

Naomi Cortes - theatremaker

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HIGHLIGHTS

Poetry & Performance Director - Communitas Education Trust
Visiting Lecturer in Applied Theatre - Central School of Speech and Drama
Writer - "Not Bound Within" & "Umtolo" - Young Vic Theatre
Young Actors Theatre Director - Donmar Warehouse & Trinity Laban

KEY SKILLS

Specialist knowledge of drama making techniques with ESOL, EAL and EEM students
Effective methods for working with children and young people with Special Educational Needs
Extensive experience of theatre directing, including devising and physical theatre, voice and text
Teacher in poetry and performance including the LAMDA Performing Verse and Prose exams

CURRENT WORK

- 2018 - John Keats Primary School - Communitas Education Trust**
Poetry Teacher
Naomi's reputation continues to grow with Communitas Education, as she is asked to introduce her Primary Poetry Programme to the newest school in the trust, encouraging Early Years & Key Stage 1 pupils to engage with new approaches to literacy and language in their early educational development.
- 2017 - Goose Green Primary School - Communitas Education Trust**
Poetry Teacher
After the success of her Poetry Programme at one of their other primary schools, Communitas invited Naomi to be part of their new team to improve the overall standards of learning with Key Stage 2 pupils. Her dynamic personality and successful teaching techniques ensures she is a continuing inspiration within the school.
- 2015 - Central School of Speech and Drama**
Visiting Lecturer
Naomi's many years of experience and successful delivery of a broad range of participatory arts projects with hard to reach communities and participants has brought her to the attention of Central School of Speech and Drama, where she is a lecturer on their BA and MA Applied Theatre courses.
- 2014 - Not Bound Within**
Playwright & Producer
After successful play readings with Blacktress UK at the Tristan Bates theatre and the Albany, Naomi is currently developing her play Not Bound Within, a poetic and surrealist battle-cry response to the exploitation of women both past and present, inspired by the real life story of Saartjie Baartman - the Hottentot Venus.
- 2013 - John Donne Primary School - Communitas Education Trust**
Poetry and Performance Director
Naomi was invited to create and implement her Primary Poetry Programme aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils. Her work has led to the school winning the National CliPPA Poetry Award and success in LAMDA's accreditation exams. She now works with all pupils within the school from Early Years through to Key Stages 1 & 2.
- 2012 - The Donmar Warehouse**
Education Practitioner
Naomi has worked with the venue's education team, creating an impressive body of work for their Take the Stage programme and the Tomorrow Project. She also directed ensemble casts of young women from schools and community settings on the Donmar's pop-up stage at Kings Cross for their Shakespeare Trilogy season.
- 2011 - Graeae Theatre Company**
Workshop Director & Ensemble Associate
Working with the Ensemble Company, Naomi is training the next generation of theatre maker with her particular approach to creating new work - 'Personal to Political'. She also introduces the Graeae aesthetic of placing D/deaf and disabled artists centre stage to other artists who are becoming more inclusive with their own art.

PAST PROJECTS

- 2019** **Young Vic Theatre**
Writer - Umtolo (The Tree)
Naomi was commissioned to write a play in Zimbabwe, exploring the country's history. Using the symbiotic relationship between nature and traditional cultures, she told the story of how Christianity and Colonialism arrived in Zimbabwe uninvited, 'arm in arm', with a poetic telling of their legacy today in Umtolo - 'The Tree'.
- 2018** **Trinity Laban at the Tate Exchange**
Theatre Director
Inspired by John Akomfrah's Unfinished Conversation exploring the work of cultural theorist Stuart Hall, Naomi created a new theatrical response with young actors and musicians, presenting their perceptions about our world and how their own identity enhances their own 'unfinished conversations', performing at Tate Modern.
- 2013 - 2017** **Kiln Theatre (the Tricycle)**
Drama Practitioner
Working in partnership with the College of North West London, Naomi used drama to develop the language and confidence skills of ESOL and EEM students on the Minding the Gap project. She was also lead artist on the theatre's Story Lab project, sharing her enchanting methods of storymaking with local primary schools.
- 2013 - 2017** **Theatre Centre and Stratford Circus**
Writer - The Littlest Quirky
After a research and development phase on her first play The Littlest Quirky an enchanting and animated adventure for younger audiences, Naomi was commissioned by Theatre Centre to present a premiere at Stratford Circus and the Egg, Theatre Royal Bath. Her play was shortlisted for The Brian Way Award for Best New Play.
- 2012 - 2015** **Soho Theatre**
Community Director and Associate Artist
Naomi collaborated with local community groups to create a large scale performance, as part of Soho Theatre's Community production. She also performed on the venue's stage for a series of educational projects and delivered creative writing workshops for their community and outreach programme.
- 2011 - 2017** **Almeida Theatre**
Actor-Practitioner
As part of the theatre's Residencies initiative, Naomi worked within SEN and mainstream secondary education to create new work in response to the venue's artistic programme. She was also lead tutor with the Almeida Academy, a programme of drama classes for children which explored devising, movement and puppetry.
- 2007 - 2018** **Greenwich & Lewisham Young People's Theatre (GLYPT)**
Young Actors' Director
Naomi worked for many years on GLYPT's outreach programme. Her interest in authentic voices led to a series of shows exploring identity and immigration, local politics and the media's perception of them. She was also director for the Seniors acting company, including their participation in the National Theatre's Connections.
- 2003 - 2007** **Half Moon Young People's Theatre**
Director and Outreach Facilitator
Created and delivered outreach and community development programmes for the government's Sure Start initiative in East London, whilst directing the company's youth theatres and inclusive INSET training sessions.

Naomi has also developed educational arts projects with various venues and companies including the Old Vic Theatre, Ambassador Theatre Group, Roundhouse, Southbank Centre, Talawa Theatre, Artsdepot, London Bubble Croydon Young People's Theatre and Creative Partnerships.

She has worked with both primary and secondary schools (mainstream and SEN) in Southwark, Lewisham, Camden, Barnet, Barking & Dagenham, Lambeth, Haringey, and Brent, and nurseries in Tower Hamlets.

Naomi has also collaborated with the Museum of Childhood, Museum of London, Foundling Museum, National Trust, Greenwich & Docklands Festival, Liberty Festival, Studio 3 Arts, Emergency Exit Arts, St Clement's & nia Charities, Lewisham Refugee Network and Shoreditch Trust.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Naomi holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama, University of Bristol

She continues to perform in various theatre productions, as well as the occasional commercial or television role.

Enhanced DBS and insurance details available on request