

Split stage, Immersive, Music Theatre

A Voice Lesson

Developed through two Britten Pears Artist Residencies

Directed by
Anna-Helena McLean



"Incredible"

SOMERSET HOUSE

"The unlocking
of a mystery
- I loved it"

BARBICAN

"Groundbreaking"

VASTA

In collaboration with
Andrew Cooper, Kendell Foster,
Marina Hata, Noah Silverstone,
Erin Nicole Washington
and 'The Identity Choir'

Funded by Arts Council England and through a 6 month association with Icarus Theatre Collective. Currently in partnership with Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Dartington Hall Trust, Petok Productions, St. Margaret's House, Lifesize CIC, Maketank Exeter, Alef Trust, Centro Anidra and Stables Theatre Hastings

BRITTEN PEARS
ARTS

Drawing inspiration from Virginia Woolf's,
Orlando: A Biography and an Ancient Mesopotamian Poem

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND
Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Combining stories of women spanning 4,000 years, this taster for a stunning, new, split stage work of theatre opens the way to a forgotten path. Voice coach Orla, meets a 12-year old called Nin. Overwhelmed by the world outside but determined to be a performer one day, Nin seeks Orla's teaching to find her authentic voice. Guided by friends, caught between the old and the new, 'A Voice Lesson' is a celebration of difference. Audiences are invited to follow Nin's light and raise a star for the future in an 'Identity Choir' of welcome strangers.



Anna-Helena McLean is looking for a producer and co-commissioning partners, in-kind rehearsal space and residencies as well as additional funding to enable a team of 14 artists to come together for 3 months over the span of two years from October 2024. The company aim to mount the finished production of *A Voice Lesson* along with company training and outreach in the form of *Identity Choir* workshops. The project aims to inspire the voices of women, LGBT+ communities, learning disabled and neurodivergent people including those with autism, parent-artists, disadvantaged youth, non-white and mixed ethnicity groups.

We want to realise:
4 weeks of script and score development
5 weeks of rehearsals, followed by touring
Monthly community workshops with diverse identity groups

We are looking for funding in the region of £120, 000 (ACE bid + match funding) and confirmed investments in future bookings. To request a production pack or arrange a meeting email scarlettactinternational@gmail.com

THE TEAM

ANNA-HELENA MCLEAN - Director

Producing director of *ACT International* and currently a doctoral researcher of Performance Practice at Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Formerly principal of the *Gardzienice* Theatre Association in Poland (2000-07). *ACT* is McLean 's inclusive reconceptualisation of the Polish laboratory, created from the perspective of a classical 'cellist and actor. *ACT* symbiotically interweaves music, movement, text, electronics and projection to create visceral new drama while responding to and reinventing the given spatial location with diversely identifying artists.

NAZLI TABATABAI-KHATAMBAKHSI - Libretto and consultation

BSc. Hons, MLitt, MA and Doctoral Researcher and Professor of Opera Libretto at Guildhall School. Directed Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, 2022 commissions included Royal Opera House.



**SANDEEP
GURRAPADI**
**Performer,
Tenor &
Facilitator**



**MARINA
HATA**
**Performer &
Consultant**



**ERIN NICOLE
WASHINGTON**
**Coach, Actor &
Consultant**



**ANNA-HELENA
MCLEAN**
**Artistic
Lead &
Composer**



**KENZELL
FOSTER**
**Sound Artist &
AV Engineer**



PRODUCER TESTIMONIALS

JONATHAN BEAN

Fundraising partner and consultant

Anna-Helena's extraordinary work combines academic insight and rigour - exploring vital themes of identity - with an original creative practice that defies convention. With the input of a talented, multidisciplinary team, this approach has created an exciting and unique artistic production that pushes theatre, music and opera forward in new ways.

TASH CROWLEY

Co-producer and funding representative

Anna-Helena is the definition of a true artistic collaborator and an absolute delight to work with. She is generous, passionate, organised, thoughtful, and truly unique. Anna-Helena also keeps excellent company, surrounding herself with creatives of the highest calibre and allowing safe spaces for artists to speak freely and open their minds to what is possible. She brings multiple perspectives and voices together, encouraging deep conversation and creating work that speaks to and champions the experiences of many, particularly those within historically marginalized groups. Vital stories and lessons are being brought to the fore in her work because Anna Helena insists that care, attention, truth, patience, and precision are central to her processes, whether she is workshopping her own material, developing learning opportunities for the public, or finding new ways to bring creative minds together. Hers is inclusive, community-inspired, entirely original work that deserves a significant platform, one that will allow her vision to inspire future generations of artists.

LES LANCASTER

Co-producer and director of Alef Trust

Anna-Helena is a truly inspiring teacher and performer of her art. Her physical theatre practice shows the essential integration of consciousness, thought, and voice through embodiment. This work touches the visceral core that so many inhibit, and pulses with roots in a deep mystical and shamanic way of being that brings real presence to theatre practice. Anna-Helena is a reflective practitioner at the top of her craft.



THE TEAM

LIN COGHLAN, BETTRY'S JONES, & NAZLI TABATABAI-KHATAMBAKHSI
Text, Libretto and Dramaturgical Consultancy

RANIAH AL-SAYED Assistant Director

TANIA CAMARA Producing Assistant PADDY MOLLOY Artwork design

YVON BONENFANT Voiceturgy and access consultation



SANDEEP GURRAPADI
Performer & Facilitator



MARINA HATA
Performer & Research Participant



ERIN NICOLE WASHINGTON
Consultant & Facilitator



ANNA-HELENA MCLEAN
Director, Composer & Performer



KENDELL FOSTER
Sound Artist & AV Engineer



ZAHRA MANSOURI
Design



DOM HARWOOD
Ai enhanced technology



ANDREW A C COOPER
Support Worker & Facilitator



PEMBE TOKLUHAN
EDIA+ Consultant



LIV PENNY
Videographer