

**Artistic Director Leadership Programme
announces the participants in its training
programme for future theatre leaders of colour**

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30 theatre practitioners of colour have been selected to join the new Artistic Director Leadership Programme, which will start in September 2017.

In a two-part project, four people will receive paid, two year, full-time residential traineeships as part of the **Trainee Artistic Director** scheme, and 26 practitioners who, in the **Leaders of Tomorrow** scheme, will receive a bespoke leadership development programme. Together they will form a peer network of future theatre leaders of colour.

Research shows that companies with diverse workforces perform better, and that those balances are achieved most successfully when diversity is understood at the top. This programme aims to increase the representation of theatre-makers of colour at the highest level of British theatre management, influencing whole organisations from the artists to administration, the productions and the audiences. In the long term, more theatre leaders of colour will result in artistic programmes and audiences that better reflect the talent, innovation and diversity of Britain in the 21st Century.

Led by tiata fahodzi's Artistic Director Natalie Ibu, the Artistic Director Leadership Programme is a unique opportunity for training in the business of art created by four theatre companies – tiata fahodzi, 20 Stories High, Freedom Studios and Talawa Theatre Company, whose collective missions represent a rich, multicultural and modern Britain. All four of these organisations are led by people of colour with personal experience of the transformative possibilities of similar schemes.

Natalie Ibu said *"The first Arts Council report about diversity was published in 1976 – we've been talking about the 'diversity problem' for longer than I've been alive. We hope that our programme – together with all the other essential Sustained projects – will mean that we can all stop talking about it and get on with doing it. It's a real pleasure to bring together 30 of Britain's most exciting artists and administrators of colour at the beginning of their leadership careers who I know are going to continue to take up space, building an ecology where the next generation of artists of colour can be even more ambitious and not less. My very first job was provided by an Arts Council positive action scheme and transformed my trajectory; without it – and later RTYDS – I wouldn't be leading a National Portfolio Organisation now"*.

The theatre sector recognises that it is not representative of the diversity of the population of the UK, particularly at leadership level, but has struggled to resolve it. ADLP aims to address this by providing a raft of new opportunities for its talented future leaders and developing real relationships between them and the sector, companies and buildings.

Four **Trainee Artistic Directors** will receive paid, two-year full-time residential traineeships:
Freedom Studios – Kash Arshad
Talawa – Anthony Ekundayo Lennon
tiata fahodzi – Anastasia Osei-Kuffour
20 Stories High – Nathan Powell

They will work closely with the artistic director and their executive teams, receiving an exceptional opportunity to take part in and contribute to the daily life of running a theatre company from board meetings to budgeting. Full biogs below.

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Leaders of Tomorrow provides 26 practitioners with both a bespoke leadership development programme and a new peer network. Not just for directors, this group includes a multiplicity of skilled practitioners who aspire to lead a theatre company or building including writers, producers, choreographers, actors, administrators and designers. The **Leaders of Tomorrow** programme includes a wide range of free training opportunities that will take place in two learning hubs based in the North East and London.

ADLP joins other projects supported by the ACE Sustained Theatre Fund in increasing the representation of Black and minority ethnic theatre makers across the wider theatre sector in England.

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The four Trainee Assistant Directors:

Kash Arshad will join Freedom Studios

Kash worked as an Assistant Director on *Handbagged* (Theatre by the Lake) and will direct Vinay Patel's *Free Fall* for his own company Rogue Bones at the Manchester Fringe Festival. His work includes Assistant Trainee Director on *Romeo and Juliet* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), Associate Director on *North Country* (Freedom Studios) and he completed the RTYDS 3 Month Placement as Assistant Director on *#ChipShoptheMusical* (Freedom Studios/Bolton Octagon).

Other directing includes *My Mum the Racist* (SL Shorts, Slung Low Hub), *Destiny Does as She's Told* and *Cob* (Manchester ADP, Kings Arms), *The Big Reveal* (Abooo Theatre, HOME), *Tactics and Cravings* (Hercules Productions, Wonder Inn), *Fat Penguin or Chubby Polar Bear* (Fincomb Theatre, Theater Arlecchino, Basel). He was Assistant Director on an award-winning new adaptation of Kafka's *The Trial* (People Zoo Productions / Greater Manchester Fringe/ Edinburgh Fringe). Kash co-runs Rogue Bones Theatre Company, who recently performed at Paines Plough's *Roundabout*.

Anthony Ekundayo Lennon will join Talawa

Born in west London to working-class immigrant parents, Anthony has been both an actor and director. 35 years as an actor include working with Double Edge, Black Mime, Talawa, Staunch Poets and Players, Black Theatre Forum, Michael White productions, Carib TIE and 10:10 and the title role in *Yellowman* (Liverpool & Everyman UK tour). Television work included *Grange Hill*, *Emmerdale*, *House Party* and *The Bill*.

As a director/assistant director Anthony worked on *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* (National Theatre and tour), *Othello* (RSC) and the all-black *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Broadway/ West End). Other directing work includes with Collective Artists, Yaa Asantewaa, Royal Court, Tricycle, tiata fahodzi, Curve, UK Arts International, Almeida, Contact, Stratford Circus, Rich Mix, and Sadler's Wells, several deaf-led productions for Deafinitely, Theatre 503 and The State We're In festival, including *Article 8*, *George* and *BATR – Zone C*. For Talawa Anthony directed *Winsome's Daughter*, *Rise* and *Enter*. Anthony is also a mentor, guest speaker and workshop facilitator.

Anastasia Osei-Kuffour will join tiata fahodzi

Anastasia Osei-Kuffour trained as a director through the Young Vic Directors Programme. Directing includes: *Footprints On The Moon* (Finborough Theatre), *An Adventure* (Bush Theatre), *Cell* (The Young Vic), *Here Comes The Bride* (Black Lives Black Words at the Bush Theatre), *All The Ways to Say Goodbye* (The Young Vic), *Hosea's Girl* (Talawa Studio Firsts), *Dishonour*, *You Know That I'll Be Back*, *Universally Speaking* (Theatre 503) and *Pushers* (Etcetera Theatre).

Assistant Directing includes: *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet* (National Theatre, Stratford Circus and Schools Tour), *Cuttin' It* – as part of The Young Vic's Jerwood Assistant Director Programme, supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation (The Young Vic, Royal Court Theatre, Birmingham REP, Sheffield Theatres and The Yard Theatre), *Three Generations of Women* (Greenwich Theatre and Tour), *Plaques and Tangles* (Royal Court

Theatre), *Idomeneus* (Gate Theatre), *Henry the Fifth* (Unicorn Theatre), and – as Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director – *A Doll's House* (The Young Vic).

Nathan Powell will join 20 Stories High

Nathan is a director, writer and theatre-maker who has a passion for making work with and for people that feel that they have limited or no access to the theatre. As Diversity and Participation Officer at Nottingham Playhouse his work included creating a more inclusive and diverse theatre, leading on projects to encourage new participants and audiences to get involved in the theatre.

Nathan directed the senior Youth theatre's summer shows including a production of *Noughts & Crosses* on the main stage and *Holloway Jones* in the Neville Studio. He also assisted the programming of the Neville Studio space. He recently wrote, directed and produced his play *Takeaway* which sold out in Hackney, with great reviews from The Voice, Plays to See and Everything Theatre.

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