

XENOS creative team
Short biographies

Ruth Little

Dramaturg

Ruth Little is a dance and theatre dramaturg, a teacher and writer. Her work has encompassed national arts organisations, remote rural communities, site-specific production and large and small-scale exhibitions and expeditions. She lectured in English Literature at the University of Sydney, and was Literary Manager at Out of Joint, Soho Theatre, the Young Vic and the Royal Court. Ruth was Associate Director at Cape Farewell from 2010-2016. She is dramaturg with Akram Khan Company (*Gnosis*, *Vertical Road*, *DESH*, *iTMOi*, *Dust*, *technê*, *Until the Lions*, *Giselle*) and has worked with Banff Arts Centre, Sadler's Wells, Barbican, and many others. Winner of 2012 Kenneth Tynan Award for dramaturgy, Ruth has a number of publications including *Art, Place, Climate: Situated Ethics*, *War in the Body*, and *The Meteorological Body*.

Michael Hulls

Lighting Designer

Over the last 20 years Michael Hulls has worked exclusively in dance, particularly with choreographers Russell Maliphant and Akram Khan, and established a reputation as a "choreographer of light". His collaborations with Russell Maliphant have won international critical acclaim and many awards. Michael has worked with Akram over many years on productions including *In-I*, *DESH*, *TOROBACA*, and most recently *Until the Lions*. In 2009, Michael became an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells. In 2010, his contribution to dance was recognised with his entry into the Oxford Dictionary of Dance, as only the fourth lighting designer to be given an entry. In 2014 Michael received the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance.

Vincenzo Lamagna

Composer

Vincenzo Lamagna is a musician, composer and producer based in London. His music is known for its visceral, emotive and edgy language that utilises an unconventional hybrid of electro-orchestral sounds. Vincenzo has carved a niche in the alternative contemporary dance world, where he has established himself as a major collaborator with some of the most acclaimed choreographers of this generation, Hofesh Shechter and Akram Khan. His most recent collaborations include *Until the Lions* and Akram Khan's award winning 21st-century adaptation of *Giselle* for English National Ballet. His scores are a mercurial combination of acoustic and electronic music, recognised for their ferocious industrial undertones, haunted melodies and cinematic soundscapes.

Mirella Weingarten

Set Designer

After completing her studies in dramatic arts in London, Mirella Weingarten studied fine arts in Hamburg and Edinburgh, with teachers including Marina Abramovic. Since 1996, Mirella has worked as a professional theatre designer and as a director for opera and dance theatre. Her recent work has been seen throughout Europe and includes an extensive collaboration with Berlin Contemporary Opera, designing many of their award-winning productions. Working with kinetic sculpture and moving objects on stage has characterized her work throughout the past years. Since 2011, Mirella has been the Artistic Director of the arts and music festival Schlossmediale Werdenberg in Switzerland, a festival for contemporary and early music and audio-visual art.

Kimie Nakano

Costume Designer

Kimie Nakano has designed costumes for Northern Ballet, Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Companhia Nacional de Bailado, English National Ballet, Van Huynh Company, The Royal Ballet of Flanders, Rambert Dance Company, David Nixon, Didy Veldman, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, José Agudo and Yabin Studio. Kimie's opera production credits include: *The Return of Ulysses* by John Fulljames for Royal Opera and *Tristan und Isolde* by Carmen Jakobi for Longborough Festival Opera. Her designs for Akram Khan Company include: *Vertical Road*, *Dust* (English National Ballet's *Lest We Forget*), *iTMOi*, *TOROBACA*, *Gnosis*, *Kaash*, *The Rashomon Effect* (National Youth Dance Company), *technê* (choreographed for Sylvie Guillem, *Life in Progress*).

Jordan Tannahill

Writer

Jordan Tannahill has been 'widely celebrated as one of Canada's most accomplished young playwrights, filmmakers and all-round multidisciplinary artists' (Toronto Star). His plays have been produced on major stages internationally and translated into eight languages, while his films and multimedia performances have been presented at festivals including the Toronto Int. Film Festival, the Tribeca Film Festival, and the Venice Biennial. In 2017, his play *Late Company* transferred to London's West End. Upcoming: his virtual reality performance *Draw Me Close*, produced by the National Theatre (UK) and the National Film Board of Canada, will open at the Young Vic in January 2019.

Mavin Khoo

Rehearsal Director

Mavin Khoo is internationally recognised as a dance artist, teacher, choreographer and artist scholar. His initial training was in Malaysia. He then pursued his training in Bharatanatyam intensively under the legendary dance maestro Padma Shri Adyar K. Lakshman in India. As a contemporary dance artist, he has worked with Wayne McGregor, Akram Khan, Shobana Jeyasingh and many others. Khoo founded mavinkhooDance in 2003. He was Artistic Director of ŽfinMalta Dance Ensemble between 2014 - 2017. He currently maintains his touring work as a mature artist with a focus on solo Bharatanatyam performances and specifically commissioned contemporary duet works. He also worked as Rehearsal Director for Akram Khan Company production *iTMOi* and worked alongside Akram on *Giselle* (English National Ballet).

