



ARCOLA LAB

Nurturing the diverse, rich and vibrant creative talent emerging within our society

sustained theatre
raising the roof

the
london
hub


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Arcola Theatre: a home for diversity

Arcola Theatre

Arcola Theatre is a laboratory of innovation feeding the UK and European theatre. From its home in a converted paint factory in the heart of Dalston East London, Arcola remains necessarily radical and non conformist - unafraid of asking questions, thinking beyond the boundaries and looking at the world from the outside in.

Arcola Theatre is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and is considered as one of the most respected arts venues in the UK.

Whoever you are, whatever you are...come!

Arcola was founded in 2000, by Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen and Executive Producer Leyla Nazli and now in its thirteen short years of operation, Arcola Theatre has been blazing a trail in artistic excellence and for its innovative management style.

Arcola is home to three distinct and characterful performances spaces as well as its vibrant Arcola Lab giving opportunities to a diverse range of artists.

Arcola is underpinned by its three pillars of work:

- **Diverse Theatre** - Developing a dynamic and strong reputation for its high standards and diversity of theatre programming through to feeding the UK Theatre industry with the raw talent of actors, directors, writers and creatives, nurturing new voices for the stage.
- **Creative Engagement** – Arcola’s community and creative engagement programmes serving its local area and nurturing a new generation of artists, audiences and theatre practitioners.
- **Sustainable Arts** – Living by example its ethos and experimentation for environmentally sustainable arts practice and pushing the boundaries of “greener” venue management.

Pillar One – Diverse Theatre

Arcola’s in-house productions feature some of the most exciting and vibrant directors, actors and writers working in the Theatre industry in the UK and across Europe, within the exposed brick and steel industrial aesthetic of its main house Arcola Studio One.

Arcola uncovers its most vital work with some of the emerging exciting young companies and new voices developing work today in its new and intimate Arcola Studio Two space.

Arcola's also gives a space for comedy in its pop up Arcola Tent, working with the best comedy promoters to bring a eclectic mix of UK comedy acts into a circus tent for nights of laughter and merriment in the middle of urban East London.

Arcola is much more than an arts venue and acts as a London home for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) artists to explore and develop their work for the stage through its flagship Arcola LAB programme.

Pillar Two – Creative Engagement

Arcola is also home to one of the most extensive multi-cultural community and youth engagement programmes in East London.

Its aim is to raise the bar for community and youth engagement in a creative context. Arcola strives to deliver the best opportunities in one of the most deprived boroughs in the UK. Arcola Creative Engagement brings groundbreaking companies such a *Punchdrunk* to Dalston to work with the community, through to its own Ala Turka Theatre company providing the Turkish and Kurdish communities of East London with a Theatre company that speaks up for them and their cultural identities.

There is truly a place for everyone, whether you are 13 and looking for a local drama class to join or if you're a 73 and looking for a place to socialise and keep active...**Arcola is a place to find a place.**

Pillar Three – Sustainable Arts

Arcola as an organisation and a venue, is a living example of an organisation trying to be a less invasive and throw away and striving to be a more sustainable, efficient and productive arts organisation. All within a UK Theatre industry not overly famed for its environmental credentials, literally existing with the core notion of living for the moment not planning for the future!

Green Arcola, Arcola Energy and the Environmental Sustainability Programme form the core of this work with its long term aim to help Arcola Theatre become the first carbon neutral Theatre in the world.

Arcola Energy is building on the last five years of pioneering work in three programme areas:

- *Sustainable Technology Development & Deployment*: natural ventilation, low energy lighting, renewable heating, renewable fuel cells & hydrogen
- *Public Education*: Housing the organisation in a public "living experiment" with innovative usage throughout the building of these ideas (LED lighting, DC Microgrids, Joju Solar Panels, heating through sophisticated wood burning boilers), new technology and products, demonstration of green energy products

in its onsite energy lab, youth training via its 'Arcola Energy for Schools', community outreach programmes, through its Green Sundays programme and finally its partnerships with the leading organisations developing long lasting renewable technologies and practice in various business sectors.

- *Art and Science Partnerships*: with leading organisations in the field of renewable energy, creating a multi-disciplinary space where arts and science professionals can share ideas through joint projects and seminars.

Awards, recognition and impact

Arcola Theatre has won numerous awards in its 13 year history.

Most recently this included winning in 2013 and 2014 What's on Stage award for its recent musical *Sweet Smell of Success* and for the director of its opera *Pelleas et Melisande* through to "Most Welcoming Theatre" and "Best Bar" at the 2013 and 2014 Off West End Awards.

