

Sheil Land Associates Ltd

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NAYLAH AHMED

Naylah is an established writer for theatre, radio and TV. Prior to her playwriting and screenwriting career she was a radio drama producer with extensive experience of developing writers, ideas and story across radio, theatre and television. She was the first Development Producer for BBC Radio Drama Birmingham and founding Script Editor on the award winning soap *Silver Street* (BBC Asian Network).

Naylah is currently co-writing *Bunker*, a sitcom; *Journey's End*, a television drama series and developing her comedy series *Shelved*.

Naylah adapted Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* for online viewing with Jermyn Street Productions and Shakespeare Company, the performance streamed between 17th – 27th December 2020.

Naylah's play *When the Fire's Gone Out* was showcased as part of the HOME festival programme with Kali Theatre in 2021. Highlighting established South Asian women playwrights and their ideas of *home*.

Naylah is a core writer for The Archers.

WRITING CREDITS INCLUDE:

THEATRE

Ready or Not: Kali Theatre Company, production and UK tour Spring 2017.

Mustafa (2011/12), commissioned by the Birmingham Rep and co-produced with the Kali Theatre Co. (directed by Janet Steel): Soho Theatre London and UK tour, awarded a Special Prize by the National Theatre Foundation (2013)
'*A tantalising way of exploring perceptions of (and prejudices towards) otherness*'.

The Pre Criminal Space (2011): commissioned by Birmingham Repertory Theatre to develop and co-write a piece in response to the government's PVE agenda (Preventing Violent Extremism) with two other writers.

Butcher Boys: stage play initially developed with Tamasha Theatre Company. One of the four winners of the **Bruntwood Prize (2008)** at the Manchester Royal Exchange.

These Four Streets (2009): The Door, Birmingham Rep., commission with 5 other writers in response to the 2005 Lozells troubles.

Awards include New Writing Initiative by Tamasha Theatre; Birmingham Rep Writer's Attachment (both 2001).

RADIO

The Archers: core writer from 2017. BBC Radio 4.

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Sugar and Spice and all Things Nice (BBC School Radio, 2011): 6' short story for 7-14 year olds.

Zubeda Saturday Play, BBC R4, Produced by Kate Chapman

Aqua Blue: *Her Majesty*, Tindal Street Press) short story reading on BBC R4 (Produced by Peter Wild, read by Mina Anwar).

The Happy Gathering: Afternoon Play BBC R4, produced by Peter Wild

Short Six minute play written for The Verb: (BBC Radio 3) and read live on air from Birmingham's Orange Studios (Produced by Julian May)

Mrs Parker: Afternoon Play BBC R4 produced by Peter Wild; one of four winners of the Chasing the Rainbow competition, subsequently nominated by the Commission for Racial Equality for the Race in the Media Award for Radio Drama.

TELEVISION/FILM

JAMILLAH & ALADDIN 2015-16: a series produced by Kindle Entertainment for CBBC and Cbeebies; 2 episodes in series 1 and one of four core writers on series 2

Pegging Out: short film developed with Director Sat Johal and Producer Claire Ingham, Redroom Films.

River City (BBC Scotland): 2003-6: 6 episodes.

Kismet Road (2000-1): 4 episodes. 1 of 4 writers on the series who collectively devised all 13 episodes of this medical series set in Bradford (prod. Rod Natkiel Associates)

PUBLICATIONS

Mustafa: Nick Hern Books

Aqua Blue (short story, *Her Majesty*, Tindal Street Press): used as part of the curriculum for a European course in Modern English Literature.

A Solitary Dance (short story, *Whispers in the Walls*, Tindal Street Press, 2001)

SCRIPT EDITOR/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

Freelance director - The Archers (2010-2017):

Directing episodes of the iconic radio soap for BBC radio 4

Project Manager Original Voices - Coronation Street, ITV, - (Sept 2014 - April 2015): invited to run a search for North West based writers from diverse backgrounds for ITV's flagship ongoing drama, Coronation Street.

Freelance Producer - BBC Asian Network (2011/12):

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Approached by the heads of Asian Network and Radio Drama Birmingham to produce four stand-alone 30 minute radio plays to be aired on BBC Asian Network.

The plays included (Ask Mina, starring Meera Syal and Kulvinder Ghir, story by Naylah Ahmed, written by Tajinder Singh Hayer), and Ek Awaaz (One Voice) a co-written piece based on the night of the Birmingham riots 2011, concept by Naylah Ahmed, written by Alia Bano, Sonia Likhari and spoken word artist Shane Solanki).

Silver Street (2003-10): Script Editor BBC Radio Drama Birmingham:

Founding Script Editor of the first British Asian soap for BBC Asian Network.

Acting Editor, Silver Street 2009/10

Development Producer, BBC Radio Drama (Jan 2002-June 2003):

First Development Producer in the Birmingham radio drama department.

Plays produced for Radio 4 include: **Save** (Afternoon Play by Craig Stephens), **Ties** (Afternoon Play by Amber Lone), **Trauma** (Friday Play by Martin Glynn) and **Mixed Blood** (Afternoon Play by Nazrin Choudhury) winner of the **Imison Award** for best original radio script by a writer new to radio.

COURSE LEADER/MENTOR:

Workshop leader – Taking Yourself Seriously Project (2018) Sheffield and Manchester Metropolitan Universities. Working with transcribed material from three generations of Asian women in Sheffield for the universities' research departments.

Writing workshops – Leicester de Montfort University (2018)

Writer mentor - Kali Theatre Company (May 2015-Jan 2016): To mentor a writer with a strong first draft over a one-year period.

WRITE ON (Writing West Midlands) 2001-2014: Attending several schools and various age groups encouraging creative writing, including some one-off sessions for parents and teachers. Ages ranged from Reception to Secondary School.

Visible Workshops - Writing for Radio (2011): employed by Theatre Writing Partnership to run a 10-week course on writing for radio for over 55s in Newark. Included directing/producing a 45 minute play co-written by all 15 participants! The final play was shared at an event at the end of the course.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Ulfah Arts 'UNPACKED' project (2010/11):

workshop leader for a group of 15 women writers from across the region and further afield, on their first piece of theatre writing. Followed by a 3-day showcase at Midlands Arts Centre including a performance of initial scenes from The Pre-Criminal Space - a co-written piece in response to the government's counter terrorism strategy (Naylah Ahmed/Fin Kennedy/Yusra Warsama).

Dramaturg - Mummy Mafia, Nottingham Playhouse (2011): one-year dramaturgy with three comedy writer-performers developing a piece for the stage exploring aspects of the 'yummy mummy' culture, subsequently performed as work in progress at Nottingham Playhouse.

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MAKING A RADIO SOAP IN A WEEK (2010): Devised and delivered a one-week course at **Central School of Speech and Drama**, as part of their summer courses working closely with participants to create a new soap and its opening characters/stories/locations.

SPEAKER/PANELIST Naylah has been invited to speak at industry events/conferences by several organisations including: BBC, Writing West Midlands, Birmingham City University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Sheffield University, Arvon Foundation, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Kali Theatre Company, Theatre Writing Partnership, Pentabus Theatre.