PhD placement opportunity at Tamasha Theatre Company

Tamasha is a national touring theatre company which throughout 2020 celebrates its 30th anniversary.

From our British Asian roots, we have evolved into the UK’s leading theatre company foregrounding emerging and established artists from a wide range of culturally diverse backgrounds. We:

- **Fuel** the future of new writing by producing and touring the best new plays, that challenge and change audiences everywhere

- **Nurture**, train and inspire artists, leaders and young people through Tamasha Developing Artists

- **Enable** theatre makers to engage creatively with communities and audiences, altering the perception of what theatre can be and who it is for.

Successes like *East is East*, *Snookered*, *My Name is...*, *Made in India*, *Does My Bomb Look Big In This?* and *I Wanna Be Yours* have won acclaim from critics and audiences alike.

Tamasha is in the early stages of conducting some research about the use of language and acronyms in our sector. We and our collaborators have long felt that terms such as ‘diverse’, ‘BAME’ and ‘People of Colour’ are unsatisfactory yet have become ubiquitous. This is partly due to the lack of credible alternatives. As a leader in our field, we would like to lead on starting to identify some new terms, in collaboration with an academic partner.

In addition to our 30 year history of productions, we have a thriving artist training network, Tamasha Developing Artists, with over 2,000 emerging theatremakers on a mailing list, with regular events throughout the year for playwrights, directors, actors and producers. These individuals represent a new generation of politically and socially engaged artists from a wide range of backgrounds, who would make a lively and ready-made focus group for this discussion.

We are keen to meet doctoral candidates who share our interest in this area, and who might be interested in leading this discussion with our networks of collaborators, with a view to documenting the debate and (hopefully) generating some alternative terminology, which we can distribute within the wider cultural sector as a report. It is likely that this would attract some media interest.

In addition to this focus, there are numerous other strands of our work which might also interest a PhD student to study, for example Tamasha Digital, our rolling programme of workshops, and our scratch nights showcasing work-in-progress from numerous artists.

However, our main focus and priority is the study of the language used to describe ethnicity. In this, we are well connected to other theatre companies, including venues and other touring companies with an interest in this area such as Eclipse, Tiata Fahodzi, and Talawa.

Working in this way with an academic partner and PhD student is a first for us, and we are open to suggestion on how best to shape the placement.

To express an interest please contact Artistic Director Fin Kennedy on fin@tamasha.org.uk or call 020 7749 0090 for an informal, no obligation chat.