



Presented by community theatre company Meteatra

BORDERS: Digital, Political, Emotional

With plays by competition winners Aine King,
Andrew Lawston, Banu Şenel, Salman Siddiqi,
Erdoğan Soytürk, and Tamara von Werthern
Directed by Secil Honeywill



11 – 14 February

arcolatheatre.com

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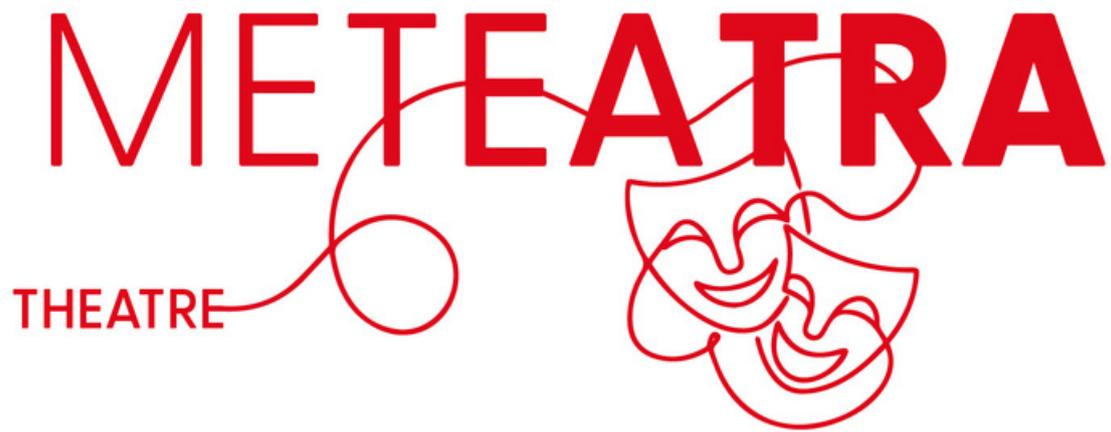


Artwork photography by Nick Fancher

24 Ashwin Street, Dalston, London E8 3DL

METEATRA

THEATRE



Meteatra (**Metier** + **Theatre**) is a new London-based bilingual theatre company.

We are a theatre for everyone, committed to Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility.

With a community spirit and professional discipline, we bring passion and care to everything we create.

Our goal is to create exceptional productions that reflect a range of voices and experiences. Meteatra is a place where everyone can feel represented, where every person can find a bit of themselves and their story on stage.

At Meteatra, every story matters. We believe our differences make the world more interesting, resilient, and joyful.

We invite and welcome you all to join us along the way.



Join our mailing list:
www.meteatra.co.uk

Contact us:
info@meteatra.co.uk



BORDERS

Digital | Political | Emotional

Meteatra launches its first production with *Borders: Digital, Political, Emotional*, an evening of six short plays exploring how we live, love and struggle in a world that feels constantly on edge.

From Istanbul kitchens to London boardrooms, from refugee shores to AI dinner tables, these stories are funny, dark, personal and political all at once. They speak about technology, migration, gender, identity and power, but always through people we can recognise. Ordinary lives caught in extraordinary times.

The 6 plays won the Meateatra's Short Play Competition that took place in 2025. There were 198 submissions from 14 countries. Performed in English and Turkish with surtitles, the evening brings the international writers (British, Turkish and German) whose voices cut through the noise with sharp humour and emotional truth.

Secil Honeywill, Director: "These plays look at what it means to stay human when everything is shifting. Some will make you laugh, some might leave a mark. I've always believed that theatre should shake us a little, not with slogans, but with people we recognise."

METEATRA

Dark Rooms and Pandas

by Banu Şenel

A young eco activist and an exiled Iranian woman meet by chance on an Istanbul street. What begins as small talk about fast food and pandas turns into a raw conversation about exile, hypocrisy and hope.

