) and GYROKINESIS (R) instructor.

Rosaria has been an Associate Lecturer for the Open University since 2008, also performing as a Visiting Research Fellow, Monitor, Mentor, Trainer and Consultant (Specialist Qualitative Researcher). She is a Guinness World Record holder for the choreographer of the World's Largest Samba Band (Inspire Works. Royal Albert

Hall, 2014 and 2016) and was nominated 'Coach of the Year' at the Brighton and Hove Sports and Physical Activities Awards 2015.

### **Ross Head**

Ross Head has over 15 years of experience working in the museums and galleries sector, coordinating exhibitions at institutions including the V&A; Whitechapel Gallery; Dulwich Picture Gallery and National Portrait Gallery. He is currently responsible for implementing temporary exhibitions and internationally touring exhibitions at Barbican Art Gallery and has worked recently on Basquiat: Boom for Real, 2017-2018; Ragnar Kjartansson (2016); The Vulgar: Fashion Redefined (2016) and Lee Krasner: Living Colour (2019). He is also the curator of cultural events programmed as part of the annual summer Pride in London Festival. He has worked on projects in collaboration with Artangel and Channel 4 and has published reviews on exhibitions programmed at galleries including Hayward Gallery and Tate Modern. In addition, he has previously worked at Frieze Masters and in the visual arts teams at Arts Council England Head Office and London office.

### **Sally Clements**

Sally Clements works with charities and learning providers across the South West as a critical friend helping professionals make sense of and develop their learning programmes and build more sustainable futures, providing extra capacity and hands on support as required. Sally brings experience of leading programmes within adult and community education, youth justice, SEND, school and FE settings and of developing family focused work in community settings. Sally has specific experience of working with people who may feel excluded or struggle to engage.

She works nationally with Trinity College London to develop Arts Award and previously with an Arts Council England in Artsmark development and validation roles. She regularly works with Music Education Hubs across the southwest and for the two southern Bridge organisations as a trainer and facilitator. She reviews teaching and learning for Stagecoach Performing Arts, is a Director of Create Studios CIC and Vice-Chair of the BBC Children in Need South and West Committee. In the past, she held regional and national roles at Arts Council England, Youth Music, Catch22, South West Music School and Bristol City Council. She is particularly skilled in assessing participatory activities or programmes that have a community focus, across a range of art forms and she brings a breadth of perspective, empathy and understanding to every assessment.

### **Sam Eden-Green**

Sam is a musician, creative producer and arts manager with experience in community, disability and young people's arts. Sam has over 20 years of experience performing as a drummer and percussionist, with expertise varying from the DIY

music community (punk, indie, experimental), to Balkan, Brazilian, and African music. He has helped create many of independent releases and music events. Sam has directed and performed with more groups than he can remember from New York to Newhaven, recorded at BBC's Maida Vale Studios, and performed at the Serbian trumpet festival in Guca. Sam has experience of working with several community arts organisations, such as Same Sky in Brighton, to coordinate and participate in large-scale arts events such as Notting Hill Carnival and Brighton Festival

Sam has an MA in Arts Management and significant experience in the coordination and strategic development of small to medium-sized arts organisations. As an arts manager Sam has worked with learning disabled artists in managing music events, producing radio, writing instrumental and digital music, and in touring – while working with Carousel, a leading learning disability arts organisation. Sam currently works for AudioActive, a Brighton-based young people's music charity which promotes innovative use of music technology and links with the music industry, to enable young musicians to develop their skills and life opportunities.

### **Sarah Louise Tutt**

Sarah Tutt is an interdisciplinary artist working in performance, writing and object making, and a cultural producer specialising in strategic arts marketing, communications and audience development. She has 30 years' experience working across disciplines including combined arts, dance, performance and theatre, screen and digital arts, visual arts and festivals. Sarah was co-artistic director of the performance company Dogs In Honey and has worked from within artist-led projects, touring theatre and site-specific commissions for public realm locations. In 2002 she moved to mainland Europe for a decade. As a cultural producer, Sarah has worked for a range of organisations including Broadway Media Centre, Creative Quarter and Dance4 in Nottingham. She has supported two capital projects and has been a director for Ticketing Network East Midlands. Her freelance work includes mentoring and teaching. She is currently studying for a Masters in Fine Art and is a studio member at Primary.

### **Sarah Shead**

Sarah Shead is the Director and Creative Producer for Spin Arts working with artists/companies such as; Carlos Pons Guerra, DeNada Dance Theatre, Earthfall, Sonia Sabri Company, Seeta Patel and Mavin Khoo, to name a few. Recent positions include; Artistic and Business Development Manager at 2Faced Dance Company and Fundraiser for Sonia Sabri Company.

Sarah has played an influential role in setting up and delivering artist development schemes such as 'Catapult' and 'Northern Connections' with the Northern School of Contemporary and CARP with The Civic, Barnsley. Sarah is currently a Trustee for Eclipse Theatre and is a trained relational dynamics coach.

Earlier roles included; What Next Project Coordinator (Creative Partnerships), Continuing Professional Development Coordinator (Dance4), Artistic Programmes Manager (Yorkshire Dance), Programmes Director (CidaCo), Associate Producer on a scheme with Dance City and The Empty Space, and an Associate Coach (PANDA). Sarah has danced since the age of 8, trained at Bretton Hall (UK) and York University (Toronto).

