

AGENDA

Wednesday 2nd April

1.30-2pm – Registration

2 – 2.15pm – Welcome and Introductions – Lou Miles-Payne (Creu Cymru)

2.15-3.15pm – **Keynote Speaker Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE**, Principal of Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, including an opening performance by Josette.

3.15-3.30pm – Break

3.30-4pm – **Artist development session with Suzanne Bell**, Director of Stiwdio Clwyd

4.15-5.15pm – **Speed networking.**

Join us for an energising speed networking session. Whether you're a producer, performer, director, or arts administrator, this is your chance to make meaningful industry connections—quickly. In a series of fast-paced, one-on-one conversations, you'll exchange ideas, spark collaborations, and expand your network in just minutes.

5.30-7.30pm – Drinks reception at Wales Millennium Centre

If you are staying overnight in Cardiff, you might be interested to know that Grand Ambitions and Sherman Theatre are presenting their new co-production 'Hot Chicks' by Rebecca Jade Hammond at the Sherman Theatre from the 21st March-5th April. There is a 7.30pm production on the 2nd and 3rd April. <https://www.shermantheatre.co.uk/event/hot-chicks/>

Thursday 3rd April

9.30-10am – Registration / networking

10-10.30am – **Creu Cymru AGM**

10.30-11.30am – **PiPA Wales Initiative Session.**

We'll be joined by **Cassie Raine and Anna Ehnold-Davailov** co-CEOs from PiPA (Parents and Carers in Performing Arts) who will update us on the last few months working with sector in Wales to develop a Wales PiPA Toolkit.

11.30-11.45 – Break

11.45-1pm – **Panel Session: Digital Theatre in a Post-Pandemic World: Innovations, Challenges, and Opportunities.** **Alun Llwyd** (*Chief Exec, PYST*), **David Massey** (Senior Producer Digital Experiences, WMC) and **Natalie Woolman** (*Commissioning Editor at The Space*)

In this panel, we will examine the surge of digital theatre during the COVID-19 pandemic, discussing how theatres quickly adapted to virtual platforms, the impact on audiences, and the tools needed to sustain this digital medium. From technology to creative practice and business strategies, panellists will explore key lessons learned and consider a future where digital and live theatre merge.

1pm-2pm – Lunch

2pm – Closing remarks

2.15pm – Ends

3pm – Option visit to Porter's Theatre.

Speaker Biogs

Keynote Speaker: Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE, Principal of Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Previously the Head of Acting at Stockholm University of the Arts, Sweden, Josette Bushell-Mingo is an award-winning actor and director whose career has included performances with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Manchester Royal Exchange. She was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her role as Rafiki in the West End production of *The Lion King* and she starred in the internationally acclaimed production *Nina: A Story about Me and Nina Simone*.

As a director, Josette Bushell-Mingo was Founder and Artistic Director of PUSH, a Black-led theatre festival with the Young Vic Theatre. Through her work with PUSH, she was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the arts, a Judy Craymer Award for Innovation, and the Southbank Cultural Diversity Award.

For 13 years, she was also the Artistic Director for The National Touring Swedish Deaf Theatre ensemble Tyst Teater, where her work focused on fostering the understanding, respect and potential of sign language arts and the artistic, linguistic and cultural rights of the deaf.

Born in London and based in Sweden since 2005, she is an active spokesperson for inclusive arts and politics. She co-founded PUSH's sister organisation in Sweden, TRYCK, which works to inspire and challenge the artistic and cultural representation of Afro-Swedes and African descent artists on national stages in Sweden.

She has served on the board of the Swedish Film Institute, as the chairwoman for CinemAfrica, a Swedish Non-Profit organisation devoted to celebrating African and Diaspora film culture, and is Patron of the Unity Theatre, Liverpool.

As a director and teacher, Josette travels internationally giving lectures and workshops in the creation of sign language theatre, cultural diversity challenges and inclusion, and has taught in Stockholm, Malmö and Luleå theatre schools, LAMDA, the London College of Fashion, and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts amongst others.

Dr Samuel Boateng (piano accompanist for our Keynote Speaker)

Samuel Boateng is a Career Development Research Fellow in Music at St John's College, Oxford. An award-winning jazz pianist and composer, he is also an ethnomusicologist with a PhD in music from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in ethnomusicology from Kent State University. Boateng's research examines the performances, migrations, and collaborations of Ghanaian jazz musicians across Africa, the UK and the USA in order to rethink Africa's place in jazz history. His research has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Society for Ethnomusicology, the Joseph Walsh Endowed Scholarship in Music, and the Andrew Mellon Humanities Engage Project. Boateng has collaborated with artists in Ghana, US, UK, and Indonesia, and his compositions have been performed by the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Kent State Orchestra, Quartetto di Venezia, Adepa Ensemble, and Afro Yaqui Music Collective. He is also a filmmaker, visual artist, and playwright, and in 2021 he received the Heinz Endowment for the Arts award for his original jazz musical, *Sunsum is Spirit*.

