

Matthew Hahn

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International theatre director and theatre for development facilitator, post-graduate with experience of coordinating, co-creating and implementing theatre projects in the United Kingdom, United States, Southern & Eastern Africa focusing on developing and enabling communities, social cohesion, peace-making and conflict resolution in the Global South & North.

Artistic director of the Folkestone Performing Arts Centre and runs their Community Theatre outreach group and the Ensemble Company. FPAC is a new work incubation space, training centre to develop performing artists and community hub in Folkestone, UK.

He is also devising shows with PROJEKT EUROPA at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury for PROJEKT ENCOUNTER. Recently, he directed a community theatre project at the Tower Theatre with Counterpoints Arts, the NHS and men from Napier Barracks.

As an artist and social activist, he is drawn to complex and political opportunities that allows him to utilize his skills as a theatre director, writer and facilitator to further developmental goals.

Selected Theatre for Development Achievements

PROJEKT ENCOUNTER [2022] – lead facilitator with Projekt Europa’s community engagement programme for adult first generation migrants who have little or no previous experience of theatre.

The Right To Know – A Counterpoints Arts project working with men from Napier Barracks. Commissioned by NHS England South East to help asylum seekers in the UK stay safe and get access to health services.

The Liliesleaf Trust (UK) – Project Producer, Anti-Apartheid, Now. Managing the online gallery exhibition of Arts Council England supported commission for Global Majority and intersectional artists and communities to explore and respond to lived experience of race-based injustice and imagine new futures.

Most Mira - arts focused charity that builds bridges between divided communities in Bosnia. Trustee: His brief is to develop the charity’s theatre for development programme (Ongoing).

The Liliesleaf Trust (UK) – Facilitator of leadership development workshops supporting the film, *Life is Wonderful*, the award-winning film about the Rivonia Trialists in South Africa (Ongoing).

Ethical Leadership Workshop: Creative Producer & Director - Design and lead workshops that examine the current leadership situation on a personal, local & national level targeted at young people (Ongoing).

Common Air Theatre Company: Lead a participatory theatre company that produces socially aware productions working within a community to advocate for social change and human rights. Facilitate verbatim and interactive theatre workshops on gender and human rights as well as conflict resolution and peace negotiation through behaviour change strategies and strengthening communication skills (Ongoing).

Utopia Theatre Creative Hub, Sheffield, UK - Facilitator of online workshop to adapt Forum Theatre practice to an online platform (2020).

Akomaasa Arts Performing Arts Academy, London, UK – Facilitator of online workshop for young people examining racism & empowerment (2020).

MRC-NRF Tupumue UK / Kenya - Newton Fund’s UK-Kenya Joint Partnership on Non-Communicable Diseases. Co-investigator as a legislative theatre for advocacy expert (2019 – 2021).

MRC / AHRC Global Public Health Bid with the Stockholm Environment Institute Environment Department, University of York. Co-investigator as a forum theatre for advocacy expert (2017 – 2019).

Cardboard Citizens Theatre Company Creative Producer & Actor of Theatre & Mental Health Forum Theatre Performance. Quarterhouse, Creative Foundation, Folkestone (2018).

Commedia dell’ Arte, Folkestone – Creative Producer & Actor for an Arts Council funded research and development project to train professional and refugee theatre makers in the art of Commedia dell’ Arte (2018).

Theatre for a Change, a UK charity which utilizes interactive theatre to train teachers and facilitators on the topics of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health. Training facilitator & Open College Network Qualification co-ordinator (2006 – 2016).

Selected Public Talks / Workshops:

Tutu Leadership Dialogue – Member of roundtable discussion on the legacy of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and how we can apply his teaching & learning to our own practice of ethical leadership, striving to become an 'Ubuntu-Being,' ["I am because we are"].

Applying Shakespeare Symposium, The Shakespeare Institute, Talk on the 'Ethical Leadership Workshops' based on extracts from 'The Complete Works' as well as primary interviews with former political prisoners on Robben Island, South Africa (2018).

'Ubuntu: sharing South Africa', British Museum. Directed and facilitated interactive pop-up performances of my play, *The Robben Island Shakespeare* (2017).

'Memories of Mandela', British Museum Lecture Theatre. A member of the panel which included John Battersby [co-author of 'Mandela: A Life in Photographs' and author of the afterword in 'Mandela: the Authorised Biography' by Anthony Sampson], and journalist John Carlin (2017).

Ethical Leadership Workshop, Wynberg High School, Cape Town, South Africa, British Council sponsored workshop utilizing the play, *The Robben Island Shakespeare* to examine ethical leadership (2016).

'I, too, remember dust': Peace-building, Politics and the Arts' Winchester University. Workshop delivered focusing on interactive theatre, communication and behaviour change based on Theatre for a Change's 'Touch Tag Theatre' (2015).

Ethical Leadership Workshop, Gauteng College, Johannesburg, South Africa, ethical leadership workshop utilizing the play, *The Robben Island Shakespeare* (2014).

Shakespeare & Today' at Wits University, South Africa. Paper on Ethical Leadership (2014).

Emerge and Exist - Shaping the Future Conference, Winchester University / Change Collective, London, UK (2011). Paper on 'Interactive Theatre's Learning & Impact potential & practice,'

Theatre, HIV & Development Conference, St. Mary's University College, London, UK - Paper on 'Applied Theatre strategies to changing behaviour & fighting HIV / Aids in Africa & in the UK,' (2011).

National Theatre, London Workshop on Augusto Boal & Forum Theatre (2011)

National Theatre, London Workshop on Participatory Dance & Drama (2008)

Queen Mary University, RADA, Central School of Speech and Drama and Goldsmith College. Various drama masterclasses (2003 – 2016)

Education

London Metropolitan University – London, England; Certificate in Education

Goldsmiths College – London, England; MA in Theatre Directing

Indiana University – Bloomington, Indiana; BA in Journalism & Political Science

HE & FE Employment

St. Mary's University – Senior Lecturer, Applied Theatre & Drama Programme – 2013 – 2018.

St. Mary's University – Lecturer, Drama – 2008 – 2013.

Kensington & Chelsea College – Head of Drama Department, 2003 – 2008

Selected Directing Experience

2022	Art*	SHAPE THEATRE	Brussels, Belgium
2021	<i>Wasted Words</i>	<i>The Festival of Fleeting Words</i>	International
2020	<i>Sanctuary</i>	WriteNow Berlin Festival	International
2020	<i>Catastrophe [under Lockdown]</i>	Peacock Theatre Festival of Civil Liberties	International
2020	<i>imPEACHable</i>	South by South East Festival, Gulbenkian Theatre	Canterbury, UK
2019	<i>She Says</i>	Folkestone 48 Play Festival	Folkestone, UK
2014	<i>The Robben Island Shakespeare</i>	Michael Oak School	Cape Town, South Africa
2014	<i>A Day in the Life</i> (Forum Theatre)	Houses of Parliament	London, UK
2012	<i>Gender Equality in the UK</i> (Forum Theatre)	Committed Artists	Durban, South Africa
2011	<i>Living with HIV in the UK</i>	Tikondane Primary School	Lilongwe, Malawi

* winner outstanding director & outstanding play, Tournament of Plays Award.

For more information about my current work, upcoming and previous projects, please visit:

www.MatthewHahn.org.uk & www.RobbenIslandShakespeare.co.uk.