

INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING

MASTERCLASS PARTICIPANTS | APRIL 2019

AJ AKANDE

AJ is a filmmaker from Manchester with five films under their belt who also runs a creative film coop. They would like to improve their skills to enable them to push their work to greater heights.

TAIBA AMLA

Currently in development with Finite Productions towards her first feature film, Taiba won the Northern Writers Award for TV Drama in 2018 and is developing her idea with Bonafide Films for Channel 4. Driven by cliched depictions, Taiba aims to change the narrative with her writing.

NDRIKA ANYIKA

Ndrika is filmmaker hailing from Sheffield. She set up her own videography/photography business in 2016. She is passionate about telling stories that give voices to people that are misrepresented or often not represented at all in mainstream media.

SHAZIA ASHRAF

Shazia is a Yorkshire based writer and director, interested in contemporary British Asian stories. Her recent work includes *Sweets & Chocolates* with Kali Theatre/RADA, *99% Halal* with Kala Sangam and *Reservoir Rami*, which is currently being developed with Rifco theatre while Shazia is an associate artist there.

ANIL BAHARATH

Born in Leeds to Indian parents, Anil describes himself as a British Asian. He has lived and worked across different cities as an actor, broadcaster and writer for both stage and radio.

As an associate artist for Freedom Studios, his work was recently showcased at Bradford Literature Festival 2018 - this showcase explored the pressures faced by young South Asian men to get a good job and be a good boy, often to the detriment of their mental health.

CHOCOLATE BEAR (DERMOT DALY)

Dermot (and Ivan) make films as Chocolate Bear. They are films that examine us. Chocolate Bear tend to write and direct their projects, which have been screened internationally - they've won a few awards as well.

NINA BERRY

Nina is a writer based in Newcastle. In 2016, her debut play, *The Terminal Velocity of Snowflakes* received critical acclaim and returned to the Live Theatre the following year for a second sell-out run. Nina recently made her screenwriting debut with short fiction film *Salt* which was co-written and screened as part of the NFTS Graduate Showcase 2019.

HANNAH BOYNTON-FORSHAW

Hannah is a writer based in Leeds, West Yorkshire. With over 10 years' experience working in the creative industries, Hannah has created internal communications content for brands such as IKEA and Asda, along with scripts for TV adverts. She is currently an editor at Hallmark Cards UK.

ZOE BURY

Zoe has completed a screenplay, which has received some positive feedback and is now working on their second script. All of their work has humour at its heart (even in the darkest situations). Zoe is also a nurse and has worked within homelessness for 18 years. Zoe loves people and their stories.

JOHN CLARK

John is a writer and director who has garnered some attention and interest for their 3 short introspective documentaries on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. John is currently drafting a short and feature screenplay challenging the stereotypes of Autistic adults based on their and their brother's experiences negotiating modern society.

NISA COLE

2018: writing debut *Muck* - part of TRIAL for Monkeywood and Reveal Festival, Octagon Theatre Bolton. 2017: directed 5 short plays for Take Back production's Ten Takes On Resistance. Current: facilitating a collaborative theatre-making project with Barbican and Slung Low. Upcoming: a clowning and wellbeing project *Ludicity!*

ALASTAIR CUMMINGS

Alastair is a filmmaker based in Newcastle Upon Tyne. Screenings include London Short Film Festival, Galway Film Fleadh and Athens Film Festival. His recent short *Collection Only* was produced by Constant Productions (*Wren Boys*, *Two Dosas*). His films focus on the outsiders of society and our constant striving for companionship.

JAZMIN CRADDOCK-JONES

Jazmin is a biomedical scientist with a passion for writing. They enjoy using fictional stories to demystify scientific concepts. As an artist of Jamaican origin, Jazmin also enjoys writing stories about Black British experiences. Jazmin is a published poet and has had work shortlisted for development by WYP Airplays.

ANNE-MARIE DRAYCOTT

Under the banner of Draycott & Trimm, Anne-Marie writes comedy - which includes sketches for BBC Alba's *FUNC* and a play performed at the Edinburgh Festival, *Class Mates*. She also writes on her own and is currently developing a drama, *Ash*, as part of the Fuse Playwriting Scheme at Leeds Playhouse.

NADIA EMAM

Nadia is an actor and theatre director, currently working with the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough as part of the Regional Theatre Young Director's Scheme. She is also a poet; her poetry film *Moments* won the Wex Short Film Award and is playing at High Peak Independent Film Festival.

AMIE GEORGE

Amie is a writer from Manchester. They were part of the Royal Court Writers' programme in 2016, and have had work staged at The Lowry, Paines Plough's Roundabout and HOME Manchester. Aimie is currently an Associate Artist at Oldham Coliseum, and a writer in the room for the 2019 Bruntwood playwriting workshops.

EMMA GRAY

Emma recently graduated in Drama Applied Theatre and Education where they reignited my love for film making. Emma experiments with film within theatre and has made a short film that was shown at a TED-X event. They particularly enjoy sitcom and sketch comedy and hope to further their professional development in writing.

DAVID HALL

David is an actor, writer and filmmaker based in Manchester. He has devised theatre with Contact Young Company and NYT and has co-founded Modify Productions, where he has worked on both corporate and passion projects. He is currently working towards his first short film.

SOPHIE HALL-LUKE

Sophie is a former children's social worker who now works in arts participation for young people. She is an early career facilitator and is a founder of The Table, a North-East writing community for women and non-binary writers. She is based in Newcastle.