Awards have included:

- Peter Brook Empty Space Awards in 2002, 2003, 2008 and 2011
- Numerous awards for shows that have been performed and staged at Arcola – most recently in 2014 a plethora of awards for Best Ensemble *Simple8 Moby Dick* and *Dr Caligari* and *Lizzie Siddal* for best Design and Lighting.
- Time Out Live Awards in 2003 and 2006
- What's On Stage Award for 'Best Off-West End Production' in 2008 and most recently What's On Stage Award for 'Original Music' for the production of *Sweet Smell of Success*
- What's On Stage Award 2014 for Best Newcomer to the UK Operatic Scene for Aylin Bozok (director of Arcola's *Pelleas et Melisande* at Grimeborn Arcola).
- Numerous Off West End Award (Offies) – most recently for Most Welcoming Theatre in East London 2013 and Most Welcoming Theatre and Best Bar in 2014.
- Creative Engagement - Recognised in 2008 as a nominee of the South Bank Show 'Diversity Award'.
- Mayor of Hackney's Business Award for Social Enterprise 2009
- Green Arcola - Energy Globe UK Winner 2008
- Green Arcola - CBI Growing Business Awards 'Green Award' Winner 2008
- Green Arcola - Greening the Third Sector & Resource Conservation awards in the 2010
- Green Arcola - Sustainable City Awards
- Green Arcola - Gold Star Award in 2011 (Green Tourism accreditation scheme).

Arcola feeding the Theatre industry... Arcola Alumni include:

Lucy Kirkwood, William Gaskill, Sacha Wares, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Ariel Dorfman, Sean Holmes, Dominic Dromgoole, Max Stafford-Clark, Frank McGuinness, Jack Shepherd, Polly Findlay, David Farr, Simple 8, Bonnie Greer, Adam Rapp, Sam Sheppard, Eric Schlosser, Helena Kaut-Howson, Greg Hicks, Lia Williams, Bill Bryden, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Kathryn Hunter and many more.

'Arcola Theatre brings the very best of the worlds performing and visual arts to the people of the world living and working in London' THE GUARDIAN



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Arcola Theatre and Sustained Theatre

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Arcola Theatre is proud to be a member of Sustained Theatre and its regional hub The London Hub.

Arcola Theatre forms a key part to Sustained Theatre's national strategy (supported by Arts Council England) for developing and promoting the artistic work of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) artists across England.

Serving the London based BAMER community this aim also forms a strong thread in Arcola Theatre's strategic mission, aims and objectives.

Arcola Theatre's renovation works in late 2012 (the completion of the first phase in November 2012) have enabled the organisation to become the first of a planned five national Sustained Theatre hubs.

With Arcola's strategic emphasis on feeding and nurturing a more diverse theatre industry and building an ecosystem of practitioners and artists making sustainable and exciting theatre in the UK and Europe, this new Arcola hub (entitled the Arcola LAB) provides a means to achieve that.

This creative space called the Arcola LAB promotes the work of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee artists and provides a home for exploring new ideas and new voices in a safe and structured professional arts venue.

"We believe it is possible to develop a network of buildings with flexible spaces that nurture talent, promote excellence, provide career progression opportunities, and foster more equitable relations with the mainstream theatre sector".

Sustained Theatre



Arcola LAB

Arcola Theatre has partnered with Sustained Theatre and Arts Council England to open up its spaces to become a home to a diverse range of artists and creatives (specifically from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, Refugee communities) who wish to be based at the heart of the Arcola building and become resident creative occupiers of its new **Arcola LAB**.

These “Creative Occupiers” have the chance to book “creative headspace” within the Arcola LAB and use Arcola’s new rehearsal studios and office space to develop and nurture their creative ideas, having the freedom to experiment, explore and devise new creative work, free from the pressures of public performance.

Being a Creative Occupier in the Arcola LAB is brimming with opportunity.

