



amal
SAÏD FOUNDATION

kalasangam

Family Theatre Commission

- Stratford Circus Arts Centre (SCAC) and Kala Sangam will commission a new piece of family theatre by an artist or company
- The commission will share & celebrate British Muslim experiences, culture and communities
- The commission will premiere in Autumn 2020 in London & Bradford
- Makers & artists of Muslim heritage are encouraged to apply
- Applications close Fri 5 July 5pm

SCAC in Newham East London and Kala Sangam in Bradford will work together to commission a brand new piece of work to premiere in Autumn 2020. Recognising a lack of representation in children's theatre, the organisations will partner with Amal, a programme of the Saïd Foundation, to support artists/companies bringing stories of British Muslim experiences to the stage.

The aims of the commission include increasing understanding of British Muslim communities by celebrating culture on stage, as well as ensuring children see themselves represented in theatre.

Britain's rich and vibrant culture is increasingly represented in film, television and theatre. As arts organisations we recognise the progress in adult theatre spaces and know that the communities we serve more often see themselves reflected in our work and programmes. This cannot be said for children's work and there are challenges in making sure children in modern Britain see their experience reflected on stage.

This commission is particularly aimed at artists seeking to put British Muslim experiences on the stage. With shared values of inclusivity, access, representation and joy, we hope to bring an exciting new piece to communities in Newham, Bradford and the wider UK.

Applying

- The piece must be suitable for ages 3+
- A scratch piece will be developed over Summer 2019 to be shared in November 2019, this can take the form of a short performance, presentation, or other form suitable to the company and process
- The final commissioned piece will be created in Summer 2020 to premier and tour in Autumn 2020

- The proposal must demonstrate how your piece will support our objectives around developing art/artists representing & celebrating British Muslim experiences
- Suited for small scale touring
- With an understanding that additional funding may be required

Commission and support

Following shortlisting and an interview process, three pieces will be chosen for seed commission. Seed commissions will receive the below support:

- £2,000 seed commission funding to further work up their idea
- 1 x week 100% subsidised space in Stratford or Bradford
- Pitching opportunity to producers, programmers and venues supporting theatre for young audiences

One company/artist will be taken forward to full commission. The successful commission will receive:

- £20,000 commission fund
- 3 x weeks 100% subsidised space for creation in Stratford or Bradford
- Production week tech support in Stratford or Bradford
- Premiere in Stratford or Bradford
- Additional expenses available for artists based outside of London and Bradford, to cover accommodation and travel
- Marketing and audience development support
- Fundraising & producer support from SCAC

Following the premiere the company will be supported in touring the piece to UK venues.

The commission fee includes performance at SCAC & KS, additional fees will be negotiated for a minimum of five performances in other venues.

Applications

To apply, please send the following documents to programming@stratford-circus.com with the subject line COMMISSIONS:

- A pitch/treatment on your idea – include as much information as possible, including any scripts and images
- A company/artist bio listing your previous experience
- A draft budget including the £20k commission and any other finances that will be included – this does not need to be confirmed, we understand budgets change but want an idea of what costs are involved – please use the example (Appendix 1) if you require guidance

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your application, please contact Ashlie Nelson on 020 8279 1030.

Deadline: Fri 5 Jul 2019 at 5pm

Interviews: Early-Mid July

Stratford Circus Arts Centre is a vibrant place to create and experience art through world-class theatre, dance, music and circus and visual exhibitions, presenting work for families, young people and adults. **SCAC** works with national, international and **East London** artists to create new work that is relevant to local people, connecting artists and audiences to help them find authentic voices.

We provide accessible creative experiences and performances on the doorstep of people in Newham and East London. We believe that access to art brings joy, empowers people, and draws them together.

We are proud to be a partner of the East London Cultural Education Alliance, delivering outstanding creative opportunities for children and young people across East London.

Our building receives more than 125,000 visits a year and is a key resource for the local community. We regularly hire out space to artists, schools and local groups as well as corporate clients and promoters.

Kala Sangam is an **intercultural arts hub** which aims to reflect the diversity of contemporary Britain through the work the company presents, the artists it supports and the communities it engages. Specialising in South Asian arts and culture, most of the organisation's work takes place in its arts centre in Bradford's Little Germany cultural quarter, with outreach activities extending nationally and internationally.

In Sanskrit, 'Kala' means arts and 'Sangam' means a meeting point. **Kala Sangam** aims to bring people and communities together to create and experience high-quality diverse art, to increase understanding and awareness of different cultures, and to provide talent development pathways for young people and emerging artists into a career in the arts.

Amal - 'hope' in Arabic – is a programme of the **Saïd Foundation** making grants in the UK in support of a rich diversity of arts projects and activities, including storytelling, visual arts, theatre, poetry, film, music and dance. The programme aims to further the following dual interlinked objectives:

1. To increase understanding of Britain's Muslim communities among people of other faiths and none;
2. To foster a stronger sense of belonging in the UK among its Muslim communities.

Amal believes that engagement in arts and cultural activity broadens horizons and forges common ground within and between communities. The programme hopes to touch the lives of many, creating greater understanding and bringing people together in creative, innovative and exciting ways.

www.stratford-circus.com

www.kalasangam.org

www.amal.org.uk