ZENA IGBE

Zena is a writer-director, based in Sheffield. They write, direct and produce a dark comedy Web series called *Reprobates* and are currently working on their first short film, *Sweet Mother*. Zena likes to explore stories about LGBT+ and Black identity.

NICOLE JOSEPH

Nicole is a Yorkshire local with an MA in Writing for Performance and Publication. The BBC shortlisted her radio drama in the Drama Script Room and her screenplay in the Alfred Bradley Award. She is working in diversifying the creative industries at Screen Yorkshire and in development with Leeds Playhouse.

KAMAL KAAAN

Kamal is an actor and writer for radio, screen and stage. They are currently under commission for BBC Radio 4 and are working as a story consultant on *Clio*

Barnard's upcoming feature and for *The Secret Lives of The Amir Sisters* by Nadiya Hussain with Bandit for BBC.

MAUREEN LENNON

Maureen is a graduate from the MA in Writing for Performance and Publication from Leeds University. She has written for Paines Plough, Sheffield Theatres and Absolutely Cultured. Her latest play, *Us Against Whatever* was produced by Middle Child in association with Hull Truck Theatre and Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse. She is a Leeds Playhouse FUSE writer and Associate Artist of Middle Child and a co-founder of Bellow Theatre.

ROSANNA MCGLONE

Rosanna is a playwright, script reader and dramaturg. Old Vic, New Voices; ACE, Hull Truck and New Perspectives Theatre have provided generous support. Rosanna was also shortlisted by the BBC for The Alfred Bradley Award for radio plays. Prior to this, Rosanna worked as a journalist for national newspapers in Australia.

CHRIS O'CONNOR

Chris is a professional writer with recent commissions from the Leeds Playhouse, BBC Radio and Red Ladder Theatre Company. He has also written Riptide's last two immersive theatre shows and has a comedy sketch show which has performed in Leeds and Manchester, as well as filming one sketch to date.

LOUISE OGUNNAIKE

Louise has always been passionate about writing stories that are bold and distinctive. Her love for writing started when her script *Middle Passage*, which looked at the refugee crisis, was selected to be made with O2 and GoThinkBig. Since then, Louise continues to write plays and shorts that look at relationships, empowerment and female identity.

HAIDER SALEEM

Haider is a journalist, writing whenever they can in the hope of producing their first film soon. They have been involved in writers' groups with both the National Theatre and the BFI/Film Hub North. Last summer, Haider played a featured role the National Theatre's participatory theatre programme.

BECCI SHARROCK

Becci is a writer, theatre-maker and creative producer. Recent writing credits include; *Northern Pulse* (Film Poem, Great Exhibition of the North, N18), *Living Legends: Hidden Histories* (Published book & exhibition, commissioned by Made in Corby), *Letters to Myself* (Theatre, UK tour) and *Night Trade* (Theatre, commissioned by Alphabetti theatre).

ELYSIA SHERWIN

Elysia moved from Leicester to Manchester to study TV and Radio at Salford University. After university, they worked a variety of jobs before returning to complete a Master's degree in Screenwriting at Manchester University.

OMARI SWANSTON – JEFFERS

Omari Swanston - Jeffers is a multi-disciplined artist, specialising in writing, directing and dance. Versed in urban and classical styles, dance is Omari's first art. In January 2019, Omari successfully premiered his first theatrical production, *Northern Noir* where he led a team of creatives as director, writer and executive producer.

TESTAMENT (ANDY BROOKS)

Testament is a rapper, beatboxer and theatre maker currently based in West Yorkshire.

Credits include performances on BBC, MTV, BBC Radio 1 and BBC 1xtra, Radio 3, 4, 5 & 6. He also holds the Guinness World Record for leading the world's largest Human Beatbox ensemble. Testament won the BBC Urban Music Talent Award in 2007 and has since worked with a diverse range of artists from Corinne Bailey Rae and Soweto Kinch to US legend, DJ KoolHerc.

THERESA VARGA

Theresa is an award-winning Director from Yorkshire. Her work champions female led stories and uses hints of surrealism. Theresa built her career by writing and directing comedy shorts, attaining success in festivals worldwide. She landed her first TV directing role with BAFTA winning CBBC show *Secret Life of Boys*.

KATE WARBURTON

Kate is a Salford University graduate in English and Creative Writing. Longlisted for BBC Writersroom's Future Talent Award. Writer of spiritual and philosophical short stories, TV, film, stage and radio drama. Currently aiming towards first TV drama commission. Aspires to make films with an original take on the human experience.

LIZZIE WATSON

Lizzie has worked across development and production on television programmes for ITV, Sky and the BBC. In theatre, she has worked on projects for Shakespeare's Globe, Les Enfants Terribles and most recently Opera North. She is currently working on her first writing portfolio, developing work in prose, poetry and script.

KATE WEBSTER

Kate has had short plays staged at Theatre503, Southwark Playhouse and the Arcola Theatre and wrote their first audio play for Big Finish productions in 2016. Kate has twice been longlisted for The Old Vic 12 scheme, was shortlisted for the

Euroscript Story competition and was a finalist in the RED Women Theatre Awards.

JO WEST

Jo, fairly happily married mother of 3 from Doncaster. Jo is a playwright, who has had work performed at Hull Truck, RADA, Camden Peoples' Theatre, Cast in Doncaster, Alphabetti Newcastle and King's Head, Salford among others. Kate write what she knows with humour. She really wants to write for the screen.

LIAM WHITE

Liam lives in Manchester. By day he is a Science teacher in a school for kids who have been kicked out of mainstream education for being either mad, bad or sad. He writes because he has to. He writes screenplays and makes films as part of @falsetoothfilms.