If selected as a Creative Occupier you get the following:

- **Week long tenancy to the Arcola LAB as a resident Creative Occupier**
- **Access to the Arcola LAB rehearsal room**
- **Access to a desk, computer and internet facilities**
- **Meeting space in the Arcola Café/Bar**
- **A chance to share your ideas through an open rehearsal to industry contacts and venues.**
- **Share and network your ideas by being placed in a Theatre venue – network with a multitude of actors, directors and creatives that are developing and producing shows on Arcola’s vibrant stages.**
- **Automatic membership of the London Hub/Sustained Theatre.**

To apply to become a creative occupier of the Arcola LAB, on a downloadable form accessed from the Arcola website, Arcola asks BAMER artists to submit the following details: *(If the form ticks all the boxes and answers all the questions below, then places are offered on a first come first served basis)*

- **Preferred dates to occupy the Arcola LAB (chosen out of the tenancy list online)**
- **Idea of how a week’s residency will help the individual develop as an artist**
- **What creative idea the artist would like to explore in the Arcola LAB**
- **Name and contact details (individual and company)**
- **The “audiences” the work will engage with (audience is a broad term to encompass all ages, all backgrounds, communities, sections of the general public that could potentially benefit from the realisation of the creative idea).**
- **CV, experience to date and links to any previous work or websites**
- **Lastly we ask the artist to consider - How is their creative idea sustainable?**

Many Sustained Theatre members have also asked for full public performance opportunities at Arcola Theatre. Whilst this is outside the scope of the Arcola LAB

project, Arcola is keen to find projects that accommodate this - feeding work from the research and development and rehearsal process developed in the Arcola LAB and taking this into the Theatre's regular programming.

This Sustained Theatre offer forms a key part of Arcola Theatre's regular programming and production work. Since the reopening of the theatre in November 2012, Arcola have started to introduce its Sustained Theatre offer in the following ways:

- **Regular programming of plays written, directed and/or performed by BAMER artists, within Arcola main programme.**
- **Regular music events as part of our Arcola Bar performances**
- **The Kali Theatre 25th anniversary Talkback Season held recently at Arcola Theatre.**
- **The annual Orient Express festival.**
- **A home for our in house Turkish and Kurdish Theatre company Ala Turka.**
- **The Europe Now Project, which involves BAMER artists from a partnership network of 5 theatres across Europe.**
- **New European Middle Western Arts project working with BAMER artists and plays – touring in Europe 2014-16**
- **Tamasha Theatre staging workshops within the space and bringing their production *My Name Is...* coming to Arcola Theatre in 2014**
- **Our annual Grimeborn Festival that brings new voices and plays into the opera sector.**
- **Arcola LAB offer will be actively promoted locally, regionally and nationally from July 2014.**

ARCOLA LAB NETWORKS

Beyond the programmes that Arcola runs, the organisation encourages artists to explore networks with the following groups:

- **Sustained Theatre Network** is a movement of artists and theatre makers working to create a new inclusive landscape for British Culture to flourish regionally, nationally and internationally. The network has a long-term strategy to keep issues relating to Black, Asian, and minority ethnic theatre artists and practitioners alive and in the national debate through networking, research and debate.
- **The London Hub** is one of Sustained Theatre's regional networks, and is a registered charity which unites and celebrates leading BAMER artists and organisations across London, creating positive partnerships and dynamic arts events to support the future arts and cultural landscape for a forward thinking and diverse Britain. Arcola Theatre is one of 18 founding members of the London Hub.

For more information about Sustained Theatre visit www.sustainedtheatre.org.uk



PLAYWROUGHT – BAMER WRITERS

PLAYWROUGHT - Developing BAMER writers

Core to the development of BAMER writers as a part of the development of the new **Arcola LAB** programme will be the:

PLAYWROUGHT: BAMER PLAYWRITING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

Born out of Arcola's PLAYWROUGHT series this programme is aimed at individual BAMER writers, artists and companies and offers a programme of new ideas, new voices and new writing skills to develop plays developed from BAMER artists and nurture them from page to stage.

The word "wrought" is an archaic English term for a craftsman or builder. When combined with the word play, this indicates someone who has wrought words, themes, and other elements into a dramatic form, someone who crafts plays.

PLAYWROUGHT is a regular festival of new writing taking place at Arcola Theatre. Across a two week period (one week of development and one week of public readings), exciting new plays will premier as a series of rehearsed readings with professional actors.

Drawn from across the London community, playwrights vary in age and experience, but each have a unique voice that deserves to be heard.

PLAYWROUGHT was born out of Arcola Theatre's frustration at not being able to work with as many new writers as the organisation would like. Arcola Theatre, receive countless submissions from playwrights every year. Without a literary department, we are unable to be as active as we would like, particularly in developing those plays which show real promise, but would benefit from time, space, support and a platform to share their work.

The **PLAYWROUGHT: BAMER PLAYWRITING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME** is a culmination of this unique development process and a new strand of the playwriting programme that aims to celebrate and support new and emerging talent from the BAMER artistic community, regardless of age, by providing these BAMER playwrights with the training, space and support in which to develop their ideas.

