

Pipeline (working title) **R&D**

written by **Avaes Mohammad**, directed by **Yasmin Sidhwa**

Rehearsed Readings October 2019

Touring Autumn 2020/ Spring 2021

Following the successful tour of our show ***Castaways*** last year, **Mandala Theatre Company** are keen to let you know about the R&D of our new show ***Pipeline*** (working title). Rehearsed readings will take place in October 2019 with a full tour of the show from **Autumn 2020**.



Pipeline is the 3rd part of our trilogy Place, Identity and Belonging building on a successful ACE funded *Castaways* Tour, which resulted in a national 17 cities tour in 2018.

The play has been developed through creative outreach workshops with young people in London, Coventry, Bristol, Banbury, Slough and Oxford. It explores issues around exclusion, education and prison. Research reveals an exclusion to prison pipeline, “42% of those in British prisons were excluded from school as children”.

Our story brings us into the world of young people growing up where ‘*the father can’t teach what he never learnt and so the son keeps on sinning and blames anyone who lit the gunpowder keg he keeps inside. Mothers too hurt at the love lost to see what became of their princes and at what cost?*’

Rehearsed Readings of a new script written by Avaes Mohammad and directed by Yasmin Sidhwa will be performed by professional actors in Oxford, London, Bristol and Coventry in October 2019, where young people will give feedback on the characters and story line feeding into a new draft to be developed by the director and writer ready for a national tour from Autumn 2020.

We are keen to talk about co-production with venues and organisations across the UK

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Mandala – joining people together to empower, enlighten and transform.

Change

Mandala Theatre Company uses the power of performance to change young lives, build communities and foster social justice.

Justice

We are a diversity-led company creating exciting new theatre with social justice at its heart. We give expression to those whose stories are not heard – and give those stories life.

Connection

Our work connects people and brings them together, because we believe that the arts are a force for change.

Mandala Theatre Company's successful *Night Light Tour* in 2016/17 which looked at the challenges that unaccompanied children seeking asylum face when they reach 18 in the UK, following the story of two teenagers and their fight for sanctuary and safety was critically well received:

"Mandala Theatre has richly justified its central ethos of 'visceral theatre" DAILY INFO

"The piece is beautifully raw and really makes you think. Absolutely Flawless" AUD. MEMBER

Feedback on the *Castaways Tour 2017/2018*



'...The combined efforts of Atiha Sen Gupta's thought-provoking script, Nomi Everall's inspired set, the energy and authenticity of the actor's performances and Yasmin Sidhwa's powerful vision, compassion and commitment to change that makes this such an unforgettable and life-changing production' **Oxford Today**

"The play is a rollercoaster of issues presented, integrated one into the next, at breakneck speed, from death and mourning that affect everyone, to issues like racism and sexism that negatively affect so many. My question to the whole audience....'When did you last sit so long in total silence, silences where literally the proverbial pin would have been heard drop'Brilliant!" **Aud. Member**

About the Director

Yasmin Sidhwa has 25 years' experience working as an actor and director, performing with The National Theatre, in repertory and Television. Her directing experience includes Tara Arts, the Edinburgh and International Women's Festivals, and Pegasus Theatre, Oxford, where she was Creative Learning Director for 17 years.

She was founder and director of *Mesh*, a biannual international Youth Arts festival hosted by Pegasus. In 2014, Yasmin received an Oxfordshire High Sheriff's Award for services to the arts and young people. She was a University of Bedfordshire Catalyst Testbeds Artist 2017.

Yasmin directed Mandala's last two shows *Night Light* by Nadia Davids and *Castaways* by Atiha Sen Gupta which toured nationally and Internationally in 2016-2018, and in 2018 directed *Alice in Wonderland* by Ed Hartland with Theatre studio - Teamoi in Lithuania and '*Lucifer and Miss Primrose*' with Histoires 100 Fins in Grenoble in 2019. She is currently immersed in Research and Development for her new show *Pipeline* which will Tour Rehearsed Readings in the Autumn before a full national tour in Autumn 2020.

About the Writer

Avaes Mohammad, artist-chemist, developed his own voice with influences stretching from the Sufi-Saints of South Asia to the Dub-Poets of Jamaica and has since performed his poetry on stages worldwide. Appearing extensively on Radio, his poem Bhopal was commissioned by BBC Radio 4, going on to win an Amnesty International Media Award.

Avaes has had a significant career as a playwright, writing for radio, screen and several theatre companies across the country with his plays *Bhopal* (2003), *In God We Trust* (2005), *The Student* (2007), *Shadow Companion* (2008), *Crystal Kisses* (2010/2011), *Fields of Grey* (2012), *Of Another World* (2014) and his double-bill on the subjects of Muslim extremism and far-right extremism, *Hurling Rubble at the Sun* and *Hurling Rubble at the Moon* (2015).

Avaes has worked with The Royal Court Theatre, English PEN, British Council and the Alternative Living Theatre (India). In 2012 he co-founded The Lahore Agitprop Theatre Company in Pakistan. He is currently Associate Artist with Red Ladder Theatre Company.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mandala Theatre Company is passionate about bringing communities together and provoking discussion and debate through our shows. We have created a comprehensive education programme to run in parallel with the production. In each city, we tour to, we have a 30/45-minute Panel Debate, with local councillors, young people, NGO and Community leaders and academics, talking with the audience. This is free.

As Part of the 'Pipeline' R&D we will be running additional creative workshops in Pupil Referral Units and Youth Offender Institutions, as well as a limited number of schools and colleges using the draft script as a stimulus to explore ideas around exclusion, education and the criminal justice system. If you are keen to be involved in October/ November 2019 or January/ February 2020 please contact us.

There will be a Rehearsed Reading in Oxford on Friday 11th October at 6pm for Industry professionals and another in London on Thursday 17th October venue and time tbc. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION	FOR THE FULL TOUR
RUNNING TIME:	80 minutes, no interval
ON THE ROAD:	3 cast, 1 Technician, 1 Outreach Co-ordinator, 1 Artistic Director.
PLAYING SPACE:	End on. Ideal size: 7m x 6m. Minimum size 6m x 6m. Flat stage.
LIGHTING:	In house lighting system, details to be provided. A lighting plan is required, and any extra lights will be toured by the company in the consultation with the venue.
SOUND:	In house PA system, details to be provided.
ACCESS:	We will require parking for a van and easy access to the performance space
GET IN:	4 hours
	PRODUCTION INFORMATION
AGE GUIDANCE:	The suggested age rating is 13+. (Swear words are used and some scenes contain violence) Aimed at both mainstream audiences and diverse community audiences. Also, for Theatre, Psychology, Sociology students and KS4 English, Drama.