

**2017 MTC CONNECT AMBASSADORS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MULTICULTURAL ARTS VICTORIA**



SAMAH SABAWI

Samah Sabawi is a Palestinian-Australian-Canadian playwright, poet, essayist and commentator. Her critically acclaimed play *Tales of a City by the Sea* had two sold-out runs at Melbourne's La Mama theatre in 2014 and 2016 and recently completed a successful Australian national tour. It was selected for the 2016 Victorian Certificate of Education Drama 2016 Playlist. An Arabic version was staged in Palestine in 2014 and will be remounted later this year by Al-rowwad Cultural and Theatre Centre in Aida Refugee Camp in the West Bank. Sabawi, along with Canadian dramatist Stephen Orlov, has co-edited the groundbreaking anthology, *Double Exposure: Plays of the Jewish and Palestinian Diasporas*, for Playwrights Canada Press, Canada's leading publisher of English Canadian Drama. She is also one of three poets featured in *I Remember My Name*, shortlisted for the prestigious 2016 Palestine Book Awards. Sabawi is a sought after international speaker and policy advisor to Al-Shabaka, the Palestinian Policy Network. She is currently developing her most recent play under the working title *Them*, a play highlighting the plight of asylum seekers while doing a PhD on identity formation of Palestinians in Diaspora at Victoria University, where she was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Research Scholarship.



SUHASINI SEELIN

Suhasini Seelin is one of the few actresses in Australia with an authentic Indian accent. Coached and mentored by Exit Theatre's Kristof Kaczmarek, she has been performing with various independent theatre companies since 2011 and has participated in festivals like the Melbourne Fringe, Mapping Melbourne, Anywhere Theatre Festival and Platform at La Mama, MTC Neon and Cybec Electric Readings. She has worked on some complex material like James Joyce, the Indian epic Mahabharata, Edward Albee, and international poetry with Australian screen legend John Wood. She regularly works with Exit Theatre, the Luminous Lunas group with Yumi Umimare and is currently training with Melbourne Suzuki. In 2016, she performed in *Fly Guardian* at La Mama and *The Day I Left Home* at The Cybec Electric readings at MTC, and currently has a few works in development for 2016-17. Her vision is to embody and present stories from around the world, making diversity mainstream.



SHANNAN LIM

Shannan Lim is a Melbourne-based multimedia artist and theatre-maker born in Singapore. He has lectured in film and digital media at the University of Western Australia and graduated with a Master of Design from RMIT. Shannan received the New Director Award at Nice International Film Festival, and a Melbourne Fringe Award as co-creator of comedic play 'Asian Ghost-ery Store'. Trained at The Second City and École Philippe Gaulier, Shannan is currently working on 'Salty', a performance that borrows from Singaporean-Malay supernatural tradition.



VIDYA RAJAN

Vidya Rajan is a writer, performance-maker, improv performer and comic born in Australia to Indian parents. Originally from Perth, she now resides in Melbourne. Recent works include *Asian Ghost-ery Store* (Melbourne Fringe 2016 Innovation in Cultural Practice Award) and *Friendquest* (Perth Fringe World 2015 Best Theatre Award finalist). She is currently undertaking her Masters Writing for Performance at the VCA and is a recipient of the Wheeler Centre's 2016 Hot Desk Fellowship.



WAHIBE MOUSSA

Wahibe Moussa is an award-winning performer, director and writer. She is a respected language and cultural consultant for theatre and television. In 2007, Wahibe received the Green Room Award for her role as "Mahala" in Theatre @ Risk's production of Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul*. In 2014 she was one of ten dramaturgy interns at Melbourne Theatre Company, a Playwriting Australia Fellowship initiative. Wahibe's practice is informed by her desire to bring women's stories to the forefront, and a deep commitment to Human Rights and Social Justice. Throughout her career Wahibe has collaborated with Refugee Artists, and is committed to understanding Indigenous Australian performance and story making practices.