### **Shirley Lundstram**

Since 2017, Shirley has been Partnership Director of Leeds Dance Partnership, an organisation which aims to develop Leeds as an international centre of excellence for dance and provide leadership in the north of England for the development of the art form locally, nationally and internationally. As Partnership Director Shirley provides strategic leadership and oversees the delivery of programmes of work, coordinates partner organisations and works to secure investment towards the delivery of the partnership's objectives. She has 20 years' management experience in Local Government, most recently at Salford City Council developing new and existing cultural partnerships in the city and attracting inward investment.

Shirley originally trained in dance and theatre at Bretton Hall College and the Laban Centre. She went on to perform, choreograph and work in movement direction for The Liverpool Everyman, The Belgrade Theatre, Gaby Agis and Dancers, Paula Hampson, Fishpool, Vidal Sassoon, with Igloo on the BAFTA nominated Windows '98 and more.

She has worked as a volunteer Mentor for Arts Council England & Local Government partnership with Business in the Arts North West and long-term unemployed artists through Job Centre Plus. She has also worked as a volunteer Mentor for the Koestler Trust; the leading prison arts charity in the UK. She has been a Trustee of Oldham Coliseum since 2017 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

### **Simon Poulter**

Simon Poulter has worked within the art and technology sector for twenty years. He has established a national profile both as an artist and curator, working with all of the UK's leading art and technology organisations. He is co-Director of Collusion, based in Cambridge, an art and technology organisation developing a three-year programme of projects in the wider Cambridge area. Simon was formerly Associate Curator with Metal, devising projects and programmes across Metal's three locations. In 2015 he developed and managed NetPark, a Digital R&D Fund for the Arts project in Chalkwell Park on behalf of Metal. Working with Sophie Mellor as Close and Remote, he has completed a number of large scale commissions across the UK, working with Creative Barking and Dagenham, Sefton Borough Council/The

Atkinson, FACT, Home Slough and the University of Bristol. He divides his time between London and the South West of England

### **Sita Brand**

Sita believes in the transformatory power of story to change lives. After graduating with a degree in Drama, she went on to tour internationally as a performer and storyteller. Her later career saw her work as a director and producer in the UK, India and South East Asia. She has spent a career dedicated to diversity in the arts. She is also a writer and recently published her first digital interactive fiction.

In 2010 Sita founded Settle Stories in the rural Yorkshire Dales market town of Settle. The charity programmes year-round events both live and online as well as the flagship Settle Stories Festival challenging perceptions of rural arts. The charity touches the lives of over 6,000 young people in school every year through their learning programme and enables the vulnerable and disenfranchised to have a voice through outreach programmes.

### **Stephanie Jalland**

Stephanie Jalland has been Artistic Director of Hoodwink, a company in residence at Salisbury Arts Centre, since co-founding the company in 1997. During that time Stephanie has created original theatre and performance events for indoors, outdoors and site-specific locations and toured extensively nationally and internationally. Hoodwink's work encompasses major commissions by venues, international festivals, libraries, National Trust, museums, local authorities and projects in hospital, care home and community settings. Stephanie is committed to creating high quality experiences whose form is determined by the subject matter, context and setting rather than a pre-determined form. This means the work is accessible to audiences across the age range who may not normally partake in arts activities as well as already engaged audiences.

### **Sud Basu**

Sud is a Creative Producer and has worked in the cultural sector for over 15 years - supporting artists, commissioning and presenting work across art form and creating nationally significant cultural programmes. His career has spanned local Government, funding bodies, commercial agencies, presenting theatres as well as artist-led companies – with senior roles at organisations such as the Greater London Authority, Arts Council England, London Legacy Development Corporation and The Place. Most recently Sud was a Producer for 14-18 NOW – where he developed an award-winning, five years, arts programme marking the centenary of the First World War. Sud is a trustee of Bedford Creative Arts and Wildworks. He is also an Artistic Advisor for Jerwood Arts.

**Susan Bisatt**

Susan Bisatt has combined a performing career as an operatic soprano with music and drama educational work. She is a founder member of the Improvising Opera Company “Impropera” and a board member of Opera Circus. Her singing career encompassed early opera, contemporary and experimental repertoire as well as traditional repertoire, working with national opera companies such as ENO and Opera North. She was a lead tutor for Youth Music on their Singbook/Sing Up programmes. She has worked as a subject advisor for Local Government and currently is the lead specialist Music tutor in the Faculty of Education at Manchester Metropolitan University. Susan has led international workshops working with Opera Circus widely Eastern Europe and Italy and with Impropera at the Sibelius Academy in Finland. She is a founder member of the “The Complete Freedom of Truth”, an international youth-led project with the ambition to develop global youth citizenship through culture and the arts.

**Suzannah Bedford**

Suzannah Bedford is a freelance Producer of art projects with communities and a creative mentor. A strategic arts leader and fundraiser, she most recently developed Place, a two-year project with a focus on community-led commissioning and local talent development, within her current role as Creative Director of The Renewal Trust, a regeneration charity in Nottingham. Highlights include Nott Ballet, a project in its 4th year with Birmingham Royal Ballet, Dance4 and Theatre Royal Nottingham, and Rankin on St Ann’s Allotments (featured in the BBC2’s Museums at Night programme). She began as Administrator with Out of Joint Theatre Company, became General Manager with Talawa Theatre Company, and then saw Greenwich and Lewisham Young People’s Theatre through a period of change management. She has been a Relationship Manager with Arts Council Midlands within both dance and engagement and participation. Suzannah sits on the Board of Trustees at Déda in Derby.