

EMERGING FUTURES

Emerging Futures 2020

Speakers



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TRAVIS ALABANZA



Travis Alabanza is an award winning theatre maker, writer and performer. Their recent show *Burgerz* sold out shows internationally including Southbank Centre, Sao Paulo, HAU Berlin, Smock Alley Dublin and winning the total theatre award at Traverse theatre in Edinburgh Fringe.

Their writing and work has been noted in many publications including Guardian, BBC, Huck Magazine, Gal-Dem and Independent. They were recently listed on the Dazed 100, Awarded the Gay Times Future Fighter Award, and listed in the evening standard as one of the 25 most influential under 25 year olds.

Image credit: Hani Hooper

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ZORAZELDA KING



Zorazelda King is a Community Arts Practitioner and Theatre Maker and recent Graduate from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. Since finishing her BA (Hons) in Applied Theatre and Community Drama, Zora was sponsored by Contact to represent Early Career Artists and Practitioners within the National Freelance Task Force. During this time, Zora facilitated conversations and consultations with ECAP freelancers, to find out what they need and want from the sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zora is currently working for a Young Person Empowerment Project and is in the early stages of developing her autobiographical performance and workshop 'Getting a Grip'. Zora's previous work includes facilitating and assistant directing various projects with Contact and The Lowry. Zora aims to continue working within communities through participatory arts, empowering individuals to utilise performance as a platform to create social and political change.

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HAYLEY WILLIAMS-HINDLE



Hayley Williams-Hindle spent the first half of her career in venue and events management. Following her Clore Fellowship year (Clore 15) she is now spending time as a researcher, writer, artist and coach. A qualified Brain and Behaviour change practitioner, coach and 'TRE' practitioner (somatic practice for trauma and stress relief); these three disciplines work together in complement in her practice with clients and artistic expression.

Her work explores the neuroscience of human behaviour and relating with a particular interest in supporting the wellbeing of autistic and other neurodiverse adults in the Cultural workplace.

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KEISHA THOMPSON



Keisha Thompson is a Manchester based writer, performance artist and producer. Keisha is the Young People's Producer at Contact, chair of radical arts funding body, Future's Venture Foundation, is a fellow of the MOBO x London Theatre Consortium Fellowship and is a member of Greater Manchester Cultural and Heritage Group.

She is currently working with commissioners Eclipse Theatre, York Theatre Royal and Pilot Theatre to stage new play, The Bell Curves. The script was made in development with Box of Tricks.

She is also working with Fuel Theatre and Alan Lane (Slung Low) to create new children's show, Izzy, BOSS & Fractal.

On 28 Aug, she will release a new mini album, Ephemera, in collaboration with Tom "Werkha" Leah and featuring riveting cellist, Abel Selaocoe.

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ISABEL MORTIMER

Isabel Mortimer is an experienced personal and executive coach supporting clients and specialising in leadership development, cultural change, and enabling positive team dynamics. She is an established leader, having been Resident Director for Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Dance Company. She has created a portfolio of coaching and leadership programmes and has supported cultural exchange and team development work across a range of high profile organisations.

Her experience includes leading the cultural change and team development work for organisations such as the BBC, British Airways, British Gas, Greenpeace, Comic Relief, Yorkshire Dance Agency, The Royal Opera House, The Royal National Theatre, New Adventures Overture Programme, New Adventures Dance Company and The Dancers Career Development. Isabel is an RD1st Accredited Coach and qualified CPCC (Certified Professional Co-Active Coach). She is Director of Coaching for the Dancers Career Development and a visiting lecturer at Birkbeck University specialising in personal development planning.

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PHIL DOUGLAS

Phil Douglas is Executive Producer of Curious Arts & Interim Artistic Director of Dance City, Newcastle. Phil has worked in the Arts & Culture sector across the North East in Dance, Outdoor arts and Queer Arts for over 11 years.

Phil has also maintained a freelance portfolio of Arts Development, Diversity, Marketing and Participation working with organisations including: Theatre Royal Newcastle, Theatre Hullabaloo, Dance City and Hartlepool Borough Council.

After founding Curious Festival in 2016 and establishing Curious Arts in 2017, Curious now delivers a flagship annual festival, year round projects, training and programming partnerships with key regional partners Including ARC Stockton and Northern Stage. Curious Arts is the founder and coordinator of the Queer Arts North Network.