Artist development session

Suzanne Bell, Head of Stiwdio Clwyd

Suzanne Bell has over 20 years professional experience working as a Dramaturg in new writing and artist development in theatres and supporting the development of artists across the UK and internationally.

In January 2025 she joined Theatr Clwyd as Head of Stiwdio Clwyd, a new initiative to support the development of Welsh and Wales based professional artists and theatre-makers. Stiwdio Clwyd

discovers, develops and empowers ambitious and innovative theatre-makers and artists connected to Wales to collaborate, learn, develop and embrace creative risk-taking. Through innovative and bespoke programmes and pathways we create meaningful impact and a long-lasting legacy, essential to broadening the national cultural landscape. Stiwdio Clwyd will serve as a home for the artistically ambitious, a cauldron for creative rigorous experimentation and exploration and a place to “play seriously.”

Her most recent role was Dramaturg at the Royal Exchange Theatre where she was fortunate enough to work on a number of award-winning productions of new work including world premieres of work by Winsome Pinnock, Kendall Feaver, Phoebe Éclair-Powell, In-Sook Chappell, Testament, Rory Mullarkey, Janice Okoh, Katherine Chandler, Alan Harris, Lauryn Redding, Anna Jordan, Hattie Naylor and Simon Stephens.

At the Royal Exchange Theatre she has also overseen the development of artists through a range of initiatives and opportunities to create work in a variety of spaces and contexts.

She has led artist development programmes and workshops at the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Royal Court Theatre, Soho Theatre, Live Theatre, Gate Theatre, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, various universities and for companies in Brazil, Turkey, Canada and the USA.

PiPA Wales Initiative Session

Cassie Raine and Anna Ehnold-Davailov co-CEOs from PiPA (Parents and Carers in Performing Arts)

Cassie Raine trained at Drama Centre London and is an experienced film, television and theatre actress, most recently playing Christine Linde in *A Doll’s House* for Theatre of Europe. Other theatre credits include *Three Days in the Country* at the National Theatre, *Verdict* for Bill Kenwright and *The Real Thing* at The Old Vic.

Anna studied Theatre Design for Performance at Central Saint Martin’s College of Art and Design and received her Masters in Directing at the Central School of Speech and Drama. She has directed classical, physical and devised theatre as well as new writing for festivals and theatres throughout England, Germany, and Croatia.

PiPA was created by Actor Cassie Raine and Director Anna Ehnold-Danailov in 2015, to address a lack of provision for parents and carers in the performing arts.

Panel Session: Digital Theatre in a Post-Pandemic World: Innovations, Challenges, and Opportunities

Natalie Woolman, Commissioning Editor, The Space

An experienced television producer and former arts journalist, Natalie takes a lead on the development, commissioning and production of *The Space’s* broadcast and video work.

Before joining *The Space*, her TV credits included producing the BBC Proms, ITV’s *Long Lost Family* and primetime arts and history documentaries. Natalie started her career as a reporter for *The Stage*.

David Massey, Wales Millennium Centre

David is a Senior Producer with two decades of experience leading and producing exciting, unique and award-winning digital projects, from public programming in the arts to live broadcast specialising in XR (Virtual Reality, Mixed Reality and Augmented Reality) and storytelling.

David is currently leading the Immersive Experiences team at Wales Millennium Centre.

where he programmes Bocs, a dedicated space for XR, interactive and immersive experiences and supports the creation of XR productions. David is also sitting on the management group for the Immersive Arts programme a new 3-year programme aimed at breaking down the barriers for artists of all backgrounds to create and engage with immersive tools. David has co-created digital experiences with *All Seeing Eye*, *ARCADE*, BBC Radio 3, BBC R&D, BFI NETWORK, Ffilm Cymru Wales,

REWIND VR, The Space and Welsh National Opera. The experiences he has produced has received awards and accolades for the following XR experiences: Ripples of Kindness, Finalist - QLD XR Festival, FIVARS and Encounters 2022, A Vixen's Tale, Honourable Award Creative Review 2020, Rhondda Rebel, Winner - Wales Online Digital Award 2020 and Magic Butterfly, Winner - Be Connected Awards, VR Expo 2018.

Alun Llwyd, Chief Executive of PYST Ltd.