A Season of Bangla Drama: 20 Acts of Love 2 – 26 November 2023

Expression of Interest Form

21/02/2023

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# Guidelines and Criteria

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# A Season of Bangla Drama is excited to be entering its 20th year. It continues to provide a unique theatre experience for audiences across east London. Theatre gives with insights into the Bengali experience by established and emerging practitioners.

# Aims and objectives for A Season of Bangla Drama are as follows:

# To promote new writing

# To highlight the British Bengali/Asian contemporary life through theatre

# To enable local organisations to develop their expertise and skills in theatre production

# To showcase diverse, high calibre and artistic productions from the Bengali community

# To provide affordable theatre in accessible and local venues

# To attract new audiences through strategic programming with a wider cultural reach

# As A Season of Bangla Drama moves into its 20th year, we are opening up the selection criteria. We welcome Expressions of Interest from individuals as well as organisations. We also welcome submissions from the wider, not exclusively Bengali, community. We are encouraging younger writers with the aim of presenting two plays written by those under the age of 30. Playwrights and organisations can be local or national but content should be relevant to an East London audience. It must be new writing, with debut performances at the 2023 festival.

# The theme for 2023 is love. Recent years have forced us to confront many sobering aspects of modern life. These include political turmoil, the spectacle of war, the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the more positive aspects of the human condition. We can use theatre to spread a message of hope and the power of love in all its forms.

# We seek plays that embrace the nobler qualities of care, compassion, generosity and understanding. Contexts can vary from homelessness and foster care to romantic love. They can also cover the breaking down of prejudices and ways to show betterment.

# Local drama groups are encouraged to develop their skills and expertise by using the opportunities on offer. Rehearsal space may be available at the Brady Arts Centre or Kobi Nazrul Centres. We are looking for bold new voices and stories that resonate with contemporary culture and society. We want to hear from first time writers, as well as more established playwrights with new material. We are particularly interested in UK based Bengali stories.

# All plays must have English subtitles.

# Criteria for selection:

* Originality and innovation in the themes of the production
* That are contemporary and relevant - that share the British/Asian experiences of belonging in the here and now in the UK
* That asks searching and topical questions
* That explores the theme of love from varying viewpoints or perspectives.
* That aims to engage the audience, viewer or participant in an imaginative, bold and thorough way.
* New writing only will be considered. Plays must have their debut performances at this year’s festival.
* All plays must have at 50% English language and 50% Bangla/other community languages content
* Priority will be given to productions that involve children and young people
* Priority will be given to local organisations and individuals based in Tower Hamlets
* Productions should explore the themes of love
* You are required to send a 3-minute video segment of the play you would like to submit (via a Youtube/Vimeo link). If you do not send this link you will not be shortlisted)
* We will only consider one submission from any individual or organisation at a time.
* We will accept plays written in Bangla/other community languages and/or English.
* Plays must not exceed 60 minutes in length.

We are currently not accepting Expression of Interest submissions from overseas companies.

Dates & times for A Season of Bangla Drama

25 April Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest Form, 10am sharp

19 May: Organisations selected will be informed

7 - 16 June: One to one meetings with organisations

1 Aug- 31 Oct: Rehearsals at Kobi Nazrul Centre/Brady Centre

31 August: Deadline for brochure submission

TBC October A Season of Bangla Drama Sharing Day

2 November: Opening of A Season of Bangla Drama

26 November: Closing ceremony of A Season of Bangla Drama

7 December A Season of Bangla Drama Evaluation

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# Expression of Interest

Lead contact name for all correspondence

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Phone number(s)

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Email address for all correspondence

………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Are you registering this Expression of Interest as

[ ]  An individual

[ ]  An organisation or company

Name of theatre Co./organisation if applicable

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

What borough/town are you based in?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Please give a short description about yourself, organisation or company - no longer than 50 words

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Name of play:

Please also give translation if play is a non-English title

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Duration of play (minimum 45 min and not to exceed 60 mins)

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Main language spoken (please insert percentage)

English [ ]  Bangla [ ]  Both [ ]  Other [ ]

If other, please specify…………………………..

Number of performances - please let us know your preference

One night [ ]  Two nights [ ]  Matinee [ ]

Name of writer

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Name of director

………………………………………………………………………………………… …………

Please give 3 reasons why you want to do this play?

(no longer than 50 words in each section, e.g., what is your motivation, why is it important in 2023, what makes it new, what is your artistic vision)

1. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

2. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

3. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Synopsis of play

(no longer than 300 words – we will reject submissions that exceed the word count)

Please provide an outline of the narrative structure and plotline, include the beginning, middle and end. Highlight the themes and questions that arise.

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Short description of play in 20 words (20 words only)

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Why is it important to you to be part of A Season of Bangla Drama (no longer than 100 words)

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

It is essential that you send a 3-minute video of a scene via a YouTube or Vimeo link. Please enter your YouTube or Vimeo link into the box below

………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Please return completed form via email only by Tuesday 25 April 2023 10am with subject line SBD 2023 EOI

Email: festivalsandevents@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Incomplete Expression of Interest forms and those without video links will not be shortlisted.

Handwritten Expression of Interest forms will NOT be accepted. Please email your EOI in Word (STRICTLY NO PDFs).

\* Scheduling will be decided at a later stage and will be at the discretion of the festival producer.