



Press Release  
Wednesday 22 September 2021

## THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE AND GRAEAE ANNOUNCE YEAR-LONG WRITING ATTACHMENT WITH SHAHID IQBAL KHAN



Photo: Shahid Iqbal Khan. Credit Darren Robinson

The Royal Court Theatre and Graeae are delighted to announce that Shahid Iqbal Khan will begin a year-long attachment programme in January 2022. As well as a co-commission, this programme will embed Shahid into the work of both organisations and give him a platform to explore, interrogate and experiment.

Commenting on the attachment Khan said;

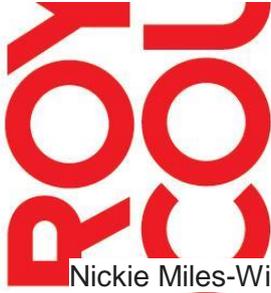
*"This is a dream come true! I have learnt so much from Graeae and Royal Court in the past few years and I'm really looking forward to building and developing my artistic practice. I can't wait to spend my 2022 with two such brilliant organisations."*

Shahid Iqbal Khan's first play was for Carol Godby's Festival of Plays (Met Theatre, Bury). He joined the Manchester Muslim Writers' group not long after, a collective that inspired him to explore and compose poetry.

He was Associate Artist for Phizzical Productions and is an alumnu of Graeae Theatre's prestigious Write To Play programme.

His next play, *10 Nights*, will run from 7 October 2021 to 6 November 2021 at the Bush Theatre - a co-production be between Graeae and Tamasha, in association with the Bush Theatre.

His theatre credits include *The Smile of Despair* (Attenborough Arts Centre), *Stardust* (Belgrade Theatre), *Never Been Away* (2020: Collection 1) (Tara Theatre). Shahid Iqbal Khan is part of BBC Writersroom Writers Access Group (20/21) and Writers Group co-led by Royal Court Theatre and Deafinitely Theatre (20/21).



Nickie Miles-Wildin, Associate Director at Graeae said;

*"Shahid is a truly engaging and gifted writer who came to Graeae through our Write To Play programme. I'm thrilled that the Royal Court and Graeae are working in partnership to develop and nurture this amazing playwright. I cannot wait to see what Shahid creates."*

Lucy Morrison, Associate Director at the Royal Court Theatre added;

*"We are hugely excited to be partnering with Graeae Theatre Company - a trailblazing force for theatre and home to the country's leading Deaf and disabled artists, to co-commission Shahid Iqbal Khan. Shahid is a writer who asks big questions through deep and detailed characters and we look forward to being enriched and energised by his thinking over the coming year.*

*We hope it will be an empowering experience for him to shape his own journey with both organisations and a way to grow our relationship with a writer we have loved getting to know through conversations about his work and through our Royal Court/Deafinitely writers' group."*

For more information about Graeae, visit their website:

<https://graeae.org/>

**ENDS-**

Press contact Anoushka Warden on [AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com](mailto:AnoushkaWarden@royalcourttheatre.com)

**Notes to Editors:**

Biography

**Shahid Iqbal Khan**

Theatre credits include ***Ten Nights*** (Graeae and Tamasha, Bush Theatre), ***The Smile of Despair*** (Attenborough Arts Centre), ***Stardust*** (Belgrade Theatre), ***Never Been Away (2020: Collection 1)*** (Tara Theatre).

Audio credits: ***The Return (That Podcast)*** (English Touring Theatre / Storyglass), ***Bhavika***

***(Connections)*** (Naked Productions), ***Brandlesholme (Sheltering)*** (BBC Radio 4).

Shahid Iqbal Khan is part of BBC Writersroom Writers Access Group (20/21) and Writers Group co-led by Royal Court Theatre and Deafinitely Theatre (20/21).

# GRAEAE



## About Graeae

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2021, Graeae is an acclaimed and award-winning theatre company, existing to cultivate and champion the best in Deaf and disabled talent on the UK and international stages. Recent productions and co-productions have included Ten Nights (making its world premiere at the Bush Theatre in autumn 2021), two seasons of the digital new work programme Crips without Constraints, Signal Fires, One Under, the hit Ian Dury musical Reasons to be Cheerful, The House of Bernarda Alba starring Kathryn Hunter, Blood Wedding, The Threepenny Opera, and outdoor epics The Iron Man and This Is Not For You. With Naked Productions for BBC Radio 4, Graeae have also produced radical reinterpretations of classic drama in recent years, including Bartholomew Abominations, Three Sisters, Amy Dorrit, and Midwich Cuckoos. In addition to productions, Graeae also runs an extensive programme of training, learning, and creative professional development programmes throughout the year including Ensemble for young theatre-makers and the Beyond scheme, to help Deaf and disabled artists to flourish and grow. Since 1997, Graeae has been run by Jenny Sealey MBE, who also co-directed the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony. Graeae are a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England. [graeae.org](http://graeae.org)