

Culture : The Arts

Panel 11.15 am Saturday 24 April

Chair: Nadia Nadarajah

- Bea Webster
- Stephen Collins
- Barry Avison
- Jenny Sealey
- Rinkoo Barpaga

Streaming live on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/deafexplorers>

Require Facebook account



Chair: Nadia Nadarajah

Nadia is one of the most prominent Deaf actors working in the UK.



Jenny Sealey

Artistic Director, Graeae Theatre Company. Jenny Sealey has been Graeae's Artistic Director since 1997. She has pioneered a new theatrical language and aesthetics of artistic access experimenting with bilingual BSL and English, prerecorded BSL, creative captioning, in ear/ live audio description methods.



Stephen Collins is a London-based actor, workshop facilitator, Lead Artist for DH Ensemble and Associate Artist for 1623 theatre.

His theatre/screen credits include Mini Campaign (Iconoclast); Oliver Twist (LeedsPlayhouse);

Bartholomew Fair, BBC Radio 4 (Graeae & Naked Productions); Doctors (BBC); A Christmas Carol (Bristol Old Vic); Blasted (RADA/Graeae); Up N Under (Fingersmiths); Reasons To Be Cheerful UK TOUR & The Iron Man (Graeae/NewWolsey/TRSE);

Fair is Foul & Nodus Tollens (DH Ensemble);

Love's Labour's Lost (The Globe/Deafinitely Theatre); Post Office Holiday Mode Activated (Ogilvy & Mather); Dawn Of The Deaf (Shadowhouse); 4 (BSLBT).

Outside of acting, Stephen enjoys comics, travelling and food.



Bea Webster is a deaf queer Scottish-Thai actor and theatre-maker who graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Recent Theatre Credit: The Winter's Tale (Royal Shakespeare Company) Peeling (Taking Flight Theatre Company), Mother Courage and Her Children (Red Ladder Theatre Company)

Recent Writing Credits: Squeezy Yoghurt (National Theatre of Scotland), Is This A Fairytale? (Wonder Fools). She was nominated Best Actress in a Play at The Stage Debut Awards 2019 for her role of Kattrin in Mother Courage and Her Children.



Rinkoo Barpaga is a creative, adept at street photography capturing portraits of hidden people on the street. He has a keen visual eye, his work is a conversation and in his stand up comedy you can see his confidence in the hearing world. His award-winning documentary double discrimination was filmed in Handsworth Birmingham. Rinkoo is brave, and willing to use his art practice, to tackle taboo subjects & confront audiences with difficult issues. In 2019, with the support of director Daniel Bailey and writing mentor Andrew Muir, Rinkoo started the process for transforming his experience's into theatre. In 2021 Rinkoo received a grant from Arts Council England to develop Chocolat, he is inspired by Rafael Padilla.



Barry Avison Graduated at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in Professional Development in Disability and Deaf Arts.(basically qualified to teach performing arts in a workshop setting)

Founder of ISign (Newcastle Deaf Drama) which was featured on Channel 4's Listening Eye. Winner of the Jackie Milburn Award, BDA Drama and Director's Award and BBC TV See Hear Award for the performance of Sign Of The Tyne.

Joint founder of MerseySign Deaf Theatre performing to Deaf Communities. The group took part in the Madrid Deaf Mime Festival, Liverpool Capital for Culture 2008 and Liverpool Deaf Culture Festival. Part of a Sign Choir group called RiverSign, putting Deaf Culture into songs.