

Press release: embargoed until 01/10/13

Tamasha appoints Fin Kennedy as co-Artistic Director



Playwright and producer Fin Kennedy joins Tamasha as co-Artistic Director from November 2013. Co-founders Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith planned for succession in spring 2015 when Sudha will step down. Fin will collaborate with Sudha for the next 18 months on the company's current artistic programme. During this time he will plan for the company's future beyond spring 2015.

Fin is an award-winning playwright, teacher, project manager, and arts commentator. He has been a Tamasha Associate Artist since 2011, pioneering 'Schoolwrights', a writer-education partnership programme with London schools. This was developed from his residency with Mulberry School in Tower Hamlets (which included taking plays to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, including the first school production ever to win the Scotsman's prestigious Fringe First Award).

His plays include *How To Disappear Completely And Never Be Found* (Sheffield Crucible - John Whiting award), *Unstated* (The Red Room at Southwark Playhouse), *We Are Shadows* and *Locked In* (Half Moon Young People's Theatre national tours) and *Protection* (Soho Theatre, 2003) as well as several plays for BBC Radio 4. He is the author of *In Battalions*, an independent report about the effects of funding cuts on new plays and playwriting in England.

Fin Kennedy: *"I am thrilled to join Sudha as Tamasha enters the next phase of its journey. Tamasha played a huge part in shaping the industry which I entered as a young playwright 12 years ago. It has consistently led the debate about identity, culture, how we make theatre in the modern world - and who gets to make it. These are issues very close to my heart and have always featured in my work, from Mulberry School to the Adopt-A-Playwright scheme."*

Tamasha has a spectacular track record of national touring, supporting culturally diverse theatre artists, telling the stories no one else can tell and reaching audiences no one else can reach. That's a wonderful legacy for me to build on, taking with me the existing Tamasha family of audiences and artists as the company continues to evolve. There will also be a whole raft of new initiatives to reach out to the next generation, to extend Tamasha's ambition and reach, and to continue to put boldly innovative practice at the heart of what we do.

For 24 years Tamasha has been a cartographer of a changing world. The company is the natural home for theatre artists who want their art form to be part of a national debate, and to involve every part of modern British society. It is a great privilege to be asked to take this work to the next stage - I can't wait to get started."

Shernaz Engineer, Board Member: *"We are delighted to appoint Fin. His ideas for the company are extremely clear, well thought through and inspiring. We were particularly impressed with his entrepreneurial approach to all aspects of the company's work, from major touring productions to capitalising on its work with developing artists."*

Sudha Bhuchar, Tamasha co-founder and co-Artistic Director: *"Fin embodies a truly pioneering outlook, which has been Tamasha's hallmark over the last 24 years. He possesses an inspiring combination of talent, drive and humility. His career to date demonstrates a unique ability to look beyond his own voice; and inspire artists from diverse backgrounds."*

I am hugely excited by Fin's vision for Tamasha's next chapter which continues the company's evolution from its British Asian roots to an intracultural outlook. His ideas, both for productions and empowering artists to be entrepreneurial and shape their own futures, reflect a deep knowledge and desire to explore cross-cultural encounters. I am very proud of the role the company has played in nurturing artists, and indeed Fin himself is an example of the success of Tamasha's unique ladder of opportunity. Tamasha means 'commotion' and we set out to cause a stir - I have no doubt Fin will continue to do this."

(continues overleaf)

(continued)

Tim Supple, Artistic Director, Dash Arts; interview panel member *“Fin Kennedy is an exciting and bold appointment. Alongside Sudha Bhuchar and the Tamasha team, Fin will take this ground-breaking company on a new adventure. With his passionate and genuine commitment to encouraging younger artists and remarkable energy for new and creative approaches to theatre that engage with current cultural and social realities, Fin will be an inspirational artistic director.”*

PRESS CONTACT: Nancy Poole / 07957 342 850 / nancy@nancypoolepr.com

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Tamasha was founded by Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith in 1989 and played a key role in driving the crossover of Asian culture into the mainstream. Since her appointment as Lecturer in Acting at NIDA in Sydney in spring 2013, Kristine is an International Associate of Tamasha.

