

## UK-Based Theatre Facilitator for International Theatre Project

**Seenaryo** is seeking a **professional theatre director/facilitator** 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 an experienced theatre facilitator of Arab heritage - or with profound experience of the Arab region and Arab culture - to direct the UK leg of the project which will be performed in June 2025 as part of the Shubbak Festival. The UK project will involve working with 18 participants from the Arab community in West London (in partnership with Grand Junction) and leading them in a creative process to devise and rehearse an original piece of theatre that will launch this theatre epic by premiering the first of the five episodes of *Rihlat Ibn Battuta*. **The majority of the sessions will take place February - June 2025.**

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

- Collaborating with the dramaturg, as well as the facilitators and directors in the other participating country to explore the life and work of Ibn Battuta and expand this as a theme, developing a shared starting point for the development of the performances
- Facilitating a participatory theatre process with 18 community collaborators in the UK across 20 sessions with the aim of developing an original piece of theatre, devised from the stimulus of Ibn Battuta
- Developing and rehearsing a high quality, original piece of theatre with the community collaborators in the UK that will be ready to be performed live as part of the Shubbak Festival in June 2025
- 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 working in the Arab region and/or with people from the Arab diaspora in the UK
- At least 5+ years of experience working as a professional theatre director and/or theatre facilitator, including a track record of facilitating high-quality theatre productions on professional stages
- An ability to create a safe, inclusive and positive working environment for the participants and other creatives and team members involved in the project
- Experience working using a participatory approach with an ability to centre the diverse voices and perspectives of the participants

- Experience working collaboratively with a dramaturg, other directors, and other creatives to create and then unite around a shared vision
- 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 process as that arise
- Workshops will be conducted mostly in English so an ability to work in English (both speaking and writing) is essential. We will give preference to those who are additionally fluent in spoken and written Arabic.

### How to apply

To apply, please email [lara@seenaryo.org](mailto: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 have directed or facilitated within the last 10 years

### 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.