The new series will specifically focus on BAMER writers and be developed for late 2014/15.

“We are delighted to offer emerging artists, predominantly from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic or Refugee backgrounds, the opportunity to develop their creative work within the facilities of the Arcola LAB or within the ARCOLA PLAYWROUGHT (BAMER) WRITING PROGRAMME. Arcola have always championed the voice of the underrepresented in our society and we hope that our Arcola LAB AND PLAYWROUGHT projects will become a fantastic resource promoting diversity within the Theatre/performance industry as whole”.

**Jamie Arden
General Manager
Arcola Theatre**



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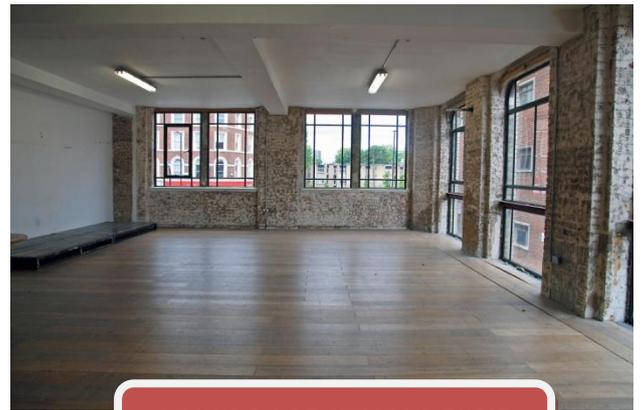


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Arcola LAB SPACES PICTURES



ARCOLA LAB STUDIO THREE



ARCOLA LAB STUDIO FOUR



**STUDIO TWO
HOME OF ARCOLA LAB PRODUCTIONS**



ARCOLA LAB OFFICE SPACE



**ARCOLA LAB
MEETING/MUSIC SPACE IN
ARCOLA CAFÉ BAR**



Arcola Theatre LAB Tenancies and reduced rate sustained theatre programmes - 2012/2013/2014

Arcola LAB Tennant "Creative Occupier"	Dates	Arcola LAB Creative idea/BAMER programme
2012		
Kali Theatre	4th - 22nd December	TALKBACK FESTIVAL
Kali Theatre	4th - 22nd December	SHARED MEMORIES
2013		
Kandace Caine	13th - 17th May	Caribbean inspired Taming of the Shrew
EUROPE NOW	Major BAMER Touring work (Jan-May)	Riksteatern, Theatre RAS, Ballhaus, Talimhane
Rasheeda Nalumosu	24th June - 28th June	Project Boondock - The Minotaurs Cave reworking
Rachel Nanyonjo	6th July - 12th July	2:1 Dance Project - Exploring Power and Gender
Rough Cuts	15th July – 19th July	Turkish stories retold
Paul Anthony Morris	9th - 14th September	SARAI - Creative retelling of the Biblical story
State of Emergency	Various Dates (once a month)	Live Music and dance fusion
Shanti Shi	14th - 19th Oct and 18th - 23rd Nov	Storytelling using traditional African tales
ZENDEH	22nd October	HEART Project
2014		
Alchemist Theatre	9 th – 17 th January	DEAD GRASS – JANET ETUK
Tamasha Theatre	10th - 13th January	Workshop
OMILUS	8 th MARCH	Workshop
Tamasha Theatre	28th April - 24th May	My Name Is... in STUDIO TWO
HACKNEY WRITERS GROUP	Meet regularly at Arcola Theatre to discuss writing projects	HACKNEY WRITERS GROUP
STATE OF EMERGENCY	Various Dates (once a month)	Live Music and dance fusion
PAUL ANTHONY MORRIS	31 March - 4th April	Stage TWO SARAI - Creative retelling of the Biblical story
REBECCA AMISSAH	From 24 May (10x Saturdays *10 week course)	Workshop
PLAYWROUGHT BAMER FESTIVAL	14 th – 26 th July	BAMER 2 week long Playwriting festival
SIBILA DIAZ-PLAJA	7 th – 12 th April	PEGS OFF PROJECT
CATNIP	15 th and 16 th March	JAMES ERNEST
GRIOT TALES	24 th – 29 th November	THE BOATMAN in STUDIO TWO
MIDDLE WESTERN	Major BAMER Touring work (2014-16)	TALHIMANE AND VIAENE WIM

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARCOLA LAB VISIT
<http://www.arcolatheatre.com/about-arcola/arcola-lab>