Nicola Monaco

Rehearsal Director

After studying contemporary and ballet in Italy from the age of 19, Nicola had the opportunity to work for the award-winning Dutch dance company Emio Greco/PC from 2003 until 2008. In 2009 he moved to London and worked with choreographers such as Akram Khan, Gregory Maquoma, Tom Dale, The Featherstonehaughs and Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company. In 2013 he toured worldwide with Akram Khan Company, performing in *iTMOi* and *Kaash*. Nicola collaborated as a rehearsal director with the mavinkhooDance and ŽfinMalta Dance Ensemble directed by Mavin Khoo until 2016 and Paolo Mangiola in 2017. He also teaches workshops internationally and in 2017 received the qualification to teach the Double Skin/Double Mind methodology of ICK/Amsterdam.

Nina Harries

Musician - double bass & vocals

Nina Harries studied classical double bass at the Royal College of Music under Enno Senft of the London Sinfonietta, graduating in 2016, specialising in contemporary classical music. Alongside performing with orchestras, punk bands, folk ensembles and contemporary experimental ensembles, Nina is also a soloist and songwriter. She is celebrated for her rare skill at singing and playing simultaneously and has commissioned several works for bass and voice whilst at the RCM. Her own composition work incorporates theatre, cabaret and comedy, captivating audiences with original songs and poetry exploring the relationship between bass and the female voice.

Andrew Maddick

Musician - violin

Andrew is a freelance musician based in Australia and Europe. He has performed with Sting, Hans Zimmer, The Whitlams, Paolo Nutini, and Missy Higgins. He was principal violinist for *Kinky Boots*, the Opera Australia productions of *The Sound of Music*, *The King & I*, and Tim Finn's *Ladies in Black*. With the Hofesh Shechter Dance Company he was a principal musician from 2009 until 2015, touring *In Your Rooms* and *Political Mother* internationally. He was the violinist for The Bootleg Beatles and performed at Glastonbury Festival with them in 2013. He was a member of Orchestra of The Swan and the English Symphony Orchestra, and in 2016 toured Australia with the Cologne Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. This year he wrote and recorded his debut album *Music For Violin & Drum kit* with the Maddick/Husmer Duo.

Clarice Rarity

Musician - violin

Clarice studied at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music. She realised that challenging performance conventions inspired her the most and at the early stages of her career, she focused on performing the works of contemporary classical composers such as John Cage, Boulez, Michael Finissey, Hans Abrahamsen and Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir. Clarice's interest in this repertoire led her to work with some of the most exciting young composers in the UK, including Oliver Leith, Lisa Illean. Clarice's performance highlights include working with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group at Wigmore Hall and Birmingham Festival Hall and working at Viitasaari new music Festival with Ensemble Modern/IEEMA in 2017, as part of a conducting masterclass week with Susanna Maliki.

B C Manjunath

Musician – percussions & konnakol

Manjunath revealed an innate musical talent as a young boy and he imbibed the best in Carnatic Talavadya from his parents. Manjunath has acquired several awards throughout his career including the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, the highest recognition for youth in the field of fine arts. He has since expanded his vocabulary and is well versed in Indian Classical, Modern Jazz and Contemporary classical music that he mastered by collaborating with performers at prestigious platforms in India and overseas with world renowned artists of these genres. Manjunath toured with Akram Khan Company's productions *ma*, *Gnosis* and *TOROBAKA*.

Pirashanna Thevarajah

Musician – percussions & konnakol

Pirashanna Thevarajah is a senior disciple of Mridanga vidwan Sri. M. Balachandar. A versatile performer, he is one of the few percussionists of his generation to have a command of the various Indian percussion instruments such as the mridangam, kanjira, ghatam and morsing; and is also proficient in the art of konnakol (Indian spoken rhythm). He has collaborated and performed with many of the world's foremost Indian classical and contemporary musicians, including Pandit Ravi Shankar, Anoushka Shankar, Dr M. Balamuralikrishna, Mandolin U. Shrinivas, Nitin Sawhney, Talvin Singh and many others. His busy schedule has taken him to many venues and festivals across Europe, India, the USA and Canada. Pirashanna has featured on many albums and movies including Anoushka Shankar's Grammy nominated albums Traveller and Traces of You.

Tamar Osborn

Musician - baritone saxophone

Saxophonist and multi-wind player Tamar graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 2000. A strong classical background complemented by jazz studies has enabled her to perform in many different genres in her professional career. She currently works regularly with the Dele Sosimi Afrobeat Orchestra and jazz artists Sarathy Korwar, the Hackney Colliery Band, Emanative and Jessica Lauren. Past projects span the worlds of pop, theatre and world music, including Kelis, Van Morrison, Tanmoy Bose, FELA! at the National Theatre & Sadler's Wells, and Africa Express (a series of collaborative concerts between African and western musicians including Tony Allen and Fatoumata Diawara). Tamar runs her own project Collocutor as bandleader, composer and performer. Collocutor have three releases, 'Instead' (2014), 'The Search' (2017), and 'Black Satin' (2018).

Aditya Prakash

Musician - vocals

Aditya Prakash is an award-winning Indian classical vocalist and composer, best known for his powerful and emotive voice. Aditya has been performing classical Carnatic vocal concerts since the age of 13 and had the rare fortune of performing, touring and working with Sitar Maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, from the age of 16. Aditya studied composition and performance under award-winning musicians during his Ethnomusicology studies at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles). Although firmly rooted in South Indian classical (Carnatic) music, which he studied under venerated Gurus in Chennai, his style is heavily inspired by North Indian classical music, Sufi music, jazz, and hip hop, which he brings out in his collaborative group Aditya Prakash Ensemble who create original compositions inspired from these styles.