The company has staged over 20 productions across the UK and around the world, with successes including the original stage play *East is East, A Fine Balance, Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral, Strictly Dandia, The Trouble with Asian Men, Snookered* and *The Arrival*. Tamasha's next production, a new play by Sudha Bhuchar, opens in spring 2014, running in London and touring.

Tamasha is funded by Arts Council England and gratefully acknowledges financial support from The Ésmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Friends and Patrons of Tamasha.

www.tamasha.org.uk / @tamashatheatre



Fin Kennedy biography

Fin Kennedy, 36, is an award-winning playwright whose plays are produced in the UK and abroad. He has written for Soho Theatre, Sheffield Crucible, Half Moon, The Red Room, Southwark Playhouse and BBC Radio 4. His 2007 play *How To Disappear Completely And Never Be Found* became the first unproduced play ever to win the John Whiting Award. Fin is a visiting lecturer on the MA Writing for Performance at Goldsmiths College, and writer-in-residence at Mulberry School in East London. In 2009 *The Unravelling* won a Scotsman Fringe First, the first time a school has ever received one. Fin has just launched *Schoolwrights*, the UK's first playwrights-in-schools training scheme. In February 2013 Fin wrote *In Battalions*, an independent report about how Government cuts are affecting new play development in England. It has been downloaded over 20,000 times and provoked questions in Parliament.

CV

Writing:

- *Protection*, Soho Theatre, 2003
- *How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*, Sheffield Crucible, 2007 (winner of the John Whiting Award)
- *Locked In*, Half Moon Young People's Theatre, 2006 national tour
- *Mehndi Night*, Mulberry Theatre Company at the Edinburgh Fringe, 2007
- *Unstated*, The Red Room, 2008
- *Caesar Price Our Lord*, BBC Radio 4, 2008
- *Stolen Secrets*, Mulberry Theatre Company at the Edinburgh Fringe, 2008
- *We Are Shadows*, Half Moon Young People's Theatre, 2008 national tour
- *The Unravelling*, Mulberry Theatre Company at the Edinburgh Fringe, 2009 (Scotsman Fringe First award winner)
- *The Urban Girl's Guide To Camping*, Mulberry Theatre Company at Southwark Playhouse, 2010
- *Broken Stones*, Portland Center Stage (USA), JAW Festival 2012
- *Noble Cause Corruption*, BBC Radio 4, 2013

(continues overleaf)

(continued)

Teaching and Residencies:

- Pearson playwright-in-residence, Soho Theatre, 2003-4
- Writer-on-attachment, Half Moon Young People's Theatre, 2004-5
- Writing tutor, Almeida Theatre Projects, 2005-7
- Visiting Lecturer, MA Writing for Performance, Goldsmiths College, 2005-present
- Visiting Lecturer, Boston University, 2008-present
- Writer-in-residence and External Projects Producer, Mulberry School for Girls, 2007-present
- Panel member and dramaturg, Adopt-A-Playwright award, 2008-present
- Associate Artist, Tamasha, 2011-2013
- Writer-in-residence, West Yorkshire Playhouse new writing season, 2012
- Producer and Dramaturg, Schoolwrights, 2013-present

Education

- BA Hons. Drama with English (2:1), Manchester University, 1999
- MA Writing for Performance (Distinction), Goldsmiths College, 2002

Press quotes:

'One of our hottest young dramatists'

The Guardian

'This is as good as theatre gets.'

The Stage on How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found

'Real excitement lies in discovering a young writer who is more concerned with major political issues than minor domestic upsets.'

The Guardian on Protection

'One of the best writer/education partnerships there is'

The Scotsman on Fin Kennedy and Mulberry Theatre Company

"Kennedy's report demonstrates that the consequences of cuts to public investment in the arts are real and potentially devastating."

The Guardian on In Battalions

www.finkennedy.co.uk / [@finkennedy](https://twitter.com/finkennedy)

PRESS CONTACT: Nancy Poole / 07957 342 850 / nancy@nancypolepr.com