Guess Who's Computing to Dinner

by Andrew Lawston

A dinner party between two couples, one human and one AI, turns into a hilariously uncomfortable crash course in what it means to be real. Between burnt onions, malfunctioning manners and existential questions, the play skewers our obsession with technology and our fear of being replaced.

Sea Monsters

by Aine King

A poetic, urgent story of a young refugee crossing borders and seas, haunted by loss, by myths, and by the monstrous systems that feed on desperation. The play moves between lyrical storytelling and cold political reality.

Mutfak, Göç ve Boncuk

by Erdoğan Soytürk

In a cramped Istanbul kitchen, a queer Syrian refugee called Boncuk fights back against exploitation, hypocrisy and the small violences of daily survival. Through sharp humour and fearless honesty, Boncuk reclaims their story and their right to exist in full colour.

Openly Muslim

by Salman Siddiqui

A slick corporate office becomes the stage for a collision between diversity slogans and lived experience. When Waheed “likes” the wrong post, the company’s tolerance starts to crack, exposing how representation can quickly become performance.

One Of Them

by Tamara von Werthern

A quiet morning, an ordinary family, and one phone call that tears the world apart. Through one woman’s voice, the play captures the shattering intimacy of violence that was always somewhere else.

Creative Team

Director: Seçil Honeywill

Lighting Designer: Richard Williamson

Sound Designer: Neil McKeown

Founder - producers: Ece Ozdemiroglu, Serpil Delice, Abdullah Tercanlı

Associate Producer & Operator: Lucie Regan

Production Assistant and Assistant Director: Joanna Asia Rob

Assistant Director & Assistant Stage Manager: Işık Kaya

Design: Elfide Öztürk

Translator: Olcay Boynudelik

Surtitle operators: Bora Bicakci & Gurel Cekic

Graphic Designer for the logo and poster: Ailsa Sinclair

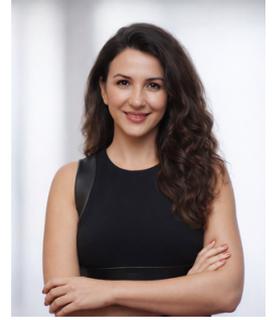
Image credit: Nick Fancher

Dark Rooms and Pandas

by Banu Şenel

A young eco activist and an exiled Iranian woman meet by chance on an Istanbul street. What begins as small talk about fast food and pandas turns into a raw conversation about exile, hypocrisy and hope.

Banu is an emerging playwright who began writing for the stage after working for more than a decade in international media and marketing business. She studied International Relations and Politics at Koç University and Acting at Plato Film School. Writing her first play marked a clear step into dramatic writing. Her work is driven by curiosity about human behavior and unspoken tensions. She is currently developing her second play and working on the pre-production of her short film "Osman".



İrem Cavusoglu as BAHAR

İrem has been on and off the stage for the past 20 years, in The Threepenny Opera, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet amongst the many. She has been a part of various productions in Turkish and English. Her work also includes Say Your Name at the Arcola and most recently The Importance of Being Earnest at the Tower Theatre. She is an ordinary person by daylight and an actor by moonlight."

Ates Togrul as ALI

Ates draws on his Actor Training and Coaching studies at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to explore the stage as a site of encounter where the performer, participants and the performing body breathe together. His work focuses on relational performance, embodiment, and empathy-based acting, drawing on his experience in lighting design and directing.



Abdullah Tercanli as MAN

Abdullah's journey in theatre began in 1996, and his dedication has only grown stronger over the years. While at Arcola Alaturka, a group dedicated to Turkish-language theatre, which he co-founded, he played in productions such as The Imaginary Invalid, The Crucible, How to Save Asiye, Mahmud and Yezida, and an adaptation of Samarkand.

Guess Who's Computing to Dinner

by Andrew Lawston

A dinner party between two couples, one human and one AI, turns into a hilariously uncomfortable crash course in what it means to be real. Between burnt onions, malfunctioning manners and existential questions, the play skewers our obsession with technology and our fear of being replaced.

