



## **DIVERSE THEATRE THAT CREATES CHANGE**

**Maya create diverse theatre to create change; socially, politically and culturally.**

**Our vision is of a world where people of all ages, abilities, culture and classes have the opportunity to experience theatre.**

At Maya Productions, we want to change what takes place on our stages and screens. We find stories that don't often get told and we look for new ways of telling them. We invite a wide range of people to get involved with the arts. We value a global world and believe connections across borders are important.

Our work includes producing and touring new work, supporting artists, sector research and creating participation projects that cross and combine art forms. We do this in collaboration, with artists, young people, community organisations, academics and cultural leaders.

### **Company Background**

Maya Productions was founded in 1994, leading diversity in theatre by touring the ground breaking *Over Hear* by Neil Biswas with an inclusive cast of ethnically diverse and deaf actors. Maya champions diverse practitioners, like playwright Michael McMillan and performer Stacy Makeshi and has toured plays to over 30 venues nationally. Until 2009, Maya was vital to the cultural life of Hackney, producing the *Write to Ignite*, Hackney Word Festival (audiences of 4,000 annually) and delivering the *Outwrite* programme (developing playwriting and other skills for 100s of young people).

In 2013 Suzanne Gorman was appointed artistic director. Suzanne is a Director, Dramaturg and Producer committed to bringing diverse work into mainstream culture. She has a track record in new writing and pioneering new ways of working. Her work has been described as "**triumphant proof that small-scale need not mean limited ambition**" Guardian\*\*\*\* on *The Honey Man*. Her ground breaking and critically acclaimed *Moonwalking in Chinatown* promenade for Soho Theatre, was held up as an example of "**how arts and culture can impact on place making**" in Westminster's Arts and Cultural Strategy. She has held a range of associate artist and associate director roles including Soho Theatre, Derby Live, Immediate Theatre, Sheffield Theatres, Barbican and Theatre Royal Stratford East. She has worked at BBC and sits on the steering committee for Performance Live a BBC/ACE partnership. Suzanne is a Relational Dynamic Coach accredited by Culture at Work and Relational Dynamics 1<sup>st</sup>. She coaches individuals, and on the Accelerate, and Step Change career development programmes. She is a Clore Leadership Programme Fellow 2015/2016.

Recent achievements include: [\*\*\*Superheroes: South of the River\*\*\*](#) . A project using martial arts, comic book storytelling and theatre to explore Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Role Models. It has proven to inspire, and benefit over 200 young refugees, disabled young people and other

Londoners. [Barefoot Gen](#) by Keiji Nakazawa; Bringing older people, school children and Rose Bruford College students together to explore a WW2 story of a Japanese pacifist family living in Hiroshima.

Our current programme of work includes: \_

### **[Up North](#) by Jonny Wright : Co- Production with Harrogate Theatre and tour, in association with LittleMighty: March 2018**

Created by writer/rapper Jonny Wright Up North is a fresh, funny, pertinent hip hop musical. It's a journey through friendship, the North/South divide, and black identity set against the backdrop of the capital's challenging music industry. It tells the story of a group of friends in a struggling rap group in Yorkshire who quit their day jobs and move to London. When a record label offers some of them a chance in a lifetime, their friendship is truly tested. The play explores Black British male identity, opening up potent ideas about identity and representation and fusing theatrical and hip hop storytelling. Up North was described by James Hadley, Director of Musical Theatre Network, as a project with "*potential to speak to a wide audience, many of whom may feel alienated from so much theatre.*"

### **[The Croydon Avengers](#) by Oladipo Agboluaje; in association with LittleMighty: Co-Production with Ovalhouse & Harrogate Theatre - Research and Development October 2017 - Production and Tour - June 2018**

This new play for teenaged audiences challenges the current narrative around refugees by placing a trio of young refugees in the roles of saviours of a doomed England. It was inspired by our *Superheroes: South of the River* project and uses martial arts and a comic book visual style. We are currently presenting work-in-progress performances to young audiences at Ovalhouse and other Venues from 28<sup>th</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **The Band by Suzanne Gorman: in association with LittleMighty**

This play explores the fortunes of a family of Anglo-Indian Musicians who emigrate to Sheffield in the 1960s. As they try to carve out a new life in the Steel City, family quarrels, a longing for home and the impact of everyday racism threatens to quash their dreams of reviving the band that brought them fame, if not fortune, in their home in South India. Big Band sounds collide with 60s pop music in this piece set in the industrial city of steel.

### **RESEARCH: Where Am I? Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Role Models and Leaders in Performing Arts; partnership with CAMEo Research Institute for Cultural and Media Economies at University of Leicester.**

Workers of Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds are under-represented in the cultural industries workforce. This AHRC-funded Clore Leadership Programme project explored the importance of BAME role models for developing a more diverse workforce. *A Pocket Guide to Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Role Models and Leaders in Performing Arts, how to find one, be one and make a difference* will be launched in November 2017 to share key findings.

