**KATALIZATOR ArtHub**

**Contemporary playwriting of UK: AWARENESS**

**PROGRAMME**

**12 February 2024, Monday**

**09:00** Registration

**09:30** Opening Сeremony

**10:00** Seminar: “Contemporary theatre / dramaturgy in the UK”

Speaker: **Sarah Grochala**, playwright, course leader of the MA MFA Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media Programme at London Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

*Venue:* *Academic Council Room*

**11:00** Discussion: The social theme as a dominant concept in British drama

Play Reading

Author: Nick Payne

Title: “Constellations” (short extract)

Moderator**:** Emin Aliyev

*Venue:* *Small Stage*

**16 February 2024, Friday**

**14:00** Seminar: “Dramaturgy, theatre-making, playwriting in UK plays of the 1990s”

Speaker: **Aleks Sierz**, FRSA, journalist, broadcaster, lecturer and theatre critic

*Venue:* *Academic Council Room*

**15:00** Discussion: The theme of war in the Post-war period in British drama

Play Reading

Author: Caryl Churchill

Title: “Far Away” (short extract)

Moderator: Emin Aliyev

*Venue:* *Small Stage*

**23 February 2024, Friday**

**14:00** Seminar: “Broad theatre/experimental performance in the UK”

Speaker: **Manick Govinda,** independent arts consultant, artist mentor, writer and curator, teacher of the Public Art and Performance MA at London Metropolitan University

*Venue:* *Academic Council Room*

**15:00** Discussion: Spiritual - moral concept in British drama

Play Reading

Author: Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Title: “Fleabag” (short extract)

Moderator: Emin Aliyev

*Venue:* *Small Stage*

The indicated times are based on Baku time: GMT+4.

Venue: Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts.

Speakers from the UK will join the seminar online using the MS Teams platform.

Adress: Inshaatcilar ave. 39, Baku

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT**

**The KATALIZATOR (Catalyst) ArtHub** was created by theatre critic and producer Elchin Jafarov in the frame of the Creative Producers Programme 2023, held by the British Council. It is an open place for all creative ideas to lead the formation of a productive environment for successful and sustainable results in the creative industry.

**Why KATALIZATOR?**

As it is known, catalysts strongly influence the rate of chemical reactions. KATALIZATOR ArtHub will bring together artists who have no connection with each other and creative cooperation, creating conditions for the implementation of new ideas and the establishment of a joint creative process, as well. KATALIZATOR ArtHub is a platform created to support the implementation of projects by various creative people rather than executing projects. The Hub also aims to remove the borders between different art fields for creating multidisciplinary projects. KATALIZATOR was the partner of two festivals, Echo of Lubimovka in Baku and CHARACTERS Modern Drama Festival.

**Contemporary playwriting of UK: AWARENESS** which is the first independent project organized by KATALIZATOR ArtHub is aimed at introducing the Azerbaijani audience to contemporary UK playwriting. Contemporary playwriting of the UK: AWARENESS project aims to create an idea about this dramaturgy in the Azerbaijani audience.

Within the framework of the project, 3 seminars will be held dedicated to the creativity of British playwrights. These seminars will be based mainly on contemporary playwriting of UK, and experimental theater forms. In these seminars, experts invited from the UK will talk about new theater forms, new plays, and the impact of these forms on contemporary British dramaturgy under the moderation of a local Azerbaijani expert.

**Sarah Grochala**

Sarah Grochala is a London-based playwright and academic. Her best-known play ‘S-27’ (Finborough Theatre, 2009; Griffin Theatre Sydney, 2010) won the 2007 iceandfire/Amnesty International Protect the Human Playwriting Competition and was recently streamed as part of #FinboroughforFree. Her most recent play *Intelligence* won the 2023 Women’s Prize for Playwriting. Her work has been supported and developed by The National Theatre Studio, Royal Shakespeare Company, The Orange Tree, Sphinx, Arts Council England, The Peggy Ramsay Foundation, The Orchard Project, The Studios Key West and OffWestEnd.com. Alongside her playwriting, she regularly writes audio dramas set in the worlds of *Dr Who* and *The Avengers* for Big Finish.

She is currently Senior Lecturer in Writing for Theatre at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, where she leads the MA/MFA Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media. Her books on theatre include *The Contemporary Political Play* and *The Theatre of Rupert Goold*. In 2018, she was the recipient of a British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award for which she organised *Brexit Stage Left*; a festival of European plays in translation at The Yard Theatre in London together with a conference examining the lack of contemporary European plays in translation on British stages.

**Aleks Sierz**

Aleks Sierz FRSA is a journalist, broadcaster, lecturer and theatre critic. His seminal study, *In-Yer-Face Theatre: British Drama Today* (Faber, 2001), defined a new generation of playwrights and their work. His subsequent books include *The Theatre of Martin Crimp* (Methuen, 2006/ 2nd edn 2013), *John Osborne’s Look Back in Anger* (Continuum, 2008), *Rewriting the Nation: British Theatre Today* (Methuen, 2011) and *Modern British Playwriting: The 1990s* (Methuen, 2012). He has also co-authored, with Lia Ghilardi, *The Time Traveller’s Guide to British Theatre: The First Four Hundred Years* (Oberon, 2015). His latest book is *Good Nights Out: A History of Popular British Theatre Since the Second World War* (Methuen, 2021). Sierz’s journalism has featured in the *Sunday Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Independent*. He is a widely read, highly regarded critic of contemporary British theatre.

**Manick Govinda**

Manick Govinda is an independent writer, commentator, mentor, curator, artists’ producer, project manager and lecturer. Previously he was Programme Director for SPACE (2018), Head of Artists Advisory Services and artists’ producer for Artsadmin (1998 – 2017).

He worked as a Producer for 2007 Turner Prize shortlisted Zarina Bhimji, 2015 Marcel Duchamp Prize shortlisted Zineb Sedira (representing France at 2022 Venice Biennale) and 2021 Jarman Award shortlisted artists Larry Achiampong (Paul Hamlyn Visual Arts Awardee) & David Blandy, and performance artist Franko B, to name a few.

He was a member of the Mayor of London’s Cultural Strategy Group between 2008 – 2016 and where he successfully helped to change restrictive visa rules for non-EU artists visiting the UK.

He is currently working in Warsaw, Poland as guest co-curator at the Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, initiating a series of public discussions called Culture Tensions on issues where arts, culture, ideas and politics collide.

He writes on art and freedom of expression issues for The Critic, Obieg, Index on Censorship, Spiked and has appeared on BBC Radio 4’s AntiSocial.