Andrew lives in West London and writes novels, short stories, and translations of classic French books, including the international bestseller *The Story of my Escape*, by Giacomo Casanova. This is his second play, following 2018's *Matrexit* which was a finalist in the Arts Richmond New Plays Festival at the Orange Tree Theatre. Andrew has also been an occasional actor, and records his own audiobooks. Beyond writing, Andrew enjoys cooking and long river walks.



Matthew Hodson as JOHN

Recent Credits: *Alphabet Rainbow* (Brighton Festival Fringe / Etcetera / Brockley Jack); *The Grass Is Always Grindr* (2 seasons), *Flatshare* (online series); *Chemsex Monologues* (Kings Head / Above the Stag), *Queers and The Clinic* (King's Head). Other theatre credits include: *The Mousetrap* (St Martin's); *Watch Out for Mr Stork* (Regent's Park); *Chief Swollen-Foot* (Tristan Bates); *Oedipus, Androcles and the Lion, Agamemnon and Treasure Island* (London Scoop). Films include: *Common People*; *Edward II* and *Breaking the Code*.

Charlotte Reidie as ARIADNE

Charlotte Reidie is a London-based actor working across theatre and film. She trained in Drama and Performance at Queen Mary University of London. Her recent theatre credits include *Three Pianists Walk Into a Bar*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Roly Poly* at the Etcetera Theatre, *Shakespeare Jukebox*, and *As You Like It*. Recent film work includes *Dracula in Space*, *Take the Fall*, *Bride of Frankenstein*, *Doctor Plague*, *Trauma*, and *Fading Petals*.



İrem Cavusoglu as KIRSTY

İrem has been on and off the stage for the past 20 years, in *The Threepenny Opera*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet* amongst the many. She has been a part of various productions in Turkish and English. Her work also includes *Say Your Name* at the Arcola and most recently *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Tower Theatre. She is an ordinary person by daylight and an actor by moonlight."

Andrew Lawston as GEOFF

Andrew has been acting on and off since university, and is excited to return to the stage after a lengthy hiatus. His previous work includes roles in: *Puppy, Woof Woof*, and *Tortoise* for Little But Fierce Theatre; and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Come On, Jeeves!*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Bedroom Farce* for BCP. Audio work includes: *Chantecoq*, *Detective Daintypaws*, and *The Ultimate Self-Esteem Toolkit* audiobooks, and *Londonium* for Little But Fierce Theatre.



Sea Monsters

by Aine King

A poetic, urgent story of a young refugee crossing borders and seas, haunted by loss, by myths, and by the monstrous systems that feed on desperation. The play moves between lyrical storytelling and cold political reality.

Aine is an Irish artist and theatre-maker living in Orkney. Her screenplay *Running Out* was produced by BBC Scotland / National Theatre of Scotland in 2020. *Burning Bright*, Aine's climate-crisis comedy, won the David MacLennan Award 2022 and was produced by A Play, A Pie & A Pint, Glasgow and The Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, directed by Roxana Haines. Her stage works have been produced internationally, including The Southwark Playhouse and Arcola Theatre, London, The Cork Arts Theatre, Ireland, the TEMU Festival, Texas, Mouths of Babes N.C, the English Theatre, Ukraine, Orange Tree Amsterdam. Aine performed her solo-show, *Lost Property Hotel* at the Union Theatre, London in January 2025, and at the Town Hall Theatre, Stromness in June 2025.

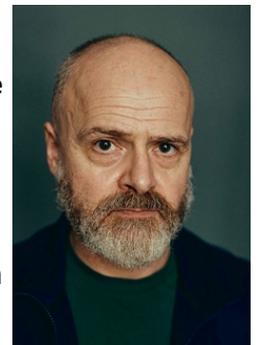


Serpil Delice as NAJ

Serpil is a London-based theatre actor whose journey began in high school in Istanbul, when her determination earned her a place in the drama club. Without formal training, she developed her craft through years of work with respected directors and actors in London. She is passionate about socially relevant stories, exploring women's rights, racism, immigrant life, and LGBTQ+ issues to create impactful, honest, and emotionally resonant performances on stage today

John Gregor as MAN ON CLIFF

John made his professional debut at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, in *The Curse of the Baskervilles* in 1987. Since then he has performed across the UK in venues ranging from 1,000 seater theatres to outdoor plays in council estates. The last time he performed at the Arcola was in *Scar Test*, a play about the women held at Yarlwood Detention Centre. On screen he has been in *The Bill* (ITV), *Wycliffe* (ITV), and he appears in the YouTube series *Sensory Squad*. His own short film, *Triggers*, was shown in film festivals worldwide and won several awards.



Matthew Hodson as BEAR MAN

Recent Credits: *Alphabet Rainbow* (Brighton Festival Fringe / Etcetera / Brockley Jack); *The Grass Is Always Grindr* (2 seasons), *Flatshare* (online series); *Chemsex Monologues* (Kings Head / Above the Stag), *Queers and The Clinic* (King's Head). Other theatre credits include: *The Mousetrap* (St Martin's); *Watch Out for Mr Stork* (Regent's Park); *Chief Swollen-Foot* (Tristan Bates); *Oedipus, Androcles and the Lion*, *Agamemnon and Treasure Island* (London Scoop). Films include: *Common People*; *Edward II* and *Breaking the Code*.

Ates Togrul as LORRY MAN

Ates draws on his Actor Training and Coaching studies at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to explore the stage as a site of encounter where the performer, participants and the performing body breathe together. His work focuses on relational performance, embodiment, and empathy-based acting, drawing on his experience in lighting design and directing.



Mutfak, Göç ve Boncuk

by Erdoğan Soytürk

In a cramped Istanbul kitchen, a queer Syrian refugee called Boncuk fights back against exploitation, hypocrisy and the small violences of daily survival. Through sharp humour and fearless honesty, Boncuk reclaims their story and their right to exist in full colour.

Erdoğan is a theatre artist based in Istanbul. He graduated from the Acting Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University.

Alongside his work as an actor, he writes regularly for a cultural magazine and works as a playwright. He also teaches creative drama and theatre, focusing on imagination, expression, and collective storytelling across different age groups.



Koray Camn Yanasik as BONCUK

Koray graduated from the Conservatory of Haliç University in Istanbul in 2015. He went on to work with the Istanbul State Theatre for eight years, performing in a wide range of productions and collaborating with several prominent directors, before expanding his repertoire with various independent theatre companies. Since relocating to the United Kingdom in 2019, he has continued his work as an actor while also writing scripts for both stage and screen. Passionate about ensemble work and the collaborative creative process, Koray remains committed to exploring projects that bridge artistic practices between Turkey and the UK, and to fostering connections with artists from around the world.

Ates Togrul as MUSTAFA

Ates draws on his Actor Training and Coaching studies at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to explore the stage as a site of encounter where the performer, participants and the performing body breathe together. His work focuses on relational performance, embodiment, and empathy-based acting, drawing on his experience in lighting design and directing.



Abdullah Tercanli as CHEF

Abdullah's journey in theatre began in 1996, and his dedication has only grown stronger over the years. While at Arcola Alaturka, a group dedicated to Turkish-language theatre, which he co-founded, he played in productions such as The Imaginary Invalid, The Crucible, How to Save Asiye, Mahmud and Yezida, and an adaptation of Samarkand.

Openly Muslim

by **Salman Siddiqui**

A slick corporate office becomes the stage for a collision between diversity slogans and lived experience. When Waheed “likes” the wrong post, the company’s tolerance starts to crack, exposing how representation can quickly become performance.

Salman is an emerging playwright whose debut full-length play, *Outsiders*, is currently in production with Park Theatre.

He is also a director and co-founder of MUJU, a community theatre group creating work that brings Muslims and Jews together and opens space for difficult conversations.

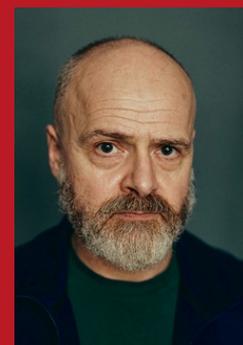


Inayat Kanji as WAHEED

Inayat’s screen credits include BBC’s *EastEnders*, the film *Finding Fatima*, and the YouTube hit *Cornershop Show*. A seasoned stage actor, Inayat has toured in *Jungle Book* and *Ali Baba*, and was a member of the comedy sketch group *The Halalians*. He recently garnered extensive media acclaim from *The Times* and *ITV News* for his lead role in the UK’s historic *Great Muslim Pantomime*.

John Gregor as RICHARD

John made his professional debut at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, in *The Curse of the Baskervilles* in 1987. Since then he has performed across the UK in venues ranging from 1,000 seater theatres to outdoor plays in council estates. The last time he performed at the Arcola was in *Scar Test*, a play about the women held at *Yarlwood Detention Centre*. On screen he has been in *The Bill* (ITV), *Wycliffe* (ITV), and he appears in the YouTube series *Sensory Squad*. His own short film, *Triggers*, was shown in film festivals worldwide and won several awards.



Charlotte Reidie as SARA

Charlotte Reidie is a London-based actor working across theatre and film. She trained in Drama and Performance at Queen Mary University of London. Her recent theatre credits include *Three Pianists Walk Into a Bar*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Roly Poly* at the *Etcetera Theatre*, *Shakespeare Jukebox*, and *As You Like It*. Recent film work includes *Dracula in Space*, *Take the Fall*, *Bride of Frankenstein*, *Doctor Plague*, *Trauma*, and *Fading Petals*.

One Of Them

by Tamara von Werthern

A quiet morning, an ordinary family, and one phone call that tears the world apart. Through one woman's voice, the play captures the shattering intimacy of violence that was always somewhere else.

Tamara's stage work has been performed at The Royal Court, the Arcola, Southwark Playhouse, Summerhall, in Spain and Germany and includes *The White Bike* (The Space) and *Puddles* (English Theatre Berlin).

She translated *Hex* (NT) for Schauspiel Hannover and is the founder of award-winning podcast *Fizzy Sherbet*. Her screenplay *I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire* won Best Screenplay at Lift-Off Season Awards 2019.



Ece Ozdemiroglu as SYLVIE

Ece is back on stage after her *Lady Bracknell* in *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Immigrants by Pan Productions. A co-founder of Meteatra, Ece spent seven seasons at Arcola Alaturka co-devising and acting in *The Crucible*, *Ana Hatlar*, *Yastik Altı*, *Asiye Nasil Kurtulur?*, *Kitchen to Measure*, *Everything Starts with Loving Somebody* and *Say Your Name*. She attended City Lit Drama School for two years, learned improvisation with The Spontaneity Shop.

Secil Honeywill - DIRECTOR

Secil is a theatre director and dramaturg from Istanbul, now based in Berlin. She studied Dramaturgy and Theatre Criticism at Istanbul University and has worked with theatres in Istanbul, London, and Berlin, including directing *Kitchen to Measure*, *Everything Begins by Loving Somebody*, and *Say Your Name* at the Arcola Theatre. She leads creative writing workshops through WriteNow Berlin and develops performance projects that respond to power, inequality, and the urgent questions of our time.



Richard Williamson - LIGHTING DESIGNER

Previous work includes: The Olivier award winning *Rotterdam* (West End/Off Broadway/UK National Tour); *Dogs of Europe* (Belarus Free Theatre at the Barbican and international tour); *Richard III*, *An Arab Tragedy* (Swan Theatre Stratford/International tour); *Sampled* and *Danse Élargie* (Sadler's Wells); *Great Expectations* (UK tour); *Little Miss Sunshine* (Arcola Theatre and UK Tour); *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Comedy about a Bank Robbery* (Istanbul); *Beowulf*, *Septimus Bean and His Amazing Machine*, *Jason and the Argonauts* (Unicorn); What's On Stage 'Best Production' Winner *Thebes Land* (also video), *New Nigerians*, *Drones Baby Drones* (also video), *Shrapnel* (also video), *Mare Rider*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Country* (Arcola Theatre); *A Political History of Smack and Crack* (Edinburgh Fringe and Soho Theatre); *Oedipus at Colonus* (Cambridge Arts Theatre); *The Body* (Barbican); *The Dark Side of Love* (Roundhouse). Richard trained at LAMDA, is a Trustee of the Kings Head Theatre, is a board member of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, and develops industry leading applications *zoomOSC* and *zoomISO*.



Neil McKeown - SOUND DESIGNER

Neil is a sound designer and composer working across theatre, film and media. His theatre credits include: *Girl in the Machine* (Young Vic), *Edward II* (Greenwich), *Kenny Morgan* (Arcola), *Richard II* (Houses of Parliament), *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Greenwich), *His Dark Materials* (Nuffield, Southampton), *Clarion* (Arcola), *Shrapnel: 34 fragments of a massacre* (Arcola), *The Water's Edge* (Talimhane, Istanbul), *Say Your Name* (Arcola), *The Door* (Park). He was nominated for Off-West End Award for Best Sound Design for *Shrapnel*.

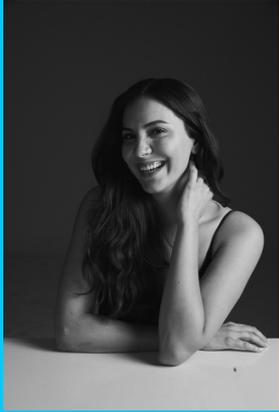


Lucie Regan - ASSOCIATE PRODUCER & OPERATOR

Lucie Regan's recent projects include *A Christmas Carol*, *Animal Farm* and *Method in My Madness* with Theatre Tours International. *Blood Wedding* for 2's Company, Rosy Carrick's *Musclebound*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Southwark Playhouse. Lucie also produces *Telling Tinder Tales*, a podcast about romance and dating.

Joanna Asia Rob - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & SOCIAL MEDIA

Asia is a UK-based Assistant Director and theatre-maker with over five years' professional experience across film, theatre and education in international settings. Trained in the UK, India, and Poland, she brings a strong intercultural perspective to rehearsal rooms and specialises in international projects. With background in acting, she draws on her experience on film and TV sets (including credits on Netflix and Amazon MiniTV) to inform her practice.



Işık Kaya - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & ASM

Işık is a theatre director, assistant director, and performer whose collaborative, community-centred work explores complex socio-political themes. She holds a master's degree in Directing for Stage and Screen and uses her feminist and working-class perspectives to explore identity, liberty, and political safety. Işık's recent directing work includes the plays 'The Mute Messiah' (2024-2025) premiered at Camden People's Theatre, 'Hughesovka' (2024) with National Theatre Wales and, 'Asylum King' (2026) premiered at Collective Fringe Festival.

Elfide Öztürk - DESIGN

Elfide graduated from the Department of Interior Design at Anadolu University's Faculty of Fine Arts and the Global Design program at L'École de Design in France.

She began her career in the Art Department in Istanbul. Seeking to broaden her cinematic vision, she moved to London to continue her career as an art director and production designer and occasionally in costume design. She has recently been working in theatre, focusing on costume and set design and prop development.



Olcay Boynudelik - TRANSLATION

Graduate of English Language and Literature from Istanbul University. Lives in Istanbul

THANK YOU



SEE YOU NEXT TIME



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