To find out more about our work go to [www.mayaproductions.co.uk](http://www.mayaproductions.co.uk), follow us on Twitter: @mayatheatre or email: info@mayaproductio.co.uk

**Role Title:** Chair, Maya board

**Salary:** Voluntary

## **The role**

The Chair will hold the Board to account for the Maya's mission and vision, providing inclusive leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensuring that each trustee fulfils their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of the charity. The Chair will also support, and, where appropriate, challenge the Chief Executive and ensure that the Board functions as a unit and works closely with the entire Executive of the charity to achieve agreed objectives.

He or she will act as an ambassador and the public face of the charity in partnership with the Chief Executive.

Experience of working in one or more of the following: the creative industries; heritage; fundraising; business; governance; education; and strategic management sectors

A passion for the arts/and or theatre

A champion of diversity

## **Strategic leadership**

- Provide leadership to the charity and its Board, ensuring that the Charity has maximum impact
- Ensure that Trustees fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of Maya
- Contribute to Maya production making in particular relating it's Mission, Objectives and Key Performance Indicators
- Ensure that the Board operates within its charitable objectives, and provides a clear strategic direction for the Charity
- Ensure that the Board is able to regularly review major risks and associated opportunities, and satisfy itself that systems are in place to take advantage of opportunities, and manage and mitigate the risks
- Ensure that the Board fulfils its duties to ensure sound financial health of the charity, with systems in place to ensure financial accountability
- Help the trustees and the executive to develop, shape or refresh its strategy

## **General leadership**

- Focus on succession planning, recruiting and developing board members; handling conflict within the board and mediating where necessary
- Work closely with the Chief Executive to give direction to Board policy-making and to ensure that meetings are well planned, meaningful and reflect the responsibilities of trustees
- Monitor that decisions taken at meetings are implemented

## **External relationships**

- Act as an ambassador for the cause and the charity
- Maintain close relationships with key members of the theatre industry and with key influences
- Act as a spokesperson for the organisation when appropriate
- Represent the charity at external functions, meetings and events
- Facilitate change and address any potential conflict with external stakeholders
- Provide development of Maya's role with the industry
- Share personal contacts obtained from the theatre world

## **Application Process**

To apply please email the following to Artistic Director, Suzanne Gorman by **5pm Friday 17 November:-**

- A CV,
- A short letter stating why you are interested in the role and detailing the skills and experience you will bring to it.
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form -- this will be separated from your application. The form is below or a word version can be downloaded from the website.

Email to: [jobs@mayaproductions.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mayaproductions.co.uk)

Please quote **Chair, Maya Productions Board of Trustees** in Subject Heading

If you have any questions, please email Suzanne – [suzanne@mayaproductions.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@mayaproductions.co.uk)

If you are interested in seeing Maya Productions' work we are currently holding work-in-progress performances of The Croydon Avengers. Tickets are still available for the Ovalhouse performance and can be found [here](#)

## Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

This questionnaire is not obligatory but by completing it you will help us monitor the effectiveness of our equal opportunities policy. The request for this information and the uses to which it will be put are within the scope of the Data Protection Act 1998, which allows for the collation and reporting of sensitive data for monitoring purposes.

### Gender identity

I identify my gender as Male /Female \_\_\_\_\_ (please circle) Prefer not to answer

Age

To which age group do you belong?(please circle)

Below 20      20 – 29      30 – 39      40 – 49      50 – 59  
60- 69      70 – 79      80 – 89      90+      Prefer not to answer

### Cultural Diversity

Please tick the ethnic category that best represents you. As you make your decision, please think about what ethnic group means to you, that is, how you see yourself. Your ethnic category is a mixture of culture, religion, skin colour, language and the origins of yourself and your family. It is not the same as nationality.

#### White

- British  
 Irish  
 Any other white background, please state \_\_\_\_\_

#### Asian or Asian British

- Asian Bangladeshi  
 Asian Indian  
 Asian Pakistani  
 Any other Asian background, please state \_\_\_\_\_

#### Black or Black British

- Black African  
 Black Caribbean  
 Any other Black background, please state \_\_\_\_\_

#### Chinese or other ethnic group

- Chinese  
 Any other, please state \_\_\_\_\_

#### Dual Heritage

- Dual Asian & White  
 Dual Black African & White  
 Dual Black Caribbean & White  
 Dual Chinese & White  
 Any other background, please state \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any other background, please state \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prefer not to answer

#### Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

The Disability Discrimination Act defines disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

YES  NO  Prefer not to answer

**Note:** The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines a disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term (i.e. lasting more than 12 months) adverse effect on your day to day living. You may still be considered to have a disability if you are not currently adversely affected but the impairment is likely to recur, or the condition is progressive.

How did you hear about this position?

Arts Jobs  Croydon Disability Youth Project  Website  Arts Organisation  Word of Mouth  Other  \_\_\_\_\_