

Dramaturg/Writer for International Theatre Project

Seenaryo is seeking a **professional dramaturg (or experienced theatre writer) with a strong creative vision** to play a **leading role in an ambitious new theatre project**, *Rihlat Ibn Battuta*. This is an international-scale participatory theatre project taking place in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine and the UK that seeks to resist the current injustice devastating the region and respond creatively to the resulting fragmentation of those from the region and the diaspora. The aim is to create a piece of theatre, inspired by the work and life of *Ibn Battuta* and devised from ideas and experiences of the participants, that will be told in 5 episodes, one in each country. Participants will include experienced community actors who have been participating with Seenaryo for several years, new community collaborators and some professional actors. We are looking for someone from the Arab region, with native Arabic language and an ability to travel to at least 2 of the 5 countries in the project (Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt & UK). **The majority of the work will take place January - August 2025.**

The dramaturg will be recruited on a freelance contract and will be responsible for:

- Producing the final written script for *Rihlat Ibn Battuta* which involves conceiving the script, dialogue, and structure of the performance as a whole and for each of the 5 episodes
- Collaborating with facilitators and directors in each country to ensure that the script comes from and includes ideas and stories directly from participants
- Engaging creatively with the stimulus of the life and work of Ibn Battuta and exploring and expanding this as a theme, in collaboration with the other creatives on the team
- Working closely with the producer and project managers to ensure that the vision of the play is achieved aesthetically in production

We are looking for someone with the following qualities, skills and experience:

- Experience in dramaturgy with evidence of theatre scripts produced within the last 10 years
- Experience working in the Arab region and/or with people from the Arab diaspora in the UK
- Strong written and spoken Arabic is a necessity as the scripts for the Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt episodes will be in Arabic. Additionally, strong written and spoken English is preferred as the UK episode will be in English
- Experience working collaboratively with directors, actors, and other creatives, bringing together diverse views and ideas into cohesive pieces of work
- Experience working on community-driven projects, integrating diverse voices and perspectives into the performance, as Seenaryo values a participatory approach
- Ability to understand the structure and pacing of live performances to ensure a coherent and impactful audience experience
- Strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address potential challenges in the script or production
- Ability to manage time and multiple tasks efficiently and maintain composure under pressure, ensuring the project stays on schedule and the working environment is productive and safe for everyone involved

How to apply

To apply, please email lara@seenaryo.org to apply by **EOD Friday 8th November 2024**, and we will contact the shortlisted candidates for interviews after the closing date. Your email should include:

- A CV detailing your previous experience
- A cover letter explaining your interest in the role and why you're a good fit for this project
- A sample of at least 2 pieces of work that you created as a dramaturg

About Seenaryo

Participatory theatre and play can transform an individual's sense of agency. They gain the power to shape their own narrative and expand what is possible, individually but also through collective action. Working in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, Seenaryo uses theatre and play to support people to heal, lead and learn. We co-create performances with under-served communities, train future leaders and transform classrooms through play. Reaching 155,000 children, youth and women since 2015, Seenaryo won the Arts, Culture & Heritage prize at the 2023 UK Charity Awards, received a 2023 Innovation Award from TheirWorld and was one of Expo 2020 Dubai's 120 Global Innovators.

About the Project

Rihlat Ibn Battuta is a mass cultural event creating a theatre epic told in five episodes, across five different countries. Aiming to rethink how theatre is made, professional artists and community creators from the Arab diaspora in the UK re-imagine the classic tales of Ibn Battuta's 14th Century travels, seeking to creatively respond to the Arab region's current experience of demolition, devastation and erasure. Episode 1 will premiere as part of the Shubbak Festival in 2025 before continuing *Rihlat Ibn Battuta* in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine.