

A week-long development and devising opportunity for an East Anglian-based performer identifying as Black and Male.

London-based theatre company Seemia Theatre, are seeking to engage an actor identifying as Black and Male, to collaborate and devise with them, during their week-long development residency at Norwich Theatre.

You will get a taster of Seemia's unique approach to theatre-making and directly bring your voice to the development of new show TAKE ON THIS, which they began devising at The Barbican earlier this year.

Residency Dates/Times: 18th - 23rd July 2022. 10am-6pm working days.

Location: Stage Two, Norwich Theatre

About Seemia Theatre

Seemia Theatre are an award-winning international ensemble of 6 artists from Iran, Argentina and the UK, led by Iranian Director Sara Amini. They believe in theatre as a tool to open doors and break barriers, and through socially-engaged devised performances we endeavour to bring communities together.

Seemia's devised performances fuse European physical theatre & musicality, British script-writing and Persian storytelling in order to make a vibrant mural of stories to connect audiences with current social and political issues.

From Persian, *Seemia* translates as 'Casting a spell with words;' as an ensemble we aim to create work that is truly spell-binding. During their run at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2018, Seemia were awarded the Summerhall **Lustrum Award**, with *Evros* being one of the greatest moments of the festival programme.

In 2017, they were selected to be mentored by Tangled Feet under their Emerging Ensemble programme, funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. They are one of the six Barbican Open Lab 2022 companies.

Find out more about the company [here](#)

About TAKE ON THIS

Seemia's new show 'TAKE ON THIS' is their first exploration of combining mixed media with their existing physical storytelling style. It is an investigation into the terrorist, the terrorised, the audience and the spectator. Development began at the Barbican earlier this year, and will now continue into a second phase, which includes the residency at Norwich Theatre. The week will continue to experiment with multi-media technologies and develop new strands of narrative to enhance the diverse representation of lived-in experience platformed in the show. The residency will culminate in a work-in-progress sharing to an invited audience of Norwich Theatre staff and industry professionals.

Who is this opportunity for?

Seemia are looking to specifically engage an actor who identifies as Black and Male. This is an identity not currently represented in the company, and it is anticipated that the development journey of TAKE ON THIS will include the incorporation of a narrative voice which represents the voice of Black people in relation to the show's exploration of how racism may underpin notions of terrorism.

There is no age requirement, though it should be noted that the company's practice has a strong movement element, and their devising process includes sustained periods of physical exploration. This is a training and development opportunity, and as such the week is an introduction to a way of working for a performer, and an introduction to sharing practice for the company. Expertise in physical theatre, movement practice, devising or multi-media performance is not needed. The company will shape the opportunity around the right candidate, ensuring their own creative voice is brought to the fore.

Potential Performer Profile

- You may be an emerging performer, seeking a training opportunity or an established artist keen to experiment in new kinds of practice.
- You may identify primarily as an actor, or bring an alternative profile as a performance artist.
- You may bring to opportunity additional skills which would benefit from the residency, such as writing and multi-media experience.

Required Experience:

- You will have some experience of creating new work in a collaborative environment and the confidence to experiment, improvise and embrace movement-orientated devising techniques.
- You will have a professional curiosity, diverse interest in contemporary theatre practice and a desire to bring your own voice and lived-in experience to the process.
- You will have sufficient artistic experience to quickly take on new languages and form valuable relationships with fellow professionals, in an exploratory environment.
- You may have prior experience of an R&D style process and of sharing work in scratch state. You will have a professional curiosity, diverse interest in contemporary theatre practice and a desire to bring your own voice and lived-in experience to the process.

The Residency Experience

During the week at Stage Two, Norwich Theatre, you will become part of the Seemia ensemble. All Seemia's work emerges from the ensemble. They use articles, songs, physical actions, memories and stories from themselves and others to inform and inspire their creations. You will be invited to share any relevant life experiences relating to the subjects explored in TAKE ON THIS, as much as you wish to, in a safe and inclusive environment.

Following the work-in-progress sharing on the 23rd July, you will be invited to establish ongoing contact with the company, starting with an evaluation of your development experience. Future opportunities could include invites to further sharings in London, and future collaboration on the show.

The residency also provides the opportunity to develop contacts within Norwich Theatre's Creative Programmes directorate, including the Artist Development Programme through which this project is coordinated.

Applying for the Opportunity

Seemia Theatre will select one performer identifying as Black and Male through a workshop-style audition. The workshop will be an introduction to Seemia's practice and stand-alone as an artist development opportunity. It is hoped that all who attend will find it an engaging and enjoyable experience. All interested performers must be able to attend one of the following workshop auditions:

Option A: Sunday 3rd July: 10am start. 1pm finish. Stage Two, Norwich Theatre.

Option B: Sunday 3rd July: 3pm start. 6pm finish. St. George's Theatre. Great

Yarmouth. About the Audition Workshop

The workshop will explore the relationship between your body & voice and how Seemia work in an ensemble. By using vocal improvisation, playing with text and rhythm, you will explore the performer as part of an ensemble. You will be introduced to some of the company's improvisation techniques and how they create material for a show. The exercises will include working physically together as an ensemble, learning to listen and react as a group. It will also touch on memories as you begin to build small narratives within the physical work. Creating small etudes (micro pieces of material) you will begin to harness moments that can be grown within the narrative of a performance.

Audition Submissions

The workshop auditions are open to all performers who meet the Required Experience criteria. To register your interest email Jez Pike, the Artist Development Coordinator at Norwich Theatre jez.pike@norwichtheatre.org

- *Attach a professional C.V. or provide a link to an online profile (Website, Spotlight, Mandy etc)*
- *Outline briefly your interest in this development opportunity.*
- *State your preferred audition slot (from Option A & B above).*

Professional Development Bursary

In addition to travel expenses, Seemia Theatre will provide the successful candidate with a Development Bursary of £500 to support them to take up this opportunity.*

**Subject to a successful ACE funding application.*

