

Sheil Land Associates Ltd

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KEITH SAHA

Playwright

Keith is Co-Artistic Director of 20 Stories High Theatre Company based in Liverpool. His role within the organisation is as a writer and a director. His plays are for young adult audiences and are often researched with young people on the fringes of society who have important stories to tell.

For more information about 20 Stories High visit www.20storieshigh.org.uk

CURRENT PROJECTS

COOL BRITANNIA - Keith is one of a number of writers developing a treatment with Twelve Town/Riff Raff.

LOOKED AFTER – Keith’s debut screenplay, a drama series about teenagers in today’s care system, is under option to Twelve Town Productions and Sky. After a period of development the 60’ series was adapted into a 10’ short form drama and a non-broadcast pilot was produced. Originally one of Sky’s diverse table reads and a runner -up on the TriForce DramaWriterSlam.

THEATRE

Keith new theatre projects include TOUCHY - a new piece of “gig theatre” commissioned by Wellcome Collection with Radio 4. And a new Hip Hop Puppetry piece within Alder Hey Children’s Hospital.

20 Stories High has won ‘The Jenny Harris Award’ at The National Theatre’s Foundation Awards 2016 as well as the ‘Young Critics Award’ at On The Edge Festival 2016.

SHE’S LEAVING HOME – Keith’s play was specially commissioned in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Heart Club Band. This piece has been developed with young adults in Liverpool and focuses on issues surrounding family, home and housing. Showcased in Summer 2017.

<https://www.sgtpepperat50.com/>

THE BROKE’N’BEAT COLLECTIVE - A collaboration with Theatre Rites; a new stage tour production called BROKE; a multi-media piece combining Keith’s dialogue and lyrics with beat boxing, break dancing and puppetry. Broke’nBeat Collective performed at the Ruhrtriennale in Germany and embarked on a UK tour of venues including prisons and hostels.

BLACK Keith’s play about the profound racism still present in contemporary society came to London’s Albany theatre in March 2015 as part of a UK tour. Based on true stories that had come out of Keith’s work with 20 Stories High’s youth theatre, BLACK is a deeply moving and shocking play. Warp/20SH collaborated on a tv development in 2018/2019.

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HEADZ is a series of eleven contemporary urban monologues inspired by Alan Bennett's Talking Heads which was showcased at the Liverpool Playhouse in 2014. Inside every head lies a secret ... a story waiting to unravel. Keith is developing a HEADZ monologue anthology with Methuen.

MELODY LOSES HER MOJO This bold, gritty and challenging story fuses Hip Hop Theatre, dance, puppetry and street art to follow the amazing journeys of three remarkable young people in care. Keith's second play was published by Methuen in 2013.

GHOST BOY won the Brian Way award in 2011. Fusing Grime, Dubstep, Ska, puppetry and Hip Hop, Ghost Boy explores Jamal a young man who is haunted by the ghost a boy he stabbed and killed

BABUL AND THE BLUE BEAR is a story about Benny a young grime artist -his life in and out the care system, looking after his alcoholic mum and being reunited with his Dad - a black comedian who tells self deprecating racist jokes

THE BULLDOZER URBAN CABARET Keith's collaboration with the 20 Stories High Youth Theatre explores the local reactions and consequences when a Liverpool street is threatened with demolition.

BACKGROUND

Keith Saha is Co-Artistic Director of 20 Stories High. He started acting in the Everyman Youth Theatre in Liverpool in the 1980's before going on to be an actor, working for companies such as, Contact, Graeae, Red Ladder, Theatre Royal Stratford East and Birmingham Rep.

He then became a composer and Musical Director for theatre before focusing on being mainly a playwright and director

Since 2006 he has been focusing on writing and developing plays using the forms of Hip-Hop Theatre with Puppetry and Mask.

In 2010, he was awarded The Brian Way Award for the UK's Best New Play for Young People for his play GHOST BOY, a co-production with Contact and Birmingham Rep which championed this form.

His writing is largely informed by his upbringing, and the time he spent in care as a child, fused with the work he creates with and for young people in Liverpool and nationally in similar situations.