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ASAD DHUNNA

Asad set-up The Unmistakables with a mission to help organisations navigate their way through diversity & inclusion. He leads on client work and speaks out about how to make diversity everyone's business. He told attendees of Cannes Lions about why we don't need another diversity talk and has been shortlisted as a change maker by Oystercatchers, The Drum and Campaign. He was recently featured on the IPA's 'iList' - a selection of trailblazers for inclusivity in the marketing industry.

Asad has held senior positions at Weber Shandwick and FleishmanHillard, managing award-winning work for HSBC, Netflix, Expedia, Freeview and TK Maxx. He also did a stint as Head of Marketing, at travel technology start-up Triptease. Asad volunteered as the Director of Communications for Pride in London in 2018 and 2019 and is currently a board trustee for akt - the LGBT+ homelessness charity.

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VICTORIA BURNS

Victoria is a producer, curator and organisational development consultant. In the last ten years she has combined her interests in environmental science and activism with her professional commitment to arts and culture - she is the former head of programme at arts and science organisation Invisible Dust and is now the National Coordinator for Culture Declares and a director of Climate Museum UK.

She has a postgraduate certificate in Coaching and is currently studying a MSc in Coaching Psychology at Birkbeck College, University Of London where she is exploring new leadership paradigms fit for the complex challenges of the 21st Century.



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CHARLOTTE HOLMES

Charlotte Holmes is an Urban and Social History Curator for the National Trust. Charlotte's previous roles have been grounded in museum based professional development, critical thinking and practice.

She led community engagement for Birmingham Museums' award winning 'Collecting Birmingham' project, where the public selected objects to be added to the permanent collection of the museum; and has over 10 years' experience in developing and delivering workshops in museum ethics, reflective practice and mentoring. Charlotte has recently become a trustee of Derby Museums and is Chair of Museum Detox.



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PHILIP FLOOD



Philip Flood has been Director at Sound Connections since 2010 and is responsible for the overall strategy and governance of the charity. The organisation is a sector leader in supporting music education and works with organisations and individuals across England. It has also developed a highly regarded consultancy strand over the last eight years and works both nationally and internationally with around 30 clients per year.

Previously, he was Head of LSO Discovery and prior to this, Education Director for Spitalfields Music and Head of Music and Media at a large inner-London FE college. He is also an advisor for the PRS for Music Foundation and a Trustee of the Music Education Council.

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JO VERRENT



Jo is the senior producer for Unlimited, a commissions programme for disabled artists. Jo believes that 'different' is delicious not divergent, and works in arts & culture at strategic levels embedding the belief that diversity adds texture. Her focus is on turning policy into real action.

She also makes jam, works from bed a lot, bought a bubble machine in lockdown and will always want to be resuscitated, whatever the Government guidance might be.

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SARA WAJID

Sara Wajid, is Head of Engagement at Museum of London working on the development of the new museum. She will start as Joint CEO of Birmingham Museums Trust in November 2020 alongside Zak Mensah. Sara and Zak met through the anti-racist museum network for people of colour, Museum Detox.

Prior to working in museums she was a cultural commentator, editor and journalist specialising in cultural politics, race and representation. She is a trustee of the Pitt Rivers Museum and part of the Space Invaders feminist collective.



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AMANDA SMETHURST



Amanda is an independent consultant, coach and facilitator with a particular focus on organisational development and strategic planning within the cultural sector. She has a passion for supporting people to understand what makes their heart sing.

Amanda has worked with individuals and organisations to support their development in a range of roles from Director of Artlink, Widening Participation Manager for a partnership of Yorkshire Universities, Manager of the Arts Service for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and at Arts Council England as Director, London. She is a Clore Fellow, and has also held a number of non-executive board appointments, and is currently a member of the advisory board for 64 Million Artists. Originally trained as a fine artist, Amanda is still keen to retain her creative practice and enjoys exploring many mediums – including ceramics, printmaking, textiles and even gardening – all of which make her heart sing.

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ALAN LANE



Alan Lane is Artistic Director of Slung Low directing most of their work over the last decade including projects with the Barbican, the RSC, The Almeida, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Liverpool Everyman, Sheffield Theatres, Singapore Arts Festival and the Lowry. Slung Low make large scale people's theatre work on stages, trains, castles, swimming pools, fishing boats and town centres. In 2017 Slung Low headlined Hull UK City of Culture 2017 with Flood by James Phillips: a 4 Part epic performed online, live and on the BBC. Over half a million people saw a part of Flood. It won a Royal Televisual Award Yorkshire for innovation in drama.

Alan has directed in places as wide ranging as the National Theatre of Croatia, a sari shop in Manchester, Buckingham Palace and in a village in Purulia, Southern India. He was the Artistic Director for the National Commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 2016: a ceremony with a people's theatre company of 450.

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JENNY WALDMAN



Jenny Waldman is director of Art Fund. She was previously Director of 14-18 NOW, the UK's official arts programme for the First World War Centenary, where she commissioned over 100 new works from leading contemporary artists including Jeremy Deller's Somme tribute We're here because we're here, Peter Jackson's film They Shall Not Grow Old and new works by John Akomfrah, William Kentridge, and Rachel Whiteread.

She was Creative Producer of the London 2012 Festival, the finale of the Cultural Olympiad for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, working in partnerships with arts and heritage organisations across the UK, and from 1999-2011 she was Public Programmes Consultant to Somerset House Trust. She has also commissioned large-scale performing arts events for Tate Modern and Tate Britain.

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SAAD EDDINE SAID



Known for his City Take-Overs, Saad Eddine Said is a curator who initiates and builds bridges and creative partnerships between local communities, artists, activists, social entrepreneurs, innovators, cultural organisations and governmental institutions. His work focusses on co-creating impactful and artistic takeovers that are aimed at re-thinking, re-imagining and re-shaping the structure and future of institutions and communities in towns and cities nationally and internationally. He presented his work and vision around theories of change in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

Saad Eddine Said is the Co-Founder and previous Co-Artistic Director of the charity Terre Sans Frontiere (Morocco) and currently works as the Director of HOME Slough (UK).

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DAVID JUBB



David Jubb is a producer. Currently growing two children in Devon. He also volunteers as a co-director of the Sortition Foundation which campaigns for a citizen-led democracy, such as replacing the House of Lords in parliament with a permanent Citizen's Assembly. David is also an advisor for Theatres Trust as part of their free advice service; especially aimed at theatres and venues which do not have other avenues of support during the pandemic.

David is a researcher and presenter of Culture Plan B; a podcast that talks to independent artists and communities who create culture outside big institutions. Between 2004 and 2019 David was Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Battersea Arts Centre.

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MADANI YOUNIS



Madani Younis is the Chief Executive Producer of The Shed and has been in post since January 2020. He was previously the Creative Director of the Southbank Centre, the largest arts centre in Europe. Prior to that the Artistic Director of the Bush Theatre, a leading London new writing house, from 2012 to 2018. In achieving this role, Madani became the first Artistic Director of colour to lead a London theatre.

Madani is a Cultural Ambassador on the London Mayoral Cultural Leadership Board and has been a Groucho Club Committee Member, Trustee of the Directors Charitable Foundation, and a special advisor to Artistic Directors of the Future, amongst a number of other advisory roles.

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FAIDAT OPE



Faidat Ope is a 20 year old psychology student, boxer and female empowerment activist. Faidat runs workshops for young women at schools to raise awareness about the inequality in sport and runs competitive sports days every year for them to take part in as part of a campaign to drive and confidence in these young women.

Outside of this, Faidat enjoys getting involved in creative arts and music and occasionally speaks at events.

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ELMI ALI

Elmi is a storyteller invested in the mediums of writing, directing, facilitating, translating, performance and education. Based in the North-West of England he writes poetry, short fiction and for the stage. He has a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University and a masters in Contemporary Literature, Film and Theory also from MMU.

Elmi's latest written and directed work includes Survival, Royal Exchange Co-lab festival 2017, Water Seeds not Stones, a one-man show, part of Contact Flying Solo Festival 2017/ Contact in the City 2018 and Said the Seismograph about the Tremor which was scratched as part of HOME theatre's Push Festival 2018.

Elmi also curated the See My Dunya 2018/2019 program and exhibition centring the stories of the Somali Diaspora in Manchester.

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ROSE SERGENT



Rose Sergent is a visual artist based in Manchester. She has worked with Oldham Coliseum, Contact Theatre, Octagon Bolton, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and more to create bespoke commissions. Rose's art often focusses on highlighting societal disparities for ill/disabled people through bright and bold digital art.

Rose founded and produces Drawn Poorly Zine which explores the reality of living with illness/disability. The project has featured over 90 creatives through six zines, a performance night and social media take overs. Drawn Poorly was one of the supported projects at Contact in 2018/19 through the Future Fires programme and was featured as part of the Edinburgh Festival central programme in 2019. Rose has recently received a bursary from Jerwood Arts to develop her practice as a producer